

# VISITING GREECE

**Maria Fragkiadaki & Sébastien Vachez**  
**(voice and guitar)**



Arrangements by Sébastien Vachez of greek songs by the composer **Manos Hadjidakis (1925 – 1994)**.

**Maria Fragkiadaki** and **Sébastien Vachez** first met at Hermoupolis Guitar Festival in 2002 in Syros (Greece). They are working together on the music of the greek composer since 2011 and they recorded a CD with this program in 2015. They have presented it at several festivals in France and in Greece.

## **Manos Hadjidakis (1925-1994)**

Like Theodorakis, he is very popular in Greece and he is responsible for the introduction of Rebetiko – bouzouki's (traditional instrument) music- in classical music culture.

He composed popular songs and soundtracks, as well as more serious works. In 1961, he received the Oscar for the best soundtrack (*Children of Pireus* interpreted by Melina Merkouri), composed for Jules Dassin's film *Never on Sunday*.

His cycle of songs *Magnus Eroticus*, probably his masterpiece, is largely represented in this program. There are poems from ancient Greek poets (Sapho, Euripides), medieval and modern poets, as well as a poem by Federico Garcia Lorca. Lorca also appeared in the music made by Manos Hadjidakis for the play *Blood wedding*.

## **Maria Fragkiadaki**

Maria Fragkiadaki was born in Grece (Heraklion, Crete). She finished her studies in classical guitar, harmony and counterpoint in the National Conservatory of Athens and fugue in the Conservatory of Troyes (France).

She has been singing since the age of 4, she studied opera singing and for some time she was a member of the Ancient Music Center in Athens directed by Iakovos Pappas.

She studied Acting at the Theatre of Changes in Athens and she is working as a guitar teacher in Troyes.

In 1995, she met the famous pianist, conductor and teacher Georges Hadjinikos she considers as her greatest master in every artistic domains.

**Sébastien Vachez** was born in France in 1973. His father took charge of his first musical steps when he was four years old. Three years later he is enrolled in the "Conservatoire National" in his native Troyes. His first guitar instructor was JeanPierre Chauvineau. Pierre Goliot followed up the remaining years of his musical apprenticeship there, culminating with the professional diploma. At the same time Sébastien studied the important complementary musical disciplines such as harmony, musical analysis, chamber music, etc.

Afterwards he carried on his musical studies in Paris with Vladimir Mikulka and Gérard Verba. During the same period Vachez took part in master classes with wellknown guitarists such as Roland Dyens, Roberto Aussel, Arnaud Dumond, Tania Chagnot, Pablo Marquez, Aniello Desiderio, Zoran Dukic and others.

Winner of several prizes in international competitions, Sébastien VACHEZ is currently leading a career as a concertist, composer, arranger and teacher. He is certainly no stranger to the platform of international festivals having performed in many european countries (Spain, Portugal, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Hungary, Croatia, Greece), in South America (Peru) and in Asia (Hong Kong).

As a teacher, he frequently appears in master-classes and workshops.

Sébastien has also recorded seven CD ("Comme une Saudade", "Cuba Libre", "Couleurs Tango", "Brésils", "Valsez sur moi", "Chamber Music" and "Hommage à Manos Hadjidakis") and his own works are regularly published by Doberman – Yppan (Canada), d'Oz (Canada) and Henri Lemoine (Paris).

His compositions are played and recorded by the greatest musicians from all over the world such as Shin-Ichi Fukuda (Japan), Thibault Cauvin, Olivier Pelmoine (France), Boris Gaquere (Belgium), Dimitris Dekavallas (Greece), Kevin Manderville (USA), Matthew McAllister (Scotland), Sébastien Deshaies, Isabelle Héroux (Canada), etc.