

Nikolaos Laaris

“here is a fine artist, one incapable of making an ugly sound”

Stephen Pettit - The Times

Nikolaos studied piano at the Royal College of Music, London, and holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts from Manhattan School of Music, New York, where he served as a professor.

He has performed in Greece (Athens Festival), Europe (South Bank Centre - London, Gärtnerplatztheater - Munich), and the US (Carnegie Hall - New York), and has appeared as a soloist with the State Orchestras of Athens and Thessaloniki, as well as the Armonia Atenea Orchestra. For his collaboration with Theater Ballet München in Philip Taylor’s choreography of *Goldberg Variationen*, *Dance Europe* magazine called him “the star of the evening”.

He has presented programs such as: *Haydn: The Seven Last Words*, with the late Pulitzer Prize winner photographer Yiannis Behrakis, and *Bernstein: an Anniversary* (Athens Concert Hall), *John Cage: the keyboards* (Onassis Cultural Center), *Prayer of the Heart* (John Tavener’s works - Alternative Stage), and *Shards* (Philip Glass’ Etudes for Piano, Book I - NOSTOS Festival).

His solo album *Parallax* featured Bach’s Goldberg Variations, and sets of variations of Nikos Skalkottas (SUBWAYS MUSIC, sponsored by the J. F. Kostopoulos Foundation). In 2024 he is planning the world premiere performance and recording of the twice GRAMMY nominated George Tsontakis’ new piano cycle *TWENTY GRATITUDES for the teachings of Jesus* (sponsored by the G. & V. Karelias Foundation), as well as the staging of Moises Kaufman’s *33 Variations*, a play dealing with the composition of Beethoven’s Diabelli Variations.

Nikolaos holds a Bachelor degree in orchestral conducting from the Conservatorium van Amsterdam. He has collaborated with Armonia Atenea Orchestra, as well as the Greek Radio National Symphony Orchestra. He has conducted opera (Glass: *In the Penal Colony* - Onassis Cultural Center, Tsontakis: *The Air of Greece* - Alternative Stage), operetta and musical (Sakellaridis: *The Godson*, Bernstein: *West Side Story*, Porter: *Kiss me Kate* at the Athens Concert Hall, and Lloyd-Weber: *The Phantom of the Opera*), as well as musical theater (Kipourgos: *Peace of Aristophanes* - National Theater, Papadimitriou: *St Francis* - Piraeus Municipal Theater).