

**NEKTARIA KAPANTZI**  
**a cappella**

**Sacred Byzantine & Traditional Sounds of Mediterranean**

*An ingenious program* which lays out before us the musical treasures of the Sacred Byzantine Music and the Mediterranean primeval musical tradition

*“She stands alone on stage, like an ancient Greek priestess and lays out before us the treasures and the secret paths of Heaven [...]”*

*«Elle apparaît très calme, très posée, comme enracinée; avec un regard souvent surplombant, démontrant bien la façon dont elle est prise par ce qu'elle chante [...]»*

Nektaria Karantzi, the prominent Greek vocalist of the sacred music and acclaimed as one of the most important voices in byzantine chant worldwide presents, over the past years, an a cappella musical program full of ancient echoes of Byzantium and Mediterranean tradition, toured in Europe several times. Her performances are purely devoted to Byzantine Chant, the Mediterranean primeval musical tradition, the religious sacred music in Greek, Romanian, Arabic, Russian, Italian, French, Aramaic (the language of Jesus Christ) etc. The Greek vocalist Nektaria Karantzi has also been invited for Master Classes from some of the most renowned educational and musical centers in Europe, such as the Liszt Academy in Hungary, the Sorbonne University in France, the University of Oviedo in Spain etc.

Her musical program shows off an ingenious dialogue between the world sacred music tradition of hymns, psalms and chants and the primeval songs of Mediterranean, in a delicate, inner and unique way. A concert mystagogical experience that you will never forget...

**Sound Samples:**

- Aramaic Hymn (Live in **Athens Cathedral**)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S38hnaZtm2A>
- Psalm of David  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jf2RF4OLzlw>
- The Lament of Christ (Live in **Skopje**)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1yuRJs6Zew>
- The angel cried unto Her  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=il-oRrE8JHc>
- Hymn of Kassia (Live in **Spain**)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exAeZqIBUik>
- Byzantine Hymn of Holy Friday (Live in **Switzerland**, with Choeur Yaroslavl)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZP0KFcKNI24>
- Good Friday Lamentation (Live in **Athens Concert Hall**, with Vassilis Tsabropoulos)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLKhfrowrX4>
- O Virgin Pure (Live in **Hungary**, with Marta Sebestyen and St Ephraim Male Choir)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sah9uaS39YU>
- St George Song (Live in **Hungary**, with St Ephraim Male Choir)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-A6rXhgF54E>
- A girl was singing (traditional song)  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN\\_IsbbmpPY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iN_IsbbmpPY)

## Nektaria Karantzi

*“One of the most prominent women in Byzantine music [...]”*

*“Une voix envoûtante”*

*«Elle apparaît très calme, très posée, comme enracinée; avec un regard souvent surplombant, démontrant bien la façon dont elle est prise par ce qu'elle chante [...]»*,

*«Toujours très demandées, ses prestations déplacent les foules dans les Balkans et les pays de l'Est. Sur le site youtube.com, ses quelque 200 vidéos ont été visionnées jusqu'à 300 000 fois»*

*“Una delle voci più importanti del canto religioso [...]”*,

*“La cantore ideale del salmo bizantino”*,

*«Една млада и силна жена, за която не бихме преувеличили, ако кажем, че е единствена по рода си. [...]»*

*Карандзи е жената, която бихме нарекли пионер в женското църковно пееие.»*

*«Haar stem is gevoelig, klein en ingetogen en bevat steeds de juiste dosering die onontbeerlijk is voor deze serene muziek» («Her voice is delicate and subdued and still contains the right flow which is so essential for this serene music»).*

Her voice has been identified mainly with the Byzantine sacred art and has been internationally acclaimed as one of the most important voices in Byzantine Chant and Sacred Music. Having made a remarkable impact around the world with her concerts and discography in Byzantine music, her performances are purely devoted to **Byzantine Chant, the Mediterranean primeval musical tradition the religious music in Greek, Romanian, Arabic, Russian, Italian, French, Aramaic (the language of Jesus Christ) etc.** The Greek vocalist Nektaria Karantzi has also been invited for Master Classes from some of the most renowned educational and musical centers in Europe, such as the **Liszt Academy in Hungary**, the **Sorbonne University in France**, the **University of Oviedo in Spain** etc.

She is the unique Greek female performer of Byzantine music with discography in Byzantine music since she was fourteen and with active work of chanting as a chorister in church since she was nine. In her first recordings of chanting she accompanied a contemporary saint, **Saint Porphyrios the Kapsokalyvite** and with his encouragement she started her studies in Byzantine Music at a very early age. Nektaria Karantzi is also well-known in Greek music stage through her collaboration with the greatest teacher of the Greek Traditional Music **Chronis Aidonides**. The important moment of her career is her collaboration with the internationally acclaimed pianist, composer and conductor **Vassilis Tsabropoulos** in an artistic combination inspired by byzantine hymns joining West and East and toured in Europe several times.

She has collaborated with the great traditional singer of Hungary, **Marta Sebestyen**, the chanter Sister Kassiani, the acclaimed male choir of Budapest “**St Ephraim male choir**”, under the direction of **Tamas Bubno**, the Swiss choir of orthodox chant “**Choeur Yaroslavl**”, under the direction of **Yan Greppin**, the **Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra of Athens**, under the direction **Vassilis Tsabropoulos**, the National Symphony Orchestra of Skopje, under the direction of **Lê Phi Phi** etc. She also made the soundtrack of the spiritual serbian film *Iscljenje’ (The Healing)*, by Ivan Jovic.

Some special times of concerts were her participation in the concert at the Theological School of Chalki (Constantinople), under the aegis and presence of the **Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople Bartholomew**, in the concert tributed to the 70 years of the Apostolic Diakonia of Church of Greece, at the Athens Concert Hall, under the aegis and presence of blessed **Archbishop of Athens and all of Greece, Christodoulos** and in the concert for the inauguration

of the Athens Cathedral, Concert for the Inauguration of the Athens Cathedral, under the aegis and presence of blessed **Archbishop of Athens and all of Greece, Ieronymos II**. Nektaria has also been involved in several television projects, such as the "Epikranthi" series, with byzantine hymns, filmed at the byzantine town of Mystras for the Greek National TV.

She is the Founder and the Honorary President of the "**Byzantine Female Chanters Association**" and she is the President of the **Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra of Athens**, which is under the aegis of the Archbishop of Athens and all of Greece, Ieronymos II. She has been honored for her contribution to Byzantine Music by the Byzantine Chanters through the Hellenic Musicological Society –Institute for Byzantine and Greek Traditional Music Studies and the music magazine «To Psaltiri». Nektaria has studied Law, undertook postgraduates in Penal Law, Criminology, Ecclesiastical Law and she is also a Doctor of Laws.

## **LINKS:**

### **Nektaria Karantzi**

The official website [www.nektariakarantzi.com](http://www.nektariakarantzi.com) is under construction

Temporary website: [www.nektariakarantzi.weebly.com](http://www.nektariakarantzi.weebly.com)

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nektariakarantzi>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/c/nektariakarantzi>

E-mail: [n.karantzi@msoath.com](mailto:n.karantzi@msoath.com)

### **Press & Booking Contact:**

MSO of Athens /MSO Records

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Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/msoath>

MSO Records FB page: <https://www.facebook.com/msoarecords>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/athmso>

## TECHNICAL REQUIRMENTS:

Professional Sound equipment for voice

1 monitors

1 Microphone for voice, preferably Shure-Beta 58A

1 music stand

