

Manos Hadjidakis -- A New Generation of Musicians Pay Tribute to the Composer

Kerrytown Concert House, 415 N. 4th Ave, Ann Arbor, MI, 48104

April 18, 2015, 8:00pm

\$5-25

http://www.kerrytownconcerthouse.com/index.php/events/event/malis_hadjidakis/

A concert generously sponsored by the Modern Greek Program — University of Michigan

The Greek composer Manos Hadjidakis (1925 - 1994) is beloved worldwide for his compositions, which range from classical music to folk music to film music. His most famous composition, 1960's *Never On A Sunday*, was composed for the film of the same title, and garnered him an Academy Award for Best Original Song. That song would go on to be his most famous, and would become the definitive sound of Greek music to an international audience for generations to come. But he wrote prolifically, both in Greece and in America, where he lived 1966 to 1972.

Hadjidakis was deeply influenced by the American culture he loved — the cities, the life, the music, the artists. In turn, American musicians performed, adapted, and popularized his music through movies, musicals, concerts, and records. Today, twenty years after his death, a new generation is re-discovering his work, approaching it in innovative and exciting ways. This special concert will present the new Hadjidakis of the 21st century, who is still inviting us all to go with him "for a walk on the moon."



Composer, pianist, and improvising musician **Michael Malis** spearheads this concert in a program that will provide new adaptations of some of Hadjidakis' best known compositions, as well as some of his lesser-known gems. Malis, who is of Greek-American descent, brings a unique perspective to this music. The program will be diverse, featuring a range of instrumentations, from solo piano to chamber ensembles. Malis will be joined by special guests, including multi-instrumentalist **Michele Ramo** (performing this evening on mandolin and guitar); flutist **Ellie Falaris Ganelin**, the founder of the Greek Chamber Music Project; and cellist **Abigail Alwin**, an improvising musician with a deep affinity for Greek music.

Also featured on the program is Ann Arbor's own **OrnāmatiK**, a "Balkan funk band" featuring popular area musicians. Well known for their legendary festive performances around Ann Arbor, Southeastern Michigan, and across the Midwest, OrnāmatiK consistently delights dancers and audiences alike.

Michael Malis

Michael Malis is a pianist and composer based in Detroit, MI. As a pianist, he has shared the stage with a diverse array of musicians, including notables such as Marcus Belgrave, Jaribu Shahid, Ken Filiano, Andrew Bishop, Dennis Coffey, and Marion Hayden. He also leads a trio which showcases his own original music. He has performed at the Kennedy Center, the Detroit Jazz Festival, The Stone (NYC), and the Detroit Institute of Arts, among other venues.

In September of 2013, Malis began his appointment as the Musical Director at the Canterbury House in Ann Arbor. The Canterbury House is a performance space and Episcopal Church that has been a staple in the Ann Arbor performing arts community for years. In his tenure as Musical Director, he has programmed adventurous Jazz Masses, curated a Concert Series featuring cutting edge musicians such as William Hooker, Tatsuya Nakatani, James Cornish, and others, and put on a the yearly Canterbury House Music Festival, featuring local and regional musicians.



As a composer, he was awarded "Best Musical Score" in the 2011 Lightworks Film Festival for his score to the short film "Slash/Fiction." He has continued to write music for film since then, scoring a total of three short films and one full length feature film. Malis most recently composed the score to the full length feature film "Papou," from Mother and Midwife productions. The film is set to be released later in 2015. He began writing music for theater in 2012, writing the musical score for "The Mute Quire", a play by the Fratellanza Theater Company, which

premiered at the New Theater Project in Ypsilanti, MI, in June of 2012 to critical acclaim. "The Mute Quire" was recently remounted in Galway, Ireland in 2014 at the Galway Fringe Festival. His second collaboration with Fratellanza, "String Up the Moon," premiered in Detroit to critical acclaim in September of 2013.

He started playing the piano at age five, and started writing music shortly thereafter. In high school, he began his studies in earnest with Detroit jazz piano legend Bess Bonnier. After high school, he attended the University of Michigan, where he studied with the eminent jazz pianist Geri Allen.

Michele Ramo

Michele (pronounced: Me-kel-ay) Ramo was born Michele Pugliese Ramo in the Italian Mediterranean fishing town of Mazara Del Vallo, (TP) Italy - on the Southwest coast of Sicily.

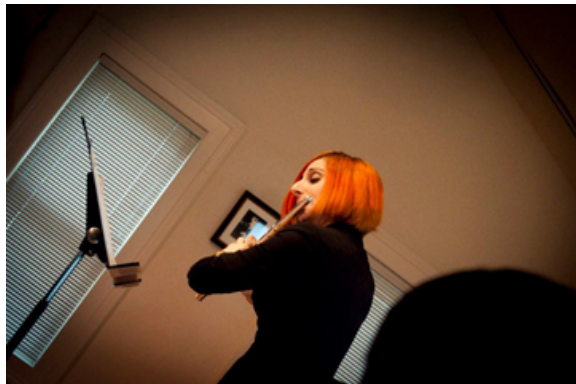
Ramo grew up in a small village of two hundred, Borgata Costiera, where he played guitar with the barbers in the little town square. And, at age 13 the young Ramo won an audition to study violin at the Italian Music Conservatory. By 17, he had his first professional contract with the Italian State Opera House "Teatro Massimo" in Palermo - the youngest in Italy to be awarded such a prestigious place even before finishing his degree. Ramo earned his Masters degree in violin, and after five years in various Italian state symphony orchestras, made musical shock waves within his circles by quitting and moving to the United States to pursue his work as a composer and instrumentalist in jazz.



Ramo recently relocated back to Michigan after living in New York City for 12 years with his wife, former Miss Michigan, singer-lyricist and voice teacher Heidi Hepler. He currently teaches Jazz Violin, Guitar & Mandolin in his private studio, performs throughout the US as soloist, in Duo with Heidi Hepler, with 'The Ramo World Jazz Orchestra' and 'The Michele Ramo Orchestra Italiana'.

Ellie Falaris Ganelin

Ellie Falaris Ganelin is a flutist with an engaging stage presence and a unique array of influences. Classically trained, she is also versed in jazz, Latin, Brazilian music, rock, and experimental music. She received double degrees in music and journalism from the University of Maryland, where she studied with William Montgomery and Kathleen Trahan. She has performed and recorded with indie pop band 1959 Hat Company and appears on their Hearts Intersect EP. She has also been a member of Opera on Tap, bringing opera and classical music to fun, informal settings. She has most recently explored experimental improvisation, having performed at the Contemporary Art Institute of Detroit, the Red Room in Baltimore, and as part of Edgefest. Ms. Ganelin is the



founder of the Greek Chamber Music Project (GCMP), which made its debut here at Kerrytown Concert House. She has since brought GCMP to the Washington, DC area in collaboration with the Hellenic Society Prometheas, and is thrilled to return to KCH for this engagement. Ms. Ganelin is currently based in San Francisco, where she lives with her husband, Ilya. www.GreekChamberMusic.com

Abigail Alwin

Abigail Alwin, cellist and improviser, weaves sounds inspired from the moment, and generated from the heart. She serves the community in the capacity of a public-school orchestra director, with a 15-year tenure with the Ann Arbor Public Schools. In addition to her classroom teaching, Abigail co-directs the AAPS Comprehensive Outreach Music Program in collaboration with the Community Music School of Ann Arbor, which connects music tutors with disadvantaged students whom would otherwise not have private instruction. Abigail is recipient of the 2013 Yale University Distinguished Music Educator Award, recognizing innovative and exemplary pedagogy amongst the best in the United States. She seized the opportunity in 2013 to spend the summer teaching violin in Kenya, and plans for more international music adventures. Most recent performance projects have included performing solo & in collaboration with Detroit composers, improvisors & choreographers, focusing on improvisatory and contemporary idioms as well as the folk traditions of Bulgaria & Greece. Ms. Alwin is currently the assistant conductor of the Dexter (MI) Community Orchestra.



Ornâmatik

Ornâmatik captivates audiences with an energetic and unique take on Eastern European folk music. With its tight rhythm section and funky horns, the band plays music from all over the Balkans. The result is infectious grooves, often in the odd-time meters of traditional folk dances.

Audiences can't help but come together and dance when they feel the power of the music.



Featuring:

Bethanni Grecynski - Trombone,
Voice

Drew Schmieding - Drumset

Eric Schweizer - Saxophone,
Clarinet

Ben Rolston - Bass

Derek Worthington - Trumpet

Woody Goss - Keys

Kirsten Carey - Guitar, Mandolin

Xavier Verna - Doumbek