

Stathis Karapanos, Flute:

Born in Athens, Greece in September of 1996, son to a ballet dancer, a banker and future brother to a then unborn sister, at the age of 5, I declared my love for the flute, practiced and performed in all the places I have lived and in the airplane in between.

When I realised my love for music and after a long year of trying to persuade both of my parents, I enrolled at the National Conservatory in Athens and received my first lessons from Ms. Myrto Tsakiri.

In June of 2013, at the age of 16, I was accepted to study with them at the Music University of Karlsruhe and graduated in July of 2018 with distinctions. In February 2016, I was selected to be the only student representative in the committee that would select the new flute professor in our university, Prof. Pirmin Grehl.

During my studies, I regularly premiered different pieces from the composition class of Prof. W. Rihm and was often invited to perform as a member of both youth and professional orchestras like the State Theater of Karlsruhe, Kölner Kammerorchester, Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France between others.

Searching for inspiration is a never-ending and vitally crucial journey in one's life. In my case some of the most inspiring figures have been Maestro Zubin Mehta whom I saw for the first time on stage in 2005 conducting "Carmen", Maestro Christoph Eschenbach whose recordings I grew up with, Maestro Yutaka Sado conducting one of the most impressive performances of the "Requiem" by G. Verdi. I consider myself extraordinarily lucky and privileged to have had the opportunity to learn from and be invited to collaborate with them as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral musician. As a chamber musician I have collaborated with artists like Vilde Frang, Matthias Goerne, Nicolas Altstaedt, Daniel Hope, Lang Lang and Marisol Montalvo between others and have had teacher and mentors like Mathieu Dufour, Vangelis Papathanassiou, Petra Mülleians, Henrick Wiese, Peter Lukas Graf.

As a soloist I have been honoured with the "Bernstein Award" from the Schleswig Holstein Music Festival (2020), the "Lotto Prize" from the Rheingau Festival (2019) and have been awarded with numerous prizes from International Competitions. Past and upcoming performances and recordings include : the World Premiere of "für Inge" of Leonard Bernstein and "Lamentation" of Craig Urquhart, the World Premiere of the "Zorbas Suite" by M. Theodorakis and A. Wastor which I commissioned together with the Young Euro Classic Festival, the NCPA Orchestra (Beijing), Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra (St. Petersburg), Athens State Symphony Orchestra (Greece), HR Symphony Orchestra (Frankfurt), Bamberg Symphony Orchestra, NHK Symphony Orchestra (Tokyo), Munich Symphony Orchestra between many others.

My ultimate dream is to understand and serve music to its fullest extent, which has led me to explore all possible variations of my instrument like the Shakuhachi and the Traverse flute to the Contrabass flute. Keen on musical experimentation, I have often joined different bands, groups and world renowned artists on stage like Richard Smith, Tico Pierhagen, Vassilis Rakopoulos with whom we meander through musical forms ranging from free jazz to hard rock.

In 2016 I assisted in organizing the 3rd edition of the "Santorini Arts Factory" festival and the following year I was appointed "Music Director". Shortly after, I was appointed First Principal Flute of the Athens State Symphony Orchestra, a post that I left in July of 2018 to continue my studies with Prof. Bernold at the Conservatoire National Supérieur in Paris and to further pursue my career.