A close-up of a sign

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**Biophony-Heterophony, Monday 3 July 2023**

**Athens Observatory | Nymphs Hill | Monday, 03.07.2023 | 20:00**

**Birds and inscects in space and time| Eternal nature**

**Opening concert for the Aristotle–Confucius Symposium on Ethics for the 21st Century Athens - Thessaloniki, July 3-8, 2023 .**

Lectures and Concert with works on sound ecology by Professors and students of the Music Department, School of Philosophy, NKUA, Athens

**Soundscape Concert by the Students of the Music Department**

**I.Lectures. On the relationship between nature and humanity in the works of Lao Tzu and Aristotle**

**20:00-20:20 Lao Tzu and the significance of his way of nature to contemporary humanity** Professor Emeritus Pavlos Kavouras, NKUA

Lao Tzu teaches us how to align the way of people with the way of nature. Based on his most seminal work,*Tao Te Ching*Taoism is the art and science of competence and positioning rather than devotion and competition. Lao Tzu’s deep understanding of nature and people as a unified whole is crucial for our survival as a species. Our species, *Homo sapiens sapiens*, faces extinction as a result of overpopulation, diminishing resources, a nuclear warfare threat, extended pollution, and destructive climate change. As a consequence, one is tempted to argue that our way of thinking is problematic and needs to be thoroughly modified. Lao Tzu’s wisdom could help contemporary humanity realize the significance of introspection and self-realization for its survival on the planet. Taoist simplicity permeates and transcends peacefully any boundaries of race, religion, culture, ideology, science, and education by establishing itself in the realized fluidity of nature and humanity as a conscious reality of coexistence.

**20:20-20:40 Acoustic ecology as a source for diachronic philosophical values in Aristotle’s thought** Professor Anastasia Georgaki, Headof the Music Studies Department, NKUA

Important philosophical and poetic references deal with the diachronic aesthetic value of birds and insects (especially cicadas) in Ancient Greek mythology and philosophy, as well as in Classical, Byzantine, and Modern Greek literature (including Hesiod, Anacreon, Aesop, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, Thucydides, Ritsos, Elytis, and Seferis). In our day, entomologists, sociologists, cultural anthropologists, and composers in acoustic ecology use signal processing tools and techniques to understand bird and insect ethology, "social" organization, and how birds and insects are divided into distinct groups all over the world. In the session, we will examine two different approaches that connect the research fields of the acoustic behavior of birdsongs and cicadas according to Aristotle (*Historia Animalia*and *Problems*) to the problems that differentiate the voicings of the animal world and the voice of human beings.

**II. Soundscape Concert and ecology by the Students of the Music Department, NKUA**

A soundscape concert will accompany the discussion panel, demonstrating some creative explorations of these processes in the fields of bio-musicology and electroacoustic music. The soundscape concert will combine spatial applications by presenting different species of insects and birds and their the ecological and biological constraints.

**Apes in Periculo**

Team: Giorgos Aidinis, Eirini Dermizaki, Ioannis Mantasas

Supervisor: Dimitris Pagidas

The electroacoustic composition *Apes in Periculo*, meaning "Bees in Danger," is a sound composition inspired by the life cycle of a beehive and the influence of humans on it and its environment. The human observer approaches the beehive and listens to the activity of the bees unfolding. Towards the end of the piece, the beehive is gradually destroyed by human activity, leaving only one bee, symbolising the impact of human activity on the environment through climate change. The sounds used in the composition come from different types of bee sounds, such as buzzing during normal feeding and assimilation of food, piping/tooting when a queen is ready to reproduce, and hissing when the bee tries to repel enemy insects like wasps.

**Regression**

Team: Nikolaos Kalantzis, Nikolaos Makris, Odysseas Tziritas, Eleftherios Kleidas

Supervisor: Penelope Bekiari

*Regression* is an electroacoustic composition that delves into the world of frogs and their environment. Drawing inspiration from Peter Warden's "Beneath the Forest Floor" and Jonty Harrison's "Espaces cachés," Regression reflects Aristotle's view of the interdependence of all beings in nature. Influenced by the teachings of Confucius, emphasising the importance of respecting nature and harmonising with its rhythms. Regression captures the beauty and complexity of frog life through rhythmic and intricate melodies, inviting us to contemplate the deep interconnection between humanity and nature. The composition incorporates recordings of frogs, preserving their authenticity and enhancing the sonic experience of the frog's environment.

**Avd**ā **Awedonis**

Team: Vasiliki Ioannidou, Andronikos Maltzos, Argyro Trouba

Supervisor: Gabriel Farilekas

*Avd*ā *Awedonis* is an attempt to draw a soundscape using recorded sounds from Greek locations and samples reflect the time and place of recording. We set around midday, the composition takes place in an area where the waters of a small waterfall have formed a stream. As we focus on this location, we gradually become aware of and feel multiple sounds. The protagonists are nightingales and crickets, and we can also hear other melodic birds. The purpose of this piece is to highlight how humans negatively impact the environment and the ecological consciousness that one should have.

**Cicadas Set the Dance and the Frogs Follow...**

Team: Chrysoula Georgaki, Spyros Kalogeropoulos, Aspasia Kokkali, Emilia Chartsia

Supervisor: Fotis Rovolis

In the symposium of Aristotle and Confucius, which aims to build the new global ethics of the 21st century, we draw ancient elements of nature and process them technologically through music creation. This combination merges the culture of yesterday and today, Greece and China, Aristotle and Confucius. The eternal alternation of night and day, the continuous flow of life, comes to life in nature through the sounds of cicadas and frogs in our work titled "*Tzitzikia Stisan to Horo ki Oi Gryloi Akolouthoune..." (Cicadas Set the Dance and the Frogs Follow...).*

**Glaux Aeterna**

Team: Maria Athanasiou, Marios Kanellis, Vasilis Kostis, Pavlos Michelis

Supervisor: Victor Mastela

A sound journey through watery realms with summer notes unfolds a magical harmony of sounds. The sense of coolness invites visitors to harmonise with the serene environment shaped by wind-generated waves. In this idyllic landscape, the owl emerges as the ultimate soloist, with each note and rhythm bringing absolute relaxation and enjoyment of nature. Suddenly, humans are drawn into a fantastical environment surrounded by a storm of supernatural states, accompanied by transformed owl sounds. Ultimately, the visitor returns to the real world, enjoying the soothing sounds of everyday life.

**Coordination team**

**Anastasia Georgaki**, Professor, head of the Music Departent, NKUA (concept, coordination)

**Orestis Karamanlis**, Assistant Professor Department of Digital arts and cinema, NKUA (Live Performance )

**Thanos Polymeneas Liontiris**, composer, special teaching staff, Music Department, NKUA (Students coordianation)

**Yannis Malafis**, Special teaching staff, Music Department,NKUA (Sound engineer)

**Assistants (Master’s Students)**

Penelope Bekiari, Fotis Rovolis, Viktor Mastela, Dimitris Pghidas, Gabriel Farilekas