



# **PIANO CITY ATHENS 2024**

## **@ DEREЕ - THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF GREECE**

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 | 17:30

# Echoes of Emotion

Natalia Karatzanou | Piano

Ludwig van Beethoven, Piano Sonata op.111, no.32 in C minor

Maestoso - Allegro con brio ed appassionato

Arietta - Adagio molto semplice e cantabile

Frederic Chopin, Ballade no.1 in G minor, op.23

**Natalia Karatzanou**, born in Athens in 2001, commenced her piano journey at 7.5 years old under the guidance of pianist and music educator Evi Marinaki. From 2016 to 2018, she attended the Athenian Conservatory on a scholarship, obtaining her Piano Diploma in 2018 (Distinction, 1st Prize). In 2022, she achieved her Diploma in Music Theory (Harmony, Distinction) from the Athens Conservatoire, studying under Babis Kanas. In 2019, she commenced her studies in Medical School of National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, supported by a scholarship from "IKY" (State Scholarships Foundation) for the academic years 2019-2020.

She has actively participated in piano seminars and masterclasses with Martino Tirimo, Lilia Boyadjieva, Pavlos Giallourakis, Aline Artignan, Christine Tokatlian, Alexia Mouza, and Dimitris Toufexis.

In May 2016, she showcased her own composition on the DUOFINA show (ERT, 2016) for young soloists. In 2022-2023, she participated in the "Chamber Music Continuous Seminar" an initiative by Angelos Liakakis and Titos Gouvelis, organized by the Athens State Orchestra, and performed in the concluding concert held in April 2023 at the Dimitris Mitropoulos Hall of the Athens Concert Hall. In January 2024, she contributed to the Piano Days event at the Athens Concert Hall, performing in the "Young Soloists in the Foyer," at the Foyer of the Christos Lambrakis Hall. Additionally, in March 2024, she held a solo piano recital at the Philippos Nakas Concert Hall as part of the concert series "Youth for Youth."

She has won Second Prize in the 10th Panhellenic Competition of Young Pianists in 2022 and Third Prize in the 9th Competition in 2020. Furthermore, she has received Third Prize in the Panhellenic Music Competition for the UNESCO Club in 2022 and 2020. She has also earned First Prize in the Panhellenic Piano Competition of the Youth Orchestra Choir in 2018 and 2012. Additionally, she participated in the competition-seminar with distinguished musician Aline Artignan, Art Director of the Festival Marais-Paris, where she won the Second and First Prizes in 2012 and 2013. Finally, her performances extend to various venues, including Dimitris Mitropoulos and Lilian Voudouri Halls of the Athens Concert Hall, Philological Association "Parnassos," Theoharakis Foundation, and Estia Neas Smyrnis, as well as in live streaming concerts on YouTube.

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 | 18:15

# Spanish Dance & Russian Suite: Two Works for Two Pianos

Vasileios Gavvaris, Dimitris Papakyriazis | Piano

M. Ravel: Bolero, arranged for two pianos by the composer

Tempo di Bolero moderato assai

S. Rachmaninoff: Suite No. 2 for Two Pianos, Op. 17 (1900-1901)

I. Introduction - Alla marcia

II. Waltz - Presto

III. Romance - Andantino

IV. Tarantella - Presto

Two young, emerging pianists collaborate in two monumental works of the 20th century for two pianos. From the rhythmic allure of Ravel's iconic Bolero, in composer's transcription for two pianos, a milestone work of rhythmic vitality and bursts of colours, inspired by the Spanish dance, to the emotive depths of Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Suite for two pianos, a work of haunting beauty and grandeur. A journey of musical brilliance, passion, hypnotic rhythms, orchestral qualities, and unleashed emotions.

**Vassilis Gavvaris** is a 23-year-old Greek Cypriot pianist. He holds a B.A. (Hons) in Music Performance (Summa Cum Laude/ First Class Honours) from Deree - The American College of Greece, studying under the supervision of Dr. Tatiana Papageorgiou, with whom he has also completed the Piano Soloist's Diploma with the grade of "Excellent Unanimous and the First Prize" from the Athens Panarmonio Conservatory. He has been the recipient of the "Frances Rich Scholarship" and the "Music Scholarship" of the School of Fine and Performing Arts, based on his excellent academic performance. He started playing the piano at the age of 13 under the instruction of Maria Velmachou at the National Conservatory of Sparta, the town where he grew up.

Vassilis has participated in several national and international piano competitions. Among his most important distinctions are the 1st Prize at the Felouris Music Competition, the 2nd, and the 3rd Prize at the Piano Competitions of the Filonas Music Association, the 2nd Prize at the Chaerogiorgou-Sigara Piano Competition, at the Athens Megaron, a Merit Award at the Unesco TLEE Piano Competition, and an Honorable Mention at the Montecatini International Piano Competition. He has also been granted an "Award for his Artistic Excellence and Ethos" by the Sainopoulos Foundation. He was recently awarded the Outstanding Graduating Student Award for Music Performance (C.I.:3.97 / 4.00 - Summa Cum Laude). Recently, he was granted the "Emerging Soloist Award" for the year 2023, from the "Gina Bachauer International Music Association".

He has actively participated in numerous piano and chamber music masterclasses in Greece and European music academies, such as The Karol Szymanowski Academy of Music in Katowice, Poland, and The Royal College of Music in Stockholm, given among others by Prof. Andrzej Jasiński, Dr. Tamás Ungár, Prof. Leon McCawley, Prof. Staffan Scheja, Dr. Peter Nagy, Prof. Dimitris Toufexis, and Jean-Louis Steuerman.

He has performed on various occasions at the premises of The American College of Greece, as well as in events at the Megaron Athens Concert Hall, the Acropolis of Ancient Sparta, the Pierce Theatre, the Lilian Voudouri Musical Library, the Nathan Milstainsalen in Stockholm, and other concert halls. He has also taken part at the Athens Piano

City Festival, the Gina Bachauer Festival in Athens, and the Akademifestivalen Stockholm, and has given personal solo recitals in important venues, such as Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall and The American College of Greece. In June 2024 he will present a recital featuring works by eminent Cypriot Composers at the Cultural and Educational Office of the Embassy of the Republic of Cyprus in Greece “House of Cyprus”.

Apart from his solo performances, he has worked with chamber music ensembles and as an accompanist, while he is also a passionate piano instructor. He holds an Advanced Harmony Degree from the National Conservatory and has practiced extensively Greek traditional percussion instruments, having performed in important venues, such as the Athens Concert Hall and the Herodes Atticus Theater.

During his studies at Deree, he has been an active member of the Music Society, serving as the President, and working towards the organization of musical and educational activities for the community. For his vision and contribution, he has been awarded the Outstanding Member Award and the Community Service Award. Vassilis is currently auditioning for master's programs in piano performance abroad, while completing his final thesis on gender and music performance-related topics at Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences, in Athens.

**Dimitris Papakyriazis** was born in 2002 and started taking piano lessons at the Athenian Conservatory when he was 8 years old under the guidance of pianist and music educator, Evi Marinaki. In June 2019, he obtained his piano degree with Honors. Two years later, in June 2021, he received his piano diploma with honors and was awarded first prize. He also holds two more piano Diplomas, DipLCM and ALCM, with Distinction in piano performance, awarded by the London College of Music from the University of West London.

Dimitris won prizes in numerous piano competitions, including the first prize in the fourth Pan-Hellenic piano competition MusicArte in 2023, the second prize in the seventh Pan-Hellenic piano competition held by the Club of UNESCO Art-Literature and Science of Greece in 2022, the third prize in the tenth Pan-Hellenic competition for young pianists at Andros Island in 2022, as well as the first prize in the Pan-Hellenic competition held by XON (xonhellas) in 2019 and 2012. Furthermore, he has participated at the 18th International Piano Competition MozARTE in Cologne –Aachen’s Music Academy and at the César Franck International Piano Competition in Brussels in 2022.

He has been actively participating in piano Masterclasses with renowned professors and soloists such as Oliver Kern, Christopher Elton, Aline Artignan, Lilia Boyadjieva, Carlo Grante, Florian Podgoreanu, Martino Tirimo, Pavlos Yallourakis, Christos Papageorgiou, Karolos Zoyganelis and Dimitris Toufexis. In 2021 he began an educational study course with internationally renowned piano soloist Dora Mpakopoulos.

He has participated in a substantial number of concerts as a pianist, in various auditoriums. For instance, Megaron (The Athens Concert Hall), Theoharakis Foundation, Odeon of Herodes Atticus, Hellenic American Union, Parnassos Literary Society, Filippos Nakas Concert Hall, Anna- Maria Kalouta Theatre, Benaki Museum, Hellenic French school Ursulines and more.

In December 2021, he took part in a concert organized by the Music and Culture Association "EFTERPI" as a tribute to young musicians. He also performed in "The Pianists" concert during the sixteenth International Music Festival at Aegina Island in August 2022.

In October of 2022, he was selected to play, after hearing, at the Piano Festival in GNO Alternative Stage in cooperation with the Thessaloniki’s Piano Festival. In January of 2023, in relation to the 34th series of concerts which was organized by the Philippos Nakas Conservatory as well as in May 2023, as part of Piano City Athens, he held a personal Piano Recital. At last, in August of 2023, he went to Chetham’s International Piano Summer Academy at Manchester.

As a concluding remark, at the end of September 2020, he started accompanying the monody class of world-famous soprano Sonia Theodoridou at the Athenian Conservatory.

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 | 19:00

# Echoes of Anatolia

Dimitris Karydis | Piano

Napoleon Lambelet, Je veux toujours t'aimer (1912)

Γιάννης Κωνσταντινίδης, Τραγούδια και χοροί από τα Δωδεκάνησα, Βιβλίο Ι (1943-1948)

Ahmad Adnan Saygun, Sonatina: Allegro – Adagio, con moto – Prestissimo (1938)

Vardapet Komitas, Yerangi (1906)

Fazil Say, Black Earth (1997)

Arno Babadjanian, Vagharshapat dance (1947)

Elegie in memory of Aram Khachaturian (1978)

Aram Khachaturian, Masquerade Suite: Waltz – Nocturne – Mazurka – Romance – Galop (1941)

**Dimitris Karydis** was born in Crete, Greece. Virtuosity, vitality, accuracy and excitement – indisputable elements in his playing – have assured him appearances with outstanding success in England, Germany, Italy, Japan and Greece.

Awards include the 1st prize in four national piano competitions and the prestigious 'E. Mykoniou' prize, awarded to him by the Academy of Athens for his artistic activity. He has also been awarded a special prize in the prestigious Grand Prix "Maria Callas".

His piano duo 'Antithesis (with pianist Petros Moschos) has been awarded top prizes in most major international duo competitions in the world. He is also a member of the Tetrachord Piano Ensemble, a piano quartet specializing in performing works for 8 hands.

Dimitris holds a soloist diploma from the Athens Conservatoire gaining the highest possible mark and 'award of excellence', a diploma of Advanced Studies with 'Merit' from the Royal Academy of Music, London, a master's degree with 'distinction', a doctorate's degree from the City University, London, and a bachelor's degree in Classics from the Athens University. He has worked intensively with Aliki Vatikioti, Frank Wibaut and James Gibb.

Dimitris is managing the Classical Music department at Morley and he is also the artistic director of the Heraklion Piano Festival in Greece.

FRIDAY MAY 17, 2024 | 19:45

# A Promenade to Identities

Christine Tokatlian, Spyros Souladakis | Piano

F. Poulenc: Elegie for two pianos FP 175 (1958)

A. Khachaturian: Sonata for piano (1961)

I. Allegro Vivace

II. Andante tranquillo

III. Allegro assai

M. Mussorgsky: Pictures at an Exhibition (1874)

Promenade

Gnomus

Promenade

Il Vecchio castello (The Old Castle)

Promenade

Tuileries (Children's Quarrel)

Bydlo (Cattle)

Promenade

Ballet of the Unhatched chicks

"Samuel" Goldenberg und "Schmuyle"

Promenade

Limoges. Le marche (Limoges. The market)

Catacombae – Cum mortuis in lingua mortua (With the Dead in a Dead Language)

The Hut on Hen's Legs (Baba Yaga)

The Great Gate of Kiev

S. Prokofiev: The Dance of the Knights (Montagues and Capulets) from Romeo and Juliet (arr. For two pianos)

A Promenade to Identities takes audiences on a captivating journey through Russia's cultural landscape, spanning nearly a century. Through two monumental solo piano pieces, we explore diverse social environments, vividly contextualizing the concepts of Time & Place. Adding an extra layer of richness, our collaboration on two pianos promises to elevate the evening's experience.

**Spyros Souladakis** (concert pianist, teacher) has given many concerts (both solo and chamber music) in Greece and abroad. He has performed in London (Wigmore Hall, the National Gallery, etc), Rome, Paris, Milano, Weimar, in the Athens Concert Hall, in Thessalonica, Crete, Rhodes, Cyprus etc. In Great Britain, he won the first prize in "Robert Sutherland" competition for piano accompanying. He has participated in many piano masterclasses where well-known musicians such as Paul Badura Skoda, Nelly Acopian - Tamarina, Konstantin & Julia Ganey, Aleksandar Raichev, were invited. He has also accompanied many artists in various concerts, masterclasses, courses, auditions etc. He graduated from the Royal College of Music, where he studied with John Blakely and Nigel Clayton. In Greece, he studied piano with Ida Lori Margariti and Marina Koutouvali, and graduated in 1999 (Diploma in performance with Distinction). While in London, he also studied orchestration and composition. Since 2004 he teaches piano and theory of music in schools and conservatories in Athens.

**Christine Tokatlian**, is a concert pianist praised for her academic distinctions and passionate performance. In 2008 she was awarded the honorary 'Eleni Myconiou' prize for artistic excellence by the Athens Academy. At the age of six Christine was already taking piano lessons at the National Conservatory of Greece which led to a Soloist's diploma with a grade of Excellence by unanimous vote and First Prize, under the supervision of Manolis Kokalis. Studying under renowned pianists including Dimitris Toufexis, Yu Chun Yee and Bernard Roberts, between 1996 and 1999, Christine receives her Bachelor of Arts in Music from Deree-The American College of Greece, and post-graduate diplomas in Advanced Piano Performance from the Royal College of Music in London (PGDip, PGAdvDip).

Performing around Greece, New York, the United Kingdom, Italy, Lebanon, Germany and Armenia alongside distinguished artists including the Komitas Quartet, Christine's recitals include works by classical, romantic and contemporary composers, as well as new-experimental music all performed with her distinct temperament, undeniably fueled by her Armenian descent. And with the same passionate spirit she premiered Khatchaturian's Piano Concerto with the Thessaloniki State Orchestra in the Thessaloniki Concert Hall in 2010.

Beyond the stage, Christine shares her musical expertise through teaching, currently holding positions as an Associate Professor of Music & Music Performance at Deree – The American College of Greece and as a piano professor at the Meandrio Conservatory. She has recorded with various ensembles and artists and in a range of musical styles particularly interested in new music.

An advocate for new music, Christine's recordings with various ensembles and artists span a wide spectrum of musical styles, with a particular emphasis on contemporary Armenian composers. Her scholarly pursuits led her to obtain a PhD from Chichester University, UK, focusing on the impact of contemporary Armenian piano music on the re(de)construction of Armenian musical identity. Her research findings have been disseminated through presentations at international conferences in Athens, London, Istanbul, Berlin and Latvia.

Christine serves as a jury member in national competitions and gives piano masterclasses in Greece and abroad. Her students have been awarded several prizes and distinctions in international piano competitions.

Armenian Piano Images, Christine's personal recording with works of contemporary Armenian composers, some of which are world premieres, serves as a window for her audience to see into her dream of magical musical performance.

**SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024 | 11:00**

**Piano Masterclass by Christine Tokatlian**

11.00: Παπακυριαζής Δημήτρης: Gershwin - An American in Paris or Rhapsody in Blue

12.00: Δονούπογλου Χριστίνα: Bach- Invention No. 1

12.30: Τάγια Εύα: Mendelssohn- Op. 53 No. 3

BREAK

14:30: Ναταλία Κολιού: Beethoven: Piano Sonata No. 12 in A flat major, Op. 26.

15:30: Γεωργία Αναγνωστοπούλου: Beethoven-Piano Sonata No. 9 in E (1st movement)

16:30: Κωσταντίνος Λιανός: Schumann-Piano Sonta Op. 22



SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024 | 18:00

# Deree Music Society

Yuqing-Alice Chen, Angelos Latsidis, Ivana Zafeiraki | Piano

Chen Yuqing (Alice)

J. Brahms: Intermezzo Op. 118 No. 2

S. Rachmaninov: Prelude Op. 23 No. 5 in G minor

Latsidis Angelos

L. van Beethoven: Sonata Op. 57 No. 23 in F minor, 1st movement

F. Chopin Nocturne Op. 9 No. 2

F. Chopin Heroic Polonaise Op. 53

Zafeiraki Ivana

A. Schnittke: Five Aphorisms for piano

A. Schnittke: from the Gogol Suite (for two pianos)

III. Portrait

IV. Overcoat

VII. The Last Will (Testimony)

SATURDAY MAY 18, 2024 | 19:00

# Reveries

Chris Yonas & Nick Venner

About *Reveries*

*Reveries* is a back to back recital program curated and performed by the joint collaboration of distinguished Greek pianists Chris Yonas and Nick Venner. The first part features selected works of the baroque, pre-classical, romantic piano repertoire, while the second part features selected works of the post-romantic piano literature.

## Programme

### Part I: Nick Venner

1. Frédéric Chopin (1810–1849): Nocturne in C sharp minor, Op. 27 No. 1 (1836).
2. Jean-Philippe Rameau (1683–1764): Les Cyclopes (1724).
3. Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791): Piano Sonata No. 10 in C major, K. 330 (1783).
4. Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943): Étude-Tableau Op. 39 No. 5 in E-flat minor (1917).

Time: Approximately 35 minutes of music.

### Part II: Chris Yonas

1. Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915): Étude Op. 2 No. 1 in C-sharp minor (1887).
2. Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915): Prelude & Nocturne (for solo left hand) (1894).
3. Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915): Étude Op. 42 No. 4 in F-sharp major (1903).
4. Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915): Étude Op. 8 No. 12 in D-sharp minor (1894).
5. Leopold Godowsky (1870–1938): Elegy (for left hand alone) in B minor (1927).
6. Chris Yonas Prelude Op. 1 No. 1 in E major (2017).
7. Alexander Scriabin (1872–1915): Fantasy Op. 28 in B minor (1900).
8. Claude Debussy (1862–1918): L'Isle Joyeuse L. 106 (1904).

Time: Approximately 40 minutes of music.

## NICK VENNER

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Nick was born in 1994 in Athens, Greece. His musical talent showed from a very young age and he began his studies at the National Conservatory of Athens.

He completed his B.Mus. studies in Music Performance with distinction, graduated from Deree - The American College of Greece, under the internationally acclaimed pianist Mr. Dimitri Toufexis.

During his studies at the ACG he has been awarded the scholarship of the Frances L. Rich School of Fine and Performing Arts as well as the Outstanding Senior Achievement Award for his artistic activity and performance.

Nick completed his M.Mus. studies at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland (formerly the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama), under the acclaimed professors Aaron Shorr and Fali Pavri. During his studies at RCS he has been awarded the prestigious scholarship of the A. G. Leventis Foundation.

He has participated in a number of international masterclasses with eminent pianists such as Dimitri Toufexis, Aquiles delle Vigne, Steven Osborne, Raquel Boldorini, Lilia Boyadjieva, Michele Rossetti, Rafael Salinas, Borislava Taneva, Alexander Vassilenko, Roland Pröll, Daniel Rivera, Pilar Valero, and Johann Schmidt .

He has taken part in various international competitions and has won many prizes. Among them are the 3rd prize at the Greek National Piano Competition in 2013, as well as in 2016 and the 2nd prize at the Greek National Competition of UNESCO, in 2018.

He was awarded the 2nd prize at the V Encontro Internacional de Piano de Sardoal, Portugal in 2020, the 2nd prize at the International Piano Competition (ISCART) in Lugano, Switzerland in 2021, as well as the 2nd prize at the International Moscow Music Competition (IMMC) in September 2021.

Nick is also the winner of the prestigious award of the Literature and Fine Arts Order established by the Academy of Athens in Greece, in April 2022.

As a piano soloist, he has participated in recitals in various concert halls including the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), the Alternative Stage of the Greek National Opera, the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow, the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria and in concert halls in Spoleto and Bologna in Italy.

Quite recently (September 2023) he was invited to perform in a solo recital at the Cathedral of St. John's the Baptist in Chester, UK. Nick was recently awarded the prestigious Diplome Superieur in piano performance of the Academy Schola Cantorum in Paris, France under the world-renowned professor and pianist Ms. Agathe Leimoni.

## CHRIS YONAS

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Born in 1993 in Athens, Chris Yonas is a Greek-Australian pianist and composer. From a young age, he demonstrated numerous artistic and musical talents, as well as an aptitude for Philosophy and Mathematics.

He is a graduate of the Hellenic-American Educational Foundation with an International Baccalaureate Diploma. He holds a Soloist Diploma in Piano (First Prize & Distinction) from the class of Betty Gaitanou-Barzouka, professor at the Music Horizons Conservatory.

He is also a graduate of Deree - The American College of Greece (ACG) with degrees in Bachelor of Arts (Honors) and BMus (Hons) in Music Performance. Part of his undergraduate studies were completed at the University of Melbourne in Australia, studying piano with the renowned Australian pianist Sir Stephen McIntyre. During his studies at the ACG, he studied piano with the internationally acclaimed concert pianist, Dimitri Toufexis, and was the recipient of prestigious music and academic scholarships, such as the Frances L. Rich Music Scholarship and the International Honors Scholarship, respectively. Additionally, as a distinguished member of the International Honors Program, he completed a further portion of his undergraduate studies at Stanford University in California, studying Philosophy and Mathematics.

Upon completing his studies at ACG, he graduated summa cum laude and was honored with the Deree Hood Award, the institution's highest honorary award. Furthermore, for his academic and artistic activities, as well as his interdisciplinary research, he was also awarded the Outstanding Graduate Award (Music), Artistic Achievement Award, and International Honors Award, respectively.

As a soloist, he has received multiple awards and distinctions in national piano competitions and has given recitals in Greece and abroad. In Greece, he has received first prizes in the 3rd Panhellenic UNESCO Competition and the 30<sup>th</sup> X.O.N. Competition, as well as the second prize in the 6<sup>th</sup> Panhellenic Competition of the Municipal Conservatory of Larissa and the third prize in the 1st National Dionysia Trust Piano Competition. He has participated in festivals including the Piandemonium Piano Festival and the Athens Piano City Festival. In Greece, he has appeared at venues such as the Athens Concert Hall, the Alternative Stage of the Greek National Opera, the Michalis Kakogiannis Foundation, and the Cultural Foundation of Tinos. Furthermore, he has also given performances at the Mozarteum University in Salzburg, Austria, the Victoria College of Arts and the Melbourne Conservatorium of Music in Melbourne, as well as on the island of Gotland in Sweden.

He has actively participated in various piano masterclasses in Greece and abroad with eminent pianist including Olga Kern, Andrzej Jasiński, Leonel Morales, Stephen McIntyre, Max Cooke, Dimitri Toufexi, Konstantinos Papadakis, and Daniel Blumenthal.

In the field of composition, he has studied with the acclaimed pianist and composer Sami-Vasileios Amiris, with whom he completed his Honors Thesis on algorithmic composition techniques using microtonal systems. He is a graduate of the Contemporary Music Performance and Composition Workshop (CMPCW), having completed a three-year cycle of studies in tonal music theory and the

history and compositional thought of the 20th and 21st centuries studying under Dr. Alexandros Kalogeras (Ph.D. Harvard University), professor at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Furthermore, as a member since 2016, he regularly participates in CMPCW organized events in Athens as well as in the International Musical Meetings Festival in Naxos and the Musa Hellenica Festival in Chios.

His compositional work includes pieces for piano, solo instruments, musical ensembles, as well as electronic and algorithmic music. Finally, since 2023, he is a founding member of the experimental music ensemble, Frall, which reflects his keen interest towards experimentation in music creation.