

Once upon a December

A winter's love journey through music and food

The event "Once Upon A December" combines music with food in a unique way. Russian, Greek, French and Italian art songs are accompanied by recipes especially inspired by the music that is programmed. The main theme of the program is "Love" and its many faces: a love long lost, a love that flourished and died, a love that is here to last forever, the nostalgia of days gone by...

The journey begins in Russia with music by Glinka, Listov, Bulakhov, Rachmaninoff and Dargomyzsky.

The sound of music is accompanied by tastes of fresh caviar and russian vodka.

The final touch of the first part of the program is inspired by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky famous ballet "The Nutcracker" which has accompanied our Christmas memories since our childhood.

The Sugar Plum Fairy may come to live as you sample Euthimios Dousis' special flavors...

In the second part of the journey continues in the Mediterranean area, in the homeland of all three artists, Greece, in Italy and in France. The music includes pieces by Debussy, Satie, Verdi, Samaras, Eolou, Tosti and Poulenc.

The flavors by chef Dousis in this part of the program take us to memories of long walks by the sea with the loved ones, with breezes filled with the fragrance of thyme and saltiness. The journey will come to an end with a dessert as sweet as our first love memories, with a walk among the lemon trees under clouds as white as meringue... and perhaps with a little surprise!

Soprano Anthia Papadopoulou, pianist Anna Alvizou and chef Euthimios Dousis, combine their passion for their art to create a one of a kind event: the passion for the art of music and the passion for the art of food come together to create an event that is a hymn to love, right on time for the season most remembered for love: Christmas...

Short bios of the artists

Anthia Papadopoulou, soprano

She was born in 1997 in Athens. She graduated from the «Experimental Musical Lyceum of Pallini» in 2015 and has showed interest in music since childhood. She acquired her «Applied Harmony Niveau B'» diploma in 2015. She had singing lessons (classical singing) with Ludmila Bodarenko. She attended since 2016 until 2022, courses of monody (classical singing) with Christina Giannakopoulou at the «Athenaeum Conservatoire». In June 24, 2022, she received the diploma of Monody from the «Athenaeum Conservatoire», with Honorable Mention, First Prize and the Conservatory's Gold Medal. She continues her studies in the Master program of Vocal Studies/Classical Singing in the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp with Professor Susanne Schimmack. She was a member of the choir of the cultural charity «Lykion ton Hellinidon», of the «Rosarte» Youth - Children's Choir. She was one of the first members of the then newly-founded children's choir of the «Greek National Opera», under the conductor Mata Katsouli. As a member of the above choirs she participated in events, Choral Festivals and concerts in the Conservatory of Herodes Atticus, the Concert Hall of Athens, the Greek National Opera etc. She participated as a student in seminars with renowned artists such as Dimitris Kavrakos, Don Marrazzo, Myrto Papathanasiou, Marlis Petersen, Dimitris Plataniotis, Susanne Schimmack, Dimitris Tiliakos, Tassis Christoyannis, Aris Christofellis, Ioannis Aeriniotis, Dr. Pantelis Polychronidis, Ulrich Rademacher, Panagiotis Adam, Rodula Gaitanou. She participated in the OperaLab workshop-lyric theatre workshop founded by Mr Dimitris Tiliakos in collaboration with the International Art Center and Conservatory Athenaeum in the opera Don Giovanni by W.A. Mozart in the role of Zerlina in the period 2018-2019.

Anna Alvizou, pianist

Anna Alvizou was born in Greece. She has obtained a Bachelor's degree with the highest distinction from the Ionian University, from the class of Piano Performance of Professor Lambis Vassiliadis. She was a scholar of the Athens Megaron Music Hall and was distinguished in competitions as a solo pianist. She decided to emphasize further in Lied/Art song and opera repertoire and playing with singers by pursuing a Master's degree in Liedgestaltung in the Musikhochschule Trossingen in the class of Lied Pianist Peter Nelson. She obtained a second Master's degree in Piano Performance, both degrees with the highest distinction. After her Master studies she had a year of traineeship as a collaborative pianist in the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp, under the guidance of Jeanne Minette Cilliers. She also had Lied accompaniment lessons with pianist Aaron Wajnberg. She has worked as a singers' accompanist in the Musikhochschule Trossingen and in the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp. In April 2022 she was selected to participate in the International Lied Festival Zeist in the Netherlands with her Lied-duo partner, having masterclass with Elly Ameling, Robert Holl, Iain Burnside, Roderick Williams etc. She has also participated in masterclasses of important Lied pianists Malcolm Martineau and Hans Eijsackers. In November 2022 she participated in the Triomphe de l'art international music competition in the Lied-duo category and was awarded with the "best Lied pianist" special prize. She had concerts in Germany, Greece, Austria and Belgium. Future collaborations include Lied recitals with singers like Colline Dutilleul and Katherine Dein.

Euthimios Dousis, chef

Chef Euthimios Dousis comes from the Greek region Epirus. His passion for cooking begun as a teenager. He loves travelling and discovering new cooking techniques, new dishes and the miracle of gastronomy in different cultures. He loves tradition and tries to incorporate it into his dishes and recipes.

He has worked among other places in Amathus Beach Hotel in Cyprus, member of Leading Hotels (5*) as a second chef, in Sellona restaurant, Shell Beach Gustavia as chef de parte, in Nesea Mykonos as chef de parte etc. He is a holder of the "International diploma in travel and tourism management" Master's degree.

His journey continues in Antwerp, where he has been living and working for the last 9 years as a chef. His new initiative, "Garden of Flavours", is opening its doors this December in Antwerp.

Concert program Part 1 – Russian art songs and romances

M. Glinka: I remember a wonderful moment – Russian Romance

P. Bulakhov: Shine, shine my star – Russian Romance

K. Listov: I remember the sound of the waltz – Russian Romance

A. Dargomyzsky: I am sad – Russian Romance

S Rachmaninoff: How fair this spot - op.21, n.7

S. Rachmaninoff: Don't speak to me fair maiden - op.4, n.4

S. Rachmaninoff: They answered - op.21, n.4

S. Flaherty: Once Upon A December – from the movie “Anastasia”

Menu Part 1

-Fresh fish salad with lemon sauce and caviar on a crispy whole grain base.

-Candy lollipop with velvet salted caramel, dried nuts and chocolate

Concert program Part 2 – French, Greek and Italian art songs

C. Debussy: Nuit d'étoiles

Samaras: S'agapo

G. Verdi: Ad una stella – 6 Romances, n.3

P. Tosti: Non t'amo piu

J. Eolou: Mia Stigmi Gia Pada

E. Satie: Tendrement

E. Satie: La diva de l'Empire

E. Satie: Je te veux

Menu Part 2

-Marinated fish fillets on thyme, served with celery puree, butter sauce with estragon and fresh vegetable rootes

-Crispy biscuit and cake textures with citrus fruits and French meringue

Part 1

Ya pomnyu chudnoe mgnovene

I remember a wonderful moment

Composer: M. I. Glinka

Text: A. S. Pushkin

I remember a wondrous moment:

You appeared before me,

Like some fleeing vision,

Like a genius of pure beauty.

Amidst the yearning of hopeless dejection,

And the agitation of strident vanity,

Your tender voice called out to me,

And I dreamt of your tender features.

Year passed by. The rebellious gust of storms

Scattered my former dreams,

And I forgot your tender voice,

And your heavenly features.

In solitude and gloomy isolation

My days quietly stretched out,

Deprived of divinity and inspiration,

Of tears and live and love itself.

But once again my soul awoke:

And once again you appeared,

Like some fleeing vision,
Like a genius of pure beauty.

And my heart beats in intoxication,
And divinity and inspiration,
And life and tears and love itself
Are once again returned to life.

Gori, gori, moya zvezda

Shine, Shine, My Star

Composer: P. Bulakhov

Text: V. Chuyevsky

Shine, shine, my star,
Shine, affable star!
You are my only cherished one,
Another there will never be.

By the heavenly strength of your beams
My whole life is illuminated
And if I die, over my grave
Shine, shine on, my star!

Я помню вальса звук прелестный

I Remember the Lovely Waltz Sound

Composer: N. Listov

Text: Unkown

I remember the lovely waltz sound
On a late spring night
It was sung by an unknown voice,
And the song was wonderful.

Yes, it was a charming waltz
Yes, it was a lively waltz!

Now it's winter, and the same spruce
Stands covered in the dusk
And there are snowstorms under the window
And the waltz doesn't sound...

Where is this old, languid waltz?
Where is this lively waltz?

Мне грустно, потому что я тебя люблю

I am sad because I love you

Composer: A. Dargomyzsky

Text: Unknown

I am sad because I love you
and know that your blossoming youth
will not be spared by insidious gossip.
For every good day, for every sweet moment

you will have to pay Fate with tears and grief.

I am sad because you are happy.

Zdes' khorosho

How fair is the spot

Composer: S. Rachmaninoff

Text: Glafira Adol'fovna Galina

All is well here...

Look, in the distance

The river glows like a fire;

The meadows are like a colourful carpet,

And there is the whiteness of clouds.

There is nobody here.

All is quiet...

Here I am alone with God.

And the flowers, and the old pine,

And you, my dream...

Ne poi krasavitsa

Oh do not sing, fair maiden

Composer: S. Rachmaninoff

Text: A. Pushkin

Oh do not sing for me, fair maiden,

Those Georgian songs so sad;

They remind me

Of another life and a distant shore.

Alas, your cruel strains

Remind me

Of the steppe and the night,

And the moonlit face of my distant beloved.

Oni otvechali

They answered

Composer: S. Rachmaninoff

Text: V. Hugo

They asked: 'How, in swift boats,

Are we to glide across the waves, like a white seagull,

Lest the guards should catch us?'

'Row!', they answered.

They asked: 'How are we to forget for ever

That there is poverty and misfortune in this vale of tears,

That there is enmity and sorry?

'Sleep', they answered.

They asked: 'How are we to win beautiful girls

Without spells: so that our passionate words

Will make them fall into our embraces?

'Love!' they answered.

Once upon a December

From the Movie "Anastasia"

Composer: S. Flaherty

Text: Lynn Ahrens

Dancing bears, painted wings

Things I almost remember

And a song someone sings

Once upon a December

Someone holds me safe and warm

Horses prance through a silver storm

Figures dancing gracefully

Across my memory

Someone holds me safe and warm

Horses prance through a silver storm

Figures dancing gracefully

Across my memory

Far away, long ago

Glowing dim as an ember

Things my heart used to know

Things it yearns to remember

And a song someone sings

Once upon a December

Part 2

Nuit d'Etoiles

Night of stars

Composer: C. Debussy

Text: T. de Banville

Night of stars,
Beneath your veils,
beneath your breeze and fragrance,
Sad lyre
That sighs,
I dream of bygone loves.

Serene melancholy
Now blooms deep in my heart,
And I hear the soul of my love
Quiver in the dreaming woods.

Once more at our fountain I see
Your eyes as blue as the sky;
This rose is your breath
And these stars are your eyes.

Σ' αγαπώ

I love you

Composer: S. Samaras

Text: I. Kabouroglou

In one word I just want to tell you my love.
Let the wind take this word away: "I love you"
And wherever you go, my love of gold,

This word will be following you:

“I love you”, it will be saying softly in your ear

And when you close your eyelids and fall asleep with a smile,

A dream, my dear comes close to you

And secretly talks.

Ad una stella

To a star

Composer: G. Verdi

Text: A. Maffei

Beautiful star of the earth,

Amorous and beautiful light,

How desires this soul,

Oppressed and imprisoned,

To break its chains,

Free to fly to you!

The unknown inhabitants

That you hide from me, oh star,

Embrace with the angels

In pure brotherly love,

Making in harmony with the angels

Your sphere to sound.

Our faults and worrie

Are secrets to them there;
Carefree and calm,
The days and years run by,
With no thought of counting them,
Nor recalling them in sadness.

Beautiful star of the night,
Gem in which heaven delights,
If only this soul could rise, this soul,
Oppressed and imprisoned,
From its earthly jail
To your beautiful ray in flight.

Non t'amo piu

I don't love you anymore.

Composer: F. P. Tosti

Text: C. Errico

Do you still remember the day that we met;
Do you still remember your promises?
Crazy from love I followed you, we were enamored with each other
And I dreamed next to you, crazy from love.

I dreamed, happily, of caresses and kisses
A chain fading away into the sky:
But your words were misleading,
Because your soul is made of ice.

Do you still remember?

Now my faith, my immense desire;

My dream of love isn't you anymore:

I don't search for your kisses, I don't think of you.

I dream of another ideal; I don't love you anymore.

In the dear days that we spent together

I scattered flowers at your feet

You were the only hope of my heart

You were the only thought in my mind

You watched me beg, turning pale

You watched me cry before you

Only to satisfy your desire, I

Had given my blood and my faith.

Μια στιγμή για πάντα

A moment forever

From the movie "Christmas Tango"

Composer: J. Eolou

Text: E. Zioga

You are always the island of my craving
you are always my lost home, only you
the precious one hope in my exile
you are always the lighthouse in my loss
the sand in my return
and the water in my thirst, only you.

If the time will bend us
and the time will fight us
what can separate us?
how can so much love extinguish?
I will open thousand seas
I will beat thousand fates
and when I meet you
it will be one moment
forever hugged in God
both together in a tango for two forever.

You're always my next land
where it doesn't have either end or start
where every of my wounds will be a profit
and everything will become one,
resurrected in the light,
and always in love
everything there.

Tendrement

Tenderly

Composer: E. Satie

Text: V. Hyspa

With a tender, pure love,
so that you will recall it,
here is my heart, my trembling heart,
my poor childish heart.

Here, too, pale flower
that you have made to bloom,
is my soul that dies for you
and your sweet eyes.

My soul is the chapel
Where, night and day,
my faithful love goes down on both knees
to pray before your immortal grace.

In shadow and mystery,
a sweet, slight
pagan prayer
sings lovingly.
'Tis your charming name.

With a tender, pure love,... etc.

Roses are in bloom

in the garden of my heart.

These roses of love are paler
than your adorable flowered lips.

With your cruel, cruel hands,
of which I am so jealous,
strip the leaves from the most beautiful of them.

You may pick them.

The garden is yours.

With a tender, pure love,... etc.

La diva de l'empire

The starlet of the Empire

Composer: E. Satie

Text: Dominique Bonnaud & Numa Blès

Beneath her large Greenaway hat,
Putting on her dazzling smile,
The fresh and charming laugh
Of a wide-eyed sighing babe,
A little girl with velvet eyes -
She's the Diva of the Empire,
She's the queen they're smitten with,
The gentlemen
And all the dandies

Of Piccadilly.

She invests a single 'Yes' with such sweetness,
That all the fancy-waistcoated snobs
Welcoming her with frenzied cheers,
Hurl bouquets on the stage,
Without observing the wily smile
On her pretty face.

She dances almost mechanically
And lifts - Oh! so modestly -
Her pretty petticoat edged with flounces,
To reveal her wriggling legs.
It is very, very innocent
And very, very exciting too.

Je te veux

I want you

Composer: E. Satie

Text: H. Pacory

I've understood your distress,
Dear lover,
And yield to your desires:
Make of me your mistress.
Let's throw discretion
And sadness to the winds.

I long for the precious moment

When we shall be happy:

I want you.

I've no regrets

And only one desire:

Close, very close by you

To live my whole life long.

Let my heart be yours

And your lips mine,

Let your body be mine

And all my flesh yours.

Yes, I see in your eyes

The exquisite promise

That your loving heart

Is seeking my caress.

Entwined for ever,

Consumed by the same desire,

In dreams of love

We'll exchange our souls



This event is kindly supported by:



Special thanks to sommelier Labros Piperis .