

= Mythodea =

Mythodea ? Music for the NASA Mission : 2001 Mars Odyssey is a 1993 choral symphony by Greek electronic composer and artist Vangelis . Originally premiered in concert in 1993 , it was published in 2001 by Vangelis ' new record label Sony Classical , which also set up the NASA connection and promoted a new concert .

The 2001 version of Mythodea was recorded and played on @-@ stage by : Vangelis on synthesizers and keyboards , the London Metropolitan Orchestra augmented by two harpists , sopranos Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman , the chorus of the Greek National Opera , and , for the concert only , the Seistron and Typana percussion ensembles . The concert was held in Athens , Greece on June 28 , 2001 , and the record was officially released on October 23 , 2001 , to coincide with the 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft entering the orbit of planet Mars . A video of the concert was released in early 2002 .

= = First concert : 1993 = =

The world premiere of Mythodia (first spelling) took place on July 13 , 1993 as a public performance at the Herodes Atticus Theater , in Athens , Greece , for charity purposes . On stage were : Vangelis , who provided the full musical score accompanied by two harpists ; mezzo @-@ soprano Markella Hatziana , soprano Lucienne Deval , and the chorus and percussion of the Greek National Lyric Stage , conducted by Yvan Cassar .

Mythodia was then a piece in seven movements . Vangelis not only composed the music , he also wrote the lyrics in Ancient Greek . In a 2001 interview with KLEMBlad magazine , Vangelis stated , " This piece was composed in an hour . Yes , it took me an hour . [?] I 'm not using the technology in the conventional way . I 'm not using computers . "

For the encore , Vangelis played a selection of his repertoire , including " La Petite Fille de la Mer " (from the album L 'Apocalypse des Animaux) , " Chariots of Fire " , " Pulstar " (from the album Albedo 0 @. @ 39) , three tracks from the soundtrack of the film Conquest of Paradise (" Hispañola " , " City of Isabel " and " Conquest of Paradise ") , and finished with a performance of the Greek national anthem .

= = Second concert : 2001 = =

Mythodea would remain unheard in public for the next eight years , but Vangelis kept a recording of the 1993 concert for himself . Around the year 2000 , Peter Gelb was the head of Sony Classical and was steering the record company in the direction of crossover music rather than mainstream classical repertoire . He had just signed with Vangelis and was in the process of selecting their first release together . Gelb was listening to some tapes that Vangelis had sent to him when he came upon Mythodea . He described the event in an interview : " When I first heard Mythodea I was in ecstasy with its rhythm and power themes , and with no further hesitation I suggested it was recorded immediately . "

With the approval of Vangelis to record Mythodea with a full orchestra as Gelb had suggested , Sony Classical developed a marketing plan of Mythodea that with the help of Vangelis ' friend and colleague , Dr. Scott Bolton , grew to include a promotional tie @-@ in with NASA , a dedicated website , an audio CD and a live concert that involved the Greek Government and was broadcast on TV and published on video . The deal with NASA made Mythodea the official music of the mission involving the spacecraft 2001 Mars Odyssey . This mission took the spacecraft to the orbit of Mars on October 23 , 2001 , and the audio CD of Mythodea was scheduled to be officially released on the same day . Vangelis described the connection he felt between the music and the mission on the 2001 Mars Odyssey official website :

The premiere of the new version of Mythodea was held on June 28 , 2001 . By this date , the album had already been recorded and was finished . The concert was a live performance of the album , with everyone involved in the recording reprising their roles plus additional performers . The setting

was the ancient (6th century BC) Temple of Olympian Zeus in Athens , Greece , featured on the album and video covers . Vangelis commented on the selection of location in an interview : " The record company wanted to promote this work and asked me ' where [...] ? ' and I thought that [...] Greece was really appropriate . And at the same time I had a proposition from the Minister of Culture [...] and this is what happened . "

The concert was taped for later broadcast on TV and release on DVD . The budget was set at US \$ 7 million , split in half between the record company , Sony Classical , and the Greek government , which considered the concert a good promotion for Greece abroad and included it as part of the Greek Cultural Olympiad leading to the 2004 Summer Olympics . There were some objections raised , mainly by fellow musician Mikis Theodorakis , over the use of both public money and an archaeological site . Vangelis himself , like in 1993 , waived payment for his performance .

The spectacle involved 224 musicians on stage , the same involved in the recording : Vangelis , two harpists , the 75 @-@ person London Metropolitan Orchestra , the 120 @-@ person chorus of the Greek National Opera , plus newcomers Greek percussion ensembles Seistrion and Typana , that provided 24 timpani . In the back , a projection screen measuring 180 metres in length and 24 metres in height (591 ft by 79 ft) showed images of Mars supplied by NASA , combined with elements of ancient Greek mythology .

The number of attending spectators to the ticket @-@ paid event was between 2 @, @ 000 and 2 @, @ 500 , with another 30 @, @ 000 people watching for free on a giant screen at the nearby Panathinaiko Stadium . The concert lasted just over one hour , after which three encores were played : Chariots of Fire , Conquest of Paradise , and a combination of Movements 9 and 10 . Mars itself made a special appearance at the concert as an announcer told the spectators to look for an orange spot shining in the clear sky above the orchestra . The concert was repeated the following day without an audience , to get extra camera angles . Despite not having been announced , around 50 people who showed up at the venue were admitted for free , authorized by Vangelis himself . Mythodea was expected to be performed by other orchestras , without Vangelis ' participation , but as of 2007 that had not happened .

= = Album = =

The album was recorded at the Athens ?????? ???????? (Megaro Moussikis , lit . Music Hall) , chosen for its excellent acoustics . For the recording , Vangelis expanded the original composition of 1993 by adding two movements , extending two more and inserting some new cues throughout . The chorus parts were also touched upon , with lyrics and melodic changes .

Except for Vangelis , none of the performers of the 1993 concert reprised their roles . Instead , Vangelis was accompanied by the London Metropolitan Orchestra augmented with two harpists , sopranos Kathleen Battle and Jessye Norman (both Sony Classical artists as well) , and the Greek National Opera Choir and percussion ensemble . Vangelis asked musician Blake Neely to make the instrument transcriptions and conduct the orchestra as well .

Although the album was finished by the date of the concert in June 2001 , its release was held back until October . A promotional CD @-@ audio was nevertheless given to the press at the date of the concert and a CD @-@ audio in a blue velvet box was given to guests of a private dinner that took place after the concert . In 2004 , two of these boxes were auctioned off online for charity purposes , fetching a total of US \$ 2 @, @ 435 .

= = Track listing = =

" Introduction " ? 2 : 43

" Movement 1 " ? 5 : 41

" Movement 2 " ? 5 : 39

" Movement 3 " ? 5 : 51

" Movement 4 " ? 13 : 42

" Movement 5 " ? 6 : 35

" Movement 6 " ? 6 : 27
" Movement 7 " ? 4 : 58
" Movement 8 " ? 3 : 07
" Movement 9 " ? 5 : 00
" Movement 10 " ? 3 : 03

The album was officially released in the audio CD format only , on October 23 , 2001 to coincide with the entry of the 2001 Mars Odyssey spacecraft in the orbit of Mars , but copies were already on sale by September in some markets . Two CD @-@ singles were also released , both featuring a track called " Mythodea Special Edit " (3 : 57) which combined parts of " Movement 9 " and " Movement 1 " , plus either " Movement 1 " or " Movement 7 " . They were not widely available , so their original purpose may have been purely promotional , as were specifically a number of other CD @-@ single releases .

There were variations on the track listing : some releases of the album carried alternative titles " Movement 1 " through " Movement 11 " , and " Mythodea Special Edit " was sometimes included either as a bonus or as a hidden track .

The audio CD is CD @-@ Text @-@ enhanced , with the following header appearing on compatible players : Mythodea - Music for the NASA Mission : 2001 Mars Odyssey - Kathleen Battle , Jessye Norman , Vangelis . Text for tracks appears like this one for track 4 : Movement 3 / Vangelis - London Metropolitan Orchestra - Athens Opera Choir - K.Battle - J.Norman.

= = = Sales and awards = = =

The album reached # 1 in the sales charts of Greece , where it attained platinum certification and was nominated for the 2002 " Arion " Greek music awards , in the category " Best instrumental music " . In Portugal , the album reached # 2 in the charts and attained silver certification for over 10 @, @ 000 sales . The album reached # 46 in Germany and # 75 in Switzerland and remained in the charts for several weeks .

= = = Other appearances = = =

A remixed version of " Movement 1 " is included in the Vangelis compilation Odyssey : The Definitive Collection (2003) . The opening march starts with less sound effects , instruments join in one by one more clearly , and an initial spoken countdown is absent . The same " Movement 1 " was used as the title theme of reality TV series Der Maulwurf (lit . The Mole) , which was broadcast by German station Pro7 in 2001 . It was also used in the soundtracks of the trailers for the Hollywood films X @-@ Men (2000) and The Scorpion King (2002) . Finally , " Movement 9 " is included in the compilation album Classic Kathleen Battle / A Portrait .

= = Video = =

A one @-@ hour condensed edit of the concert was made available for broadcast by TV stations and later released on video , cutting the intervals and leaving just the first encore , for a total running time of 76 minutes . More significantly , the live playing and singing were replaced by the album version mixed with live applause , except the encore which retained the original full @-@ live recording . The synchronization of the live performance with the album recording was achieved with a click track being played to the performers .

The DVD @-@ Video and VHS were released on February 17 , 2002 . The DVD featured PCM stereo and 5 @. @ 1 Dolby Digital sound , 16 : 9 non @-@ anamorphic image , and had as extras : artist biographies , " Making of Mythodea " , music video , an introduction by NASA , and written notes by Vangelis . The DVD @-@ video reached gold status in Portugal , for over 14 @, @ 000 sales .

= = Personnel = =

== 1993 ==

Music composed , arranged and produced by Vangelis

Concert conceived , designed and directed by Vangelis

Vangelis : synthesizers , keyboards

Markella Hatziana , mezzo @-@ soprano

Lucienne Deval , soprano

Choir and percussion of the National Lyric Stage , Yvan Cassar : conductor

== 2001 ==

Album composed , arranged and produced by Vangelis

Concert conceived , designed and directed by Vangelis

Vangelis : synthesizers , keyboards

Kathleen Battle , Jessye Norman : sopranos

London Metropolitan Orchestra , Blake Neely : conductor

Greek National Opera Choir , Fani Palamidi : conductor

Greek National Opera percussion ensemble (album only)

Seistron , Typana : percussion ensembles (concert only)

Frederick Rousseau : sound engineer and coordinator