



# Erasmus+



«Every child matters –  
Refugees and immigrants in education»

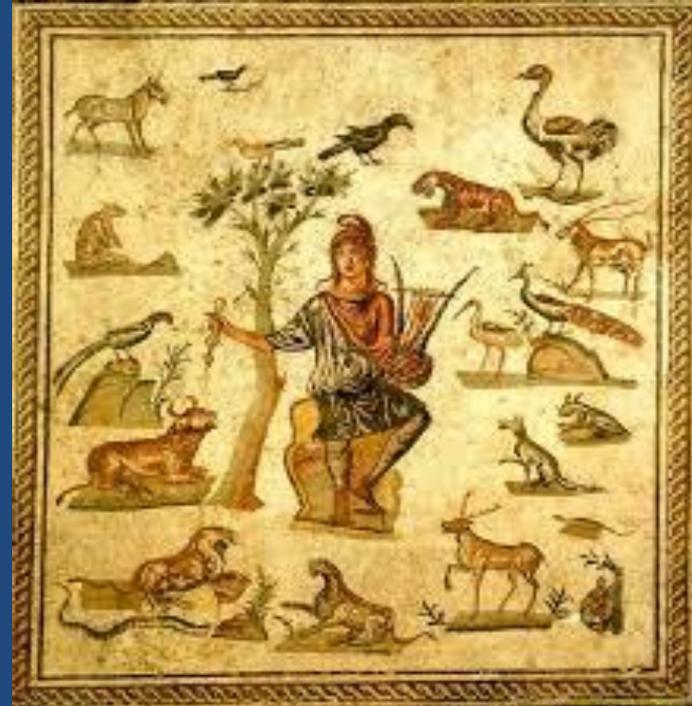
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Ημερήσιο Γυμνάσιο Πέτρας Λέσβου - Ελλάδα

# The Music Of Lesvos



# *The myths regarding music in Lesvos*



For the music of Lesvos mythology reports that the waves of the Aegean Sea brought the lyre (musical instrument) and the head of Orpheus (ancient musician) to the island when the Maenads beheaded him and threw him on the river Evros. According to tradition, the inhabitants buried his head on Mount Lepetimnos and gave the lyre to the poet and musician "Terpandros" that became "excellent and incomparable, concerning music".

# From where was the contemporary music of Lesbos affected?

- The music of contemporary Lesbos was largely influenced by the music practices of the major urban centers and from the Greek refugees of Asia Minor. From the 18th century Lesbos was closely associated with these centers, and especially with Smyrna and Constantinople, both in terms of economic activities and wider social practices.



Πλοίο φορτωμένο με πρόσφυγες στην αποβάθρα της Σμύρνης

# The remodeling of the music of Lesvos

- What is certain is that, since the late 19th century, the musical culture of Lesvos has been remodeled in accordance with the Asia Minor standards of the time: the creation of bands involving professional or semi-professional musicians, who were specialized in the musical instruments they played





- As far as the origin of the local songs is concerned, it is hard to distinguish between songs from Lesvos and songs from Asia Minor. Popular tunes were the Zeimbekiko of Aivali, the Smyrneiko of Smyrna and the Pergamino from Pergamos.

# Musical instruments of Lesvos

- These bands were originally multi-personals, since they included musicians playing violin, santouri, touberleki, daouli, contrabass, clarinet, trumpet, trombone and saxophone. The outi was also known in Lesvos, at least from the early 20th century, but it was usually used by semi-professional musicians and rarely systematically joined in clubs.



# Musical instruments of Lesvos

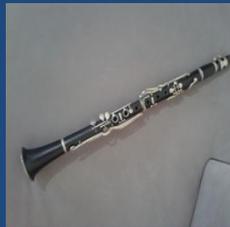
1. Violin



3. Daouli



5. Clarinet



7. Trombone



9. Outi



2. Santouri



4. Contrabass



6. Trumpet



8. Saxophone



10. Touberleki



# Traditional instruments of Lesvos



Violin



Santouri

## The two most important musical instruments of Lesvos

- **Violin**: The violin is a stringed musical instrument played with a bow. It has 4 strings. The violin rests on the shoulder while with one hand and the musician just presses the strings. The violin appeared in the 16th century in Italy.

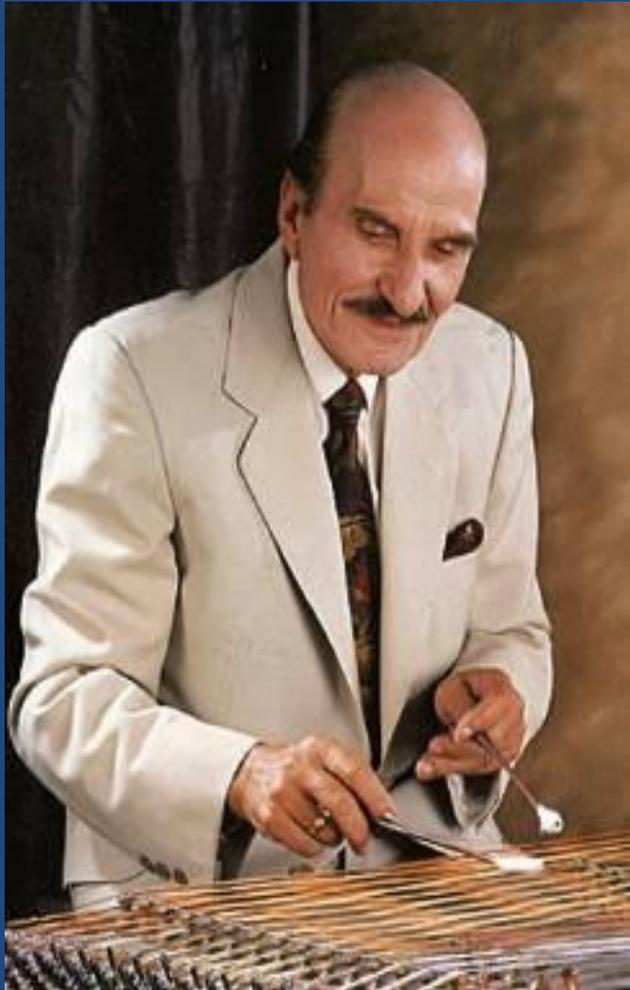


# The two most important musical instruments of Lesvos

## Santuri

The santuri was invented in Iran (Persia). This instrument was traded and traveled to different parts of the middle east and each country customized and designed their own versions to adapt to their musical scales and tunings. It is usually made of walnut wood. It has a trapezoidal shape on which 72 metal strings are placed horizontally and which are hammered with small sticks.





**Aristeidis Moschos  
plays santouri**



**Dimitris Kofteros  
plays santouri**



**Giannis Sousamlis  
plays santouri**

# *Where and when was music played?*



Music and song accompanied all the events of the daily life of people in Lesvos residents. Religious festivities, work, weddings, christenings, fairs were all accompanied by music and dancing. On the most important holidays, the musicians were employed by the large coffeehouses.



Some of the musicians were very famous in the villages. In the village of Agiasos, during the festivities, from the morning they went out on the streets. Their job used to start from the traditional coffeshops and they finished in rich Agiasian's homes. On festive days they did not sleep at all.



Kompania (band) of Kapi in a festival or fair in Moria.

Their fees were typically agreed upon in advance, as was usually the case with the larger coffeehouses, while the “tips” that guests used to hand the musicians were always welcome.

# The fair of the bull and the dance with horses



The Fair of the bull in Agia Paraskevi during the first weekend of July. "Horses dance on their own with music and, depending on the relationship they have developed with their rider, they also show their skills, which are original and spectacular," people from the village say.





*Music accompanies  
the bride and the  
groom to the church  
before the wedding  
ceremony*





A group of musicians follow «glentistes» who sing “patinades” in the street, love songs. The young men, but many elders as well, would head down to the town center accompanied by the local musicians. While traversing the neighborhoods, the young men could come into contact with the young women that were waiting to hear the music coming down their street. The musicians play violin and santouri.



Music in “panigyri”, fair for a religious celebration in Agiasos



Another excuse for dancing was the end of the olive harvest or “glitomata”. On the last day of the harvest, the women of the village would prepare their best dishes and sweets and with the accompaniment of wine or ouzo they would have a big celebration with dancing.



The musician Nikos Paralís plays the outi and the singer Solon Lekkas during the recording of a song, as part of a research of the traditional music of Lesvos. Music in traditional “kafeneio”, that is coffeeshop.

In a coffeehouse in Petra, at the invitation of an immigrant from America, the musicians of Skoutaros play music.

# Traditional dances and songs



## The “Xila”, the so-called National Anthem of Lesvos

The “Xila” is a couples dance from Lesvos. The word “Xila” in Lesvos means wood. The “Xila” is accompanied by the famous instrument, the santouri. It can be danced as a syrto style dance in couple and in groups of four. It is historically said to have originated in Agiasos, when the construction of the first motorized mill was completed. It took its name as a song because on the day when the wood that supported the roof of the building were placed, the habitants of Agiasos came out on the streets of the city and played this song dancing in its rhythm.

# Karsilamas



Karsilamas is a traditional dance. The dancers dance one across the other. The word has the etymology on the Turkish word karsilama (karsi means opposite)

# Aptalikos



- "Aptalikos", a traditional dance of Asia Minor. It can be danced by one or two persons, who face each other. Some say that the word comes from the city of Attalya in Asia Minor (Turkey) and others from the Turkish word aptal - fool.

# Kareklatos (dance with karekla=chair)



*It is one of the most characteristic dances of Lesvos. It came to the island from neighboring Asia Minor and has become particularly loved by the inhabitants of the island. It is tangled by two men or two women, and sometimes by a man and a woman. The dancers dance on a chair, turn it upside down, drop it down, causing the enthusiasm of the attendants.*

# Traditional songs of Lesvos



Usually the songs are about love, immigration and poverty. People express their pain with singing.