



# INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KARDITSA

*Director: Nikos Efthimiadis*

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## The 40th INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL OF KARDITSA (GREECE)

From 24<sup>th</sup> November to 4<sup>th</sup> December, 2022

The International Festival of Karditsa is a leading artistic event in Greece and worldwide due to its unique regulation.

The philosophy of the Festival aims not only at the artistic approach but also at a musical-pedagogical, social and even more at a political approach of the different countries of the participating choirs.

The steady ambition of the Festival is to promote the choral music and let old monophonic and polyphonic music be discovered by conductors, singers and audience.

So far at the International Choral Festival of Karditsa have participated important choirs from all corners of the Earth, prominent orchestras and leading soloists.

Considered the most important INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL of GREECE, with a lot of great participation of foreign choirs.

The 40th International Karditsa International Choir Festival is dedicated to our National composer Nikolaos Mantzaros (1795-1872), for the 150 years since the composer's death, to the famous contemporary composer Iannis Xenakis (1921-2001) for the 100 years since his birth, to the classic composer Joseph Haydn (1732-1809) for the 290 years since his birth, to the hero of the Greek Revolution of 1821 Georgios Karaiskakis (1782-1827) and to the greatest poet of Christianity Dante Alighieri (1265-1321).

The Choral Festival of Karditsa, in which have taken place leading choirs from all over the world, great orchestras and prominent soloists, it is organized since 1983 in Karditsa and it is a premier cultural event, that is implemented under the artistic direction of Conductor, Prof. Nikos Efthimiadis.

As additional features, it includes a regulation that might be unique on a global scale, because it ensures the simultaneous realization of many first performances on demand by Greek and foreign composers helping on that way the contemporary music creation. Also, it provides a very large number of performers, who come from every corner of Europe and the world.

The originalities of the Festival in the world are:

1. The choirs that are taking part are required to present specific works under the control of an International Committee, which is composed of recognized value foreign and Greek conductors, representatives of the various music schools.
2. At the end of each evening, in a special discussion with the jury, the directors of the choirs receive suggestions for improvement etc.
3. The choirs are forced to perform and interpret among other works ancient Greek, Byzantine, Gregorian and Modern Greek music.
4. At the end of each evening, all the choirs' together or selected members, interpret a work of Greek or foreign composer at first performance, that is conducted every time a member of the International Jury. In this way the conductors and choirs, Greek and foreign, have the opportunity to work together for a better preparation of joint projects, to work laboratory under the direction of distinguished conductors to a very interesting but unknown works reaping many technical benefits, while renewing and their repertoire.
5. These works of Greek and foreign composers are written by order for the International Festival of Karditsa specifically.
6. The INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF KARDITSA includes many other events consisting of: evenings of opera, symphonic music, religious music at the Byzantine Castle of Fanari , at the Lake of Nikolaos Plastiras , with bands performances, exhibitions of paintings and engravings etc.

So is showing our music heritage internationally, while the relative importance was given to the study and interpretation of Gregorian chant.

For the first time worldwide the Byzantine and ancient Greek music, participate equally with Gregorian chant and Renaissance polyphony.

Another choral obligation is to perform works by 15th and 16th century, so it gives to the choirs the opportunity to study and deepen to the masterpieces of classical polyphony. Apart from the works of romantic composers, they undertake to perform works by contemporary Greek composers and traditional country music.

For the success of the event help the Municipality of Karditsa, the Regional Section of Karditsa (Thessaly), the Metropolis Thessaliotidos and Fanariofarsalon, the Municipality of Mouzaki and the Pan-Hellenic Federation of Choirs and Choral Directors.

The Festival is held at the Concert Halls of Hotel Kierion of Karditsa and of Mouzaki Palace Hotel. Also, includes concerts at other sites in the wide area (open theatres, parks, markets, monasteries, sites at “Nikolaos Plastiras” lake, etc).

The deadline date to apply is 30<sup>th</sup> October 2022.

For more information about Regulation and Registration for those who are interested can be addressed to the Secretariat of the Festival:

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**<http://festivalofkarditsa.blogspot.gr/>,**

**Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/International-Festival-Of-Karditsa/430401250405622?ref=hl>**

**PS: For information about excursions to Meteora (the famous and unique complex of monasteries on high rocks in the middle of the field, about 100 Km far from Karditsa), to Delphi (the renowned archaeological site – the oracle and the temple of Apollo, about 150 Km away from Karditsa), or to the sea (about 100 Km away), or to Thermopyle and Vergina, please contact the festival or your tour operator.**