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HELLENIC FOLKLORE SOCIETY

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The Newsletter for friends and members of OHFS

Vol. 7, Issue No. 4, Fall 2001

Festival of Greek Music & Dance 2002 Music and Dances from the Greek Isles

The Orpheus Hellenic Folklore Society proudly announces that the Festival of Greek Music & Dance will take place again in 2002! The Festival includes a musical presentation from notable folk artists from Greece that will tour the U.S. Last year's sold out concert included music groups from Greece's northern regions, Macedonia and Thrace.

The 2002 Festival will include music and dances from the Greek islands. The upbeat and sweet sounds of the violin, lute, dulcimer and *tsabouna* (island bagpipe) will transport us to the sunny beaches and traditional villages of beautiful destinations. The event will take place on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at the Niles West High School auditorium, 5701 West Oakton St., Skokie, at 7:00 p.m. The organization of this event is in cooperation with the World Music Institute of New York and the Hellenic Club of Niles West High School.

Next year's musical group includes ten artists lead by Nikos Economidis who is one of the most popular and recognized authorities on island musical traditions [see biography on page 2]. The program will include music and dances from the islands of the Northeastern Aegean Sea, the Dodecanese, the Kyklades and the island of Kythira. The Orpheus Dance Troupe is scheduled to perform dances from these areas accompanied by the visiting musicians. Make sure you mark your calendar for this unique and inspiring event. Assigned seating will be available on a first-come-first-

serve basis. Ticket prices are \$25 for adults and \$20 for children 18 and under. Call 847-729-3406 for ticket purchases or further information. Check the OHFS web site, www.ohfs.org, for updated information about this concert. We hope to see you there! ☐

Featured Artists: Festival of Greek Music & Dance 2002

Nikos Economidis
violin / vocal

Kostis Kalaitzakis
laouto / mantola / three-strings / vocal

Louloudi Souti-Fakiri
vocal in Eastern Aegean

Eleni Charou-Koroneou
vocal in Kithira

Antonis Koutsokeris
tzoura / lafta / oud

Nikos Karatasos
santouri

Kostas Kallipetis
tsabouna

Nikos Parianos
souravli

Chrisoula Galathri
toubec

Maria Karathanasopoulou
percussion

Nikos Economidis to be Featured at the Festival of Greek Music & Dance 2002

Nikos Economidis is one of the most highly acclaimed violin players in Greece. He was born on the island of Shinousa in the Kiklades to a musical family. His grandfather and father, both well-known violinists, sparked his interest in music. Economidis studied classical violin at the Athenian Odium under Ismini Carter-Chrysochoos and at the National Odium with Kosta Setta. At the same time, he never ceased to research and study the style of music that interested him the most, that is, traditional music. He began his professional career at the age of 15 with Dora Stratou and involves himself in the official cataloging of our national music, from Evros to Cyprus, in records and films for the national TV network. He is engaged in teaching traditional music and archiving traditional pieces like those included in the records "*Perasma sta Kythira*" and "*Sea Passages*" containing songs executed by himself, along with Mariza Koh and others.

Economidis recorded and released two albums, "*Arhondisa tou Limaniou*" (Mistress of the Seaport) and "*Choros sta Kymata*" (Dance in the Waves), and two others "*Agapi kai Thalassa*" (Love and Sea) and "*Otan akoun to violi*" (When I Listen to the Violin) with Eleni Lekaki, which were both very successful. Songs from those records, such as "*Opa Opa*" and "*Gianda na Min Theleis Gianda*" became big hits throughout the country. He has participated in International Festivals and has contributed to the formation of traditional music bands such as *Keros* and *Akrites*. He has worked with many great artists of traditional music (Chronis Aidonidis, Domna Samiou, etc.) as well as Mariza Koh, Haris Alexiou, Giorgos Dalaras at the Music Megaron of Athens and in concerts in Greece and abroad. Economidis has taught traditional music at the University of Southern Maine as part of a cultural exchange program sponsored by the ministry of Aegean and U.S.M. He is currently preparing to release "*Nissiotiki Zigia*", a record with traditional songs from the western Cyclades and other neighboring regions. During the summers, he gives concerts accompanied by the music group *Keros*. In 1998, Nikos



Noted violinist Nikos Economidis will be featured at the Festival of Greek Music and Dance 2002 which will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2002.

Economidis completed the research and cataloging of the musical tradition of the North and East Aegean, which he presented to the public in a record entitled "*East of the Aegean*" released by Verso. Recently, he completed the research and registering of the traditional music of Amorgos, which is presented in the record "*Passage to Amorgos*", released by Keros Music. In his record we find remarkable artists such as Domna Samiou, Giasemi Saragoula, Popi Kovaïou and others.

The Educational and Cultural Society of "I Vokaria" of the island of Chios was the producer of Economidis' CD, "*East of the Aegean*". In its introduction, the Board of Directors mentions that it was a great honor and pleasure to see that Mr. Economidis had accepted the undertaking of this album. He is considered to be one of the most recognized, beloved and superior artists whose expertise is endorsed without any hesitation. The Board absolutely trusts his ethos, style, musical education and respect for the true meaning of folk traditions.

The Board greeted Niko's initiative from the bottom of its heart, realizing the

immense effort that such work required. It hopes that the final product will stand for a long time and that it will be inscribed in the musical pantheon of peoples' consciences and histories. ▣



Nikos Economidis' virtuoso talents will feature an array of musical instruments such as the violin and lute. Mr. Economidis will lead a group of ten folk musicians that will provide an evening full of Greek island traditions.

Fun in the Sun

by Kathy Tomaras

Like many Greek-Americans, I ventured off this summer for a two-month vacation to my parent's homeland, Greece. My vacation began in Athens, where I spent the majority of my stay. I arrived in Athens early in June (and when I say early, I mean 4:00 a.m. early!). My cousin picked me up from the "new" Greek airport, "EL Benizelos," and so my journey began.

I spent the first month of my trip in my parents' village of Agios Petros, Kinourias. Apart from the typical bread baking, donkey riding, and watching of old men enjoying wine in the *plateia's* (town square) taverns, I also experienced a traditional Greek village wedding. The religious ceremony took place at the church of Agios Petros. For the reception the bride and groom had set-up tables in the middle of the *plateia* for their 900 guests, consisting of their family, friends and people from the village. The festivities continued into the next morning with lots of food, music and dancing.

After the wedding, I boarded a bus back to Athens—only to leave a few days later for a trip to Skotina, a village about 30 minutes away from Katerini. In Skotina, I took part in "World Camp 2001", a special camp organized by SAE for young adults of Greek descent. From Athens, I had a long train ride to Larissa, and then a two-hour bus ride to the campsite on Skotina Beach.

After registering with the camp counselors, I found myself trekking through the woodland area to find my tent, where I would be bunking up with five girls: two from Canada, one from France, one from Sweden, and my fellow Chicagoan Denise Rekoumis. My days in Skotina were spent mainly on the beach working on my tan or enjoying small boat rides, which of course meant that I had to help row the boat as well! The nights, however, were spent at the main hall of the camp where my group of friends (25 people to be exact) turned the outdoor hall into one large dance floor. On a nightly basis, we would put on music and just danced until we were too tired to walk. In

the early morning hours, we retired to the beach where we waited for the sun to rise as we engaged in lively conversations, games and song. Then we were off to bed at 6:00 a.m.—and the process began all over again the next day!

The World Camp program also consisted of various events and trips. Some of the daily events included pottery classes, cooking classes, and of course, dance lessons. I had originally signed-up for a pottery class because I wanted to experience something new. However, after making one beautiful sculpture in pottery class, I was asked by the

director of the camp to help instruct the dance classes, and so I did. Other events included day trips to Dion, an archeological site in Northern Greece, and Meteora, a beautiful mountain range with numerous Greek monasteries perched on the mountain peaks. The ultimate event for me, however, was my birthday celebration. The night before my birthday, we found a club in the village of Platamona, about a mile from the campsite, and this is where we had my "birthday bash"! The festivities continued the next day at the beach, and of course, what's a birthday without birthday cake? The entire camp surprised me with a large birthday cake, and afterward the highlight of the evening was the George Dalaras concert! Yes, that's right, I spent my birthday with my new friends at the old theater of Dion listening to Dalaras—how could anyone ask for a better birthday?

After completing my ten days at the World Camp, I returned to Athens, where I didn't hesitate to call Yannis Gevgelis, the *toumbeleki* and *daouli* musician who had



Yannis Gevgelis playing the *daouli* at the Festival of Greek Music & Dance 2001 that was held in April.

performed with Orpheus in the Festival of Greek Music and Dance 2001 in April. Yannis met me at the local train station in Kifisia, and took me to his home in Nea Smirni, where his family welcomed me with open arms. His mother, Despina Gevgelis, is a former member of Dora Stratou's theater. That night, Yannis took me to a performance at the Theater of Dora Stratou, where he plays the *daouli* and *toumbeleki*. Trees surround the outdoor theater and the large wooden stage is decorated with cement columns and beautiful pottery. The Dora Stratou dancers performed traditional Greek dances from various parts of Greece, including Crete and Thrace. After the theater performance, Yannis and I met up with his friends for some fun in Athens.

The next day, I met Yannis' father, Yiorgos Gevgelis, who is a well-known *daouli* and *toumbeleki* player. In fact, Yiorgos had just returned from a trip to Monemvasia where he had been playing at a local festival. After a long discussion with Yiorgos about his school of music and the dance group

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My Summer Dance Experience

By: Renee Papageorgiou

Ever since I can remember, I have been going to Greece for my summer vacations! I look forward to leaving and being able to spend time in my *horio* (village) Rizos, which is a few minutes away from the city of Tripoli. There, I spend many hours with friends, relatives and *horiani* (townspeople). One of my most favorite things to do is going to the *plateia* (town square) to play volleyball. Another thing that I enjoy is dancing in my *horio's* dance troupe.

Since my *horio* has many festivals throughout the year, a dance troupe has been formed. The dance troupe performs at the *horio's* biggest festival at *Agia Marinas* (St. Marina) in July and also at many other festivals throughout the Tegea area (Riza is located in the Tegea section of Tripoli). For the past four or five summers, I have been joining the troupe for the summer months. I learn many new and interesting dances from all over Greece; many like those that I learn at Orpheus.

This summer, I was very happy to dance with the dance troupe. With the help of Yiannis and Kosta, who wrote a recommendation for me, and with the help of Orpheus teaching me many dances, I was able to dance with the advanced group (older kids) as opposed

to dancing with the beginners' group (younger kids). I knew many of the dances that were performed. The *horiani* were very surprised to see a Greek-American dancing all the difficult dances. They realized that we *Amerikanakia* (Greek-Americans) could rise to the occasion!

Dancing this past winter with Orpheus made it much easier for me to dance and learn the *figoures* (variations). I found dancing in Greece just as fun as dancing here in the United States. The kids were just as excited and enthusiastic! When the performance came around, I was so excited. I couldn't wait for the presentation to start! I was so confident because I had performed the dances many times throughout the year. The performance was great fun compared to the practices we had! We had many hours of daily practices in the mornings AND afternoons.

The performance was much like other performances. There were picture-takers, video-taping parents, excited *yiayiades* and *pappoudes* (grandmas and grandpas) and proud *horiani* all waiting to see what the children had prepared for them. I will never forget how the spectators were so excited to see us perform. After the performance, all the kids stayed in their traditional costumes and opened up the dance for everyone.



Orpheus Youth member Renee Papageorgiou

Everyone got up and joined. We all danced until *ximeromata* (dawn).

I will never forget the fun times I have had in Greece, especially this summer's memories. I was so happy to be dancing with the advanced group, finally, and I owe it all to Orpheus for teaching me the dances. (Thank You Orpheus!!) I can't wait to go back next summer and show my *horio* once again what I have learned!! ☑

spotlight on Orpheus dancer...

Harry Georgakopoulos



Hometown:
Algonquin, Illinois.

Parents/Family From:
Filiatra, Greece.

Occupation:
Radio Frequency Electrical Engineer.

Time Dancing with Orpheus Group:
Seven years.

Thoughts on Dancing:
Greek dancing is comparable to riding your



Elisseos Sianis and Eleni Gouvas during a scene at the play.



St. George School principal Julia Patrianakos along with Mrs. Dina Sianis at the conclusion of the play.

St. George School Presents Play in Greece by Eleni Gouvas

This summer the high school students of St. George Greek school went to Crete for two weeks, at the invitation of the University of Crete, to perform *The Great Anger of Achilles*, from *The Iliad*. Among these students were Orpheus members, Ageliki and Giota Gikis, Eleni Gouvas, Elisseo Sianis, and Katerina Skontos. The students had performed this play as annual school performance. Their principal, Mrs. Julia Patrianakou, sent a tape of the play to the University of Crete in Chania. Every year the university chooses one play from each country. This year, St. George's Greek High School won, and thus

represented the US. Greek schools from Russia, Germany, Australia, and Canada also attended the program in Crete.

During the first week of the camp-type program, each group watched the others perform their play. Although they were competing against each other, strong friendships were formed. At the end of the week, the winners were announced. Australia was first, Germany and Russia tied for second, St. George received third place and Canada came in fourth. Even though St. George did not receive first place, they did a fantastic job. They won first place for best costumes, thanks to Mrs. Sianis who made all the costumes as well as the scenery for the play. Also, Elisseo Sianis won first place for best actor.

During the second week, the group toured many ancient sites. They went to Chania, Heraklio, the remains of Knossos, the archaeological museum close to Heraklio, and many monasteries throughout Crete. They also had a great time at various beaches, restaurants, and taverns. The group will never forget such a wonderful experience. They met and made many friends, they learned a lot about Crete from the tours, and they learned how to improve their acting skills. The group would like to thank Mrs. Julia, Mrs. Sianis, and Mrs. Gouvas (the students' teacher) for putting up with them. "*Tous trelanamai*," we drove them crazy! Congratulations to all the high school students of St. George! ☐

bike downhill through a water sprinkler during a hot summer day.

Favorite Dance:

Zeimbekikos.

Most Vivid OHFS Memory:

Post-performance celebrations at the famous Bubba's establishment in Saginaw, Michigan.

Favorite Greek Dish:

French fries with eggs.

Favorite Place in Greece:

Actually there are quite a few places I am particularly fond of (not limited to Greece.) Some of these include: Stomio beach in Filiatra, the island of Mykonos, the Monastiraki district in Athens, the Plaka district in Athens, Las Vegas, Miami, New Orleans and Cancun Mexico.

Hobbies/Sports/Other Interests:

Playing *bouzouki*, *tzoura*, *baglama*, violin, guitar, *dumbek*, dancing, card

magic, philosophy and cosmological physics, working out, playing basketball, going to movies, clubbing, playing *tavli* and chess, collecting stamps, collecting comic books, collecting coins, collecting various rocks and minerals and politics.

Where I heard about Orpheus Dance Troupe:

I heard about Orpheus through the mother of a friend who in turn had heard about Orpheus on the radio!! ☐

pictures



Youth and adult members perform at the Lincolnwood Festival that took place last Summer.



Crowd joins Orpheus members in an evening of Greek dance lessons at the 2001 Chicago SummerDance in the Spirit of Music Garden in downtown Chicago. (Chicago, IL - August 2001)



Maria Pappas, Cook County Treasurer, with members of the Orpheus Dance Troupe at Channel 11 Studios. Orpheus members answered the phones during Pledge Week at Channel 11 studios during the showing of "Chicago Stories: The Chicago Greek Experience". (Chicago, IL - August 2001)



Orpheus members manning the Orpheus Booth during the 2001 Greek Town Festival. (Chicago, IL - August 2001)

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he has been running, he invited me to travel with his band back to Monemvasia in September. Unfortunately, my stay in Greece ended in August, so I was unable to take the opportunity to travel with him. After a few more visits with Yannis, we became good friends and exchanged numbers and addresses in order to keep in touch. Since my return back home, I have spoken to my new friend a few times and we've made plans for future visits!

To top off my already wonderful trip in Greece, I celebrated my sister Pat's engagement to Vangelis Giorgas. The *arravones* (engagement) were amazing. Friends and family, including friends from Chicago, attended the engagement party. The party was held at Challet Kavallari in Athens. The evening began with the exchanging of the rings, cutting of the cake, and the first dance. The couple then stood patiently as family and friends passed by,

one by one, and put a piece of jewelry on either the bride or the groom. Then, like most Greek parties, we ate, drank, and danced the whole night through.

Although I have been to Greece a number of times before, this trip was an unforgettable experience. ☐

We Moved!!

The Orpheus Dance Troupe, after practicing for nearly ten years at River Park in Chicago, has moved its Thursday dance sessions to a new practice facility. The new site is the multipurpose room of St. John Lutheran Church, 3020 Milwaukee Avenue in Northbrook. The facility is located a mile north of the intersection of Lake (Euclid) and Milwaukee.

Thursday practice hours at the new facility will be:

Youth Group -

5:30-6:30 p.m.

Adult Group (beginners/intermediate) -

6:30-7:30 p.m.

Adult Group (intermediate/advanced) -

7:30-9:00 p.m.

The new location will enable the Orpheus Dance Troupe to be more accessible to a larger part of the Greek-American community. It has been encouraging to see the increased participation of our young members in the Orpheus Youth Group, who have demonstrated remarkable dedication and enthusiasm in promoting our Hellenic culture and traditions.

Practices will continue to be held at the Glenview branch for Youth Group members only. Saturday sessions take place from 1:30-2:30 p.m. in the multipurpose room of New Church, 74 Park Drive in Glenview (a block west of the intersection of Shermer and Glenview Rd.). For more information, maps, schedules and fees visit the Troupe's web site at www.ohfs.org or contact one of its directors. ☐



Members take a quick break during practice to pose for a picture in the new practice facility.

personals

Welcome to new Orpheus Youth members: **Elena Antonakos, Dimitra Bounas, Phaedra Bounas, Dean Economos, Chris Kalapodis, Christos Karahalios, George Karahalios, Vicky Karahalios, Alexis Khosravani, Ariana Khosravani, Joanna Lialios, Nick Liavaditis, Evridiki Markoulatos, Tommy Minetos, Felicia Nikolaou, Maria Nikolaou, Eliza Roussis, Anna Salapatas, Nikos Salapatas, Vasiliki Karapatakis, and John Revis.**

Welcome to new Orpheus Adult members: **Joanna Chiotis, Angeliki Gikas, Vicky Karabelas, Eleni Leberis, Tom Mihalopoulos, Patricia Minakakis, Tom Rolfes, Ellisseos Sianis, and Kathy Skondos.**

Congratulations to **Voula Drougas** and **Damon Papolovich** who were married on August 18th.

Congratulations to **Kiki Kakavas** and **John Kouchoukos** who were married on October 6th.

Congratulations to **Pat Tomaras** on her engagement to fiancé **Vangelis Giorgas.**

Congratulations to **Angie Siargos** on her first performance with Orpheus at this year's Greek Town Festival.

Congratulations to **Sofia Sianis** in joining the Orpheus Board of Directors.

Birthday greetings to: **Katerina Trikkas** on October 5th; **William Pierce** on October 8th; **Angie Siargos** on October 9th; **Christina Dallas** on October 10th; **Marianna Damianides** on October 11;



Eleni Poulakis on October 12th; **Angela Trikkas** on October 30th; **Joy Economos** on November 7th; **Kostas Giannopoulos** on November 17th; **Jamie Leberis** on December 7th; **Dimitri Dallas** on December 12th; **Georgia Limberopoulos** on December

17th; **George Kakis** on December 18th; **Alexis Khosravani** on December 25th and **John** and **Kosta Economou** on December 30th. *Na ta ekatostisete!*

Namesday wishes to **Dimitra Bounas, Dimitri Dallas** and **Jim Thanopoulos** on October 26; **Barbara Dallas** and **Barbara Siargos** on December 4; **Katerina Economou, Kathy Tomaras, Kathy Skondos, Kathy Grosso,** and **Katerina Trikkas** on November 25th; **Nick Livaditis, Niki Rigas,** and **Nicholas Vass** on December 6th; and **Christina Dallas, Christina Economou, Christina Grosso, Christina Kakavas, Chris Kalapodis, Christina Minakakis** and **Christina Pagones** on December 25th.

Chronia Polla!



Congratulations to **Alexandros Pavlos** for graduating from the University of Illinois, Urbana with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Congratulations also on his new job as an Electrical Engineer at Motorola.

Congratulations to **Harry Georgakopoulos** on his new job as an Radio Frequency Electrical Engineer at Andrews Corporation. ☐

performance schedule

World Music and Cultures

Concordia University
7400 Augusta St.
River Forest, IL
Monday, November 12
8:00 p.m.

Christmas Celebrations

Hollywood House
5700 N. Sheridan Rd.
Chicago, IL
Friday, November 30
7:30 p.m.

Christmas Around The World

Museum of Science & Industry
57th & Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, IL
Saturday, December 15
4:00 p.m.

2002 Winter Dance Conference

Tarpon Springs, Florida
Friday-Sunday, January 4-6

Vasilopita Celebration

St. John The Baptist Church
2350 Dempster Street
Des Plaines, IL
Saturday, January 19
6:00 p.m.

Festival of Greek Music & Dance 2002

Music & Dances from the Greek Isles
Niles West High School
5701 West Oakton St.
Skokie, IL 60077
Saturday, March 16
7:00 p.m.

Greek Festival

St. Demetrios
Greek Orthodox Church
Saginaw, Michigan
Friday-Saturday, June 14-16
7:00, 9:00 p.m.

Performance schedule and times are subject to change. For the latest information visit <http://www.ohfs.org>.

practice schedule

Orpheus Adult Group

Beginner/Intermediate:

6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Intermediate/Advanced:

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Every Thursday at:

St. John Lutheran Church
3020 Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, IL
*(one mile north from the
intersection of Lake (Euclid)
and Milwaukee Ave.)*

Orpheus Youth Group:

Every Thursday at:

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
St. John Lutheran Church
3020 Milwaukee Ave.
Northbrook, IL

Every Saturday at:

1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
New Church
Multipurpose Room
74 Park Dr., Glenview, IL
(one block west of Shermer/Glenview Rds)

Youth Group: Dancers ages 10-14 (Northbrook and Glenview locations).

Beginners: Members with little or no previous dance experience.

Intermediate: Dancers who have shown progress in the beginners' class attend the last hour of practice. At the discretion of the instructors, the intermediate level dancers will be practicing in a separate line.

All dancers, especially beginners, are encouraged to obtain a personal tape of the music used for performances, in order to practice on one's own and become accustomed to the music. Please provide Yiannis or Kostas Economou with a blank cassette tape.

Submissions for the Winter issue of *Lyra* will be accepted until December 20, 2002. We are always interested in educational essays/articles dealing with the subjects of Greek folk dance, folk music, and folk traditions. We continue to accept personal announcements and all other submissions pertinent to the dance troupe and its membership. If an individual wishes to contribute material on a continuous basis, please inform the Editor.

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