

Charles University in Prague
Faculty of Education
Department of Music



Diploma Thesis

Choirs in Cyprus

Bc. Ioanna Michaelidou

Supervisor: Prof. PhDr. Stanislav Pecháček, Ph.D.

Prague – June, 2013

Univerzita Karlova v Praze

Pedagogická fakulta

Katedra hudební výchovy



Diplomová práce

Pěvecké sbory na Kypru

Bc. Ioanna Michaelidou

Vedoucí diplomové práce: Prof. PhDr. Stanislav Pecháček, Ph.D.

Prague – June, 2013

DECLARATION

I confirm that this is my own work and the use of all material from other sources has been properly and fully acknowledged. I give my permission to the library of the Faculty of Education of Charles University to have my thesis available for educational purposes.

Prague, June 16th, 2013

.....
Michaelidou Joanna

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First, I would like to extend my deepest thanks and sincere appreciation to my tutor, Prof. PhDr. Stanislav Pecháček, Ph.D. for his invaluable guidance and sharing of academic knowledge.

Furthermore, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to MgA.Solonas Kladas and the artistic directors and conductors of the Choirs and Music Associations for their permission to carry out this study of their choir/association and for their input which is highly appreciated.

Last but not least, I would like to dedicate this dissertation to my parents Savvas and Efrosyni Michaelidou and thank them for their unconditional love and support throughout the years of my studies.

Abstract

The objective of this research is the review and presentation of the history of the main choirs of Cyprus and their conductors. Behind this rational the history of the island is also overviewed in order to give an insight of the effect of the various conquerors on the culture, the civilization and therefore the traditional music of the island. The written evidence on the choirs of Cyprus is minimal and therefore this study will not only document the history of the choirs but it will also gather all the information in one source.

To conduct this research, the major choirs of the island were found and their contact data was recorded. The primary data of the research was collected through questionnaires and the secondary data through intensive literature review.

The research concluded that there are long living choirs in Cyprus that perform exceptional work and this work should be written and promoted. Moreover, many of the choirs were formed in order to keep the memories for the occupied area alive and this effort is rewarded.

Finally, in the absence of any similar work, this research was very rewarding for the researcher and it is believed that the author hopes that it will help the new generations to know and respect the history and the evolution of the choirs of Cyprus through the years.

Abstract

Cílem této práce zmapování historie a současností nejvýznamnějších pěveckých sborů na Kypru a představení jejich sbormistrů. Na počátku práce je podána historie ostrova, jeho obyvatelstva, kultury včetně hudby. Písemných materiálů o sborovém životě na Kypru existuje jen minimum, proto jedním z hlasných cílů práce bylo shromáždit co nejvíce nových informací.

Základní data byla získána prostřednictvím dotazníků a pomocí internetových vyhledávačů.

Jedním z výsledků práce je zjištění, že sborů existuje překvapivě vysoké množství, že provádějí výjimečně záslužnou práci, že by proto jejich činnost měla být podporována. A konečně, protože podobná práce dosud nebyla k dispozici, bylo její zpracování velmi užitečné i pro samotnou autorku, která se hodlá historii a vývoji sborového života na Kypru věnovat i v budoucnu.

Contents

Introduction	10
1. A Brief Historical Overview of Cyprus.....	11
2. Choirs of Cyprus.....	15
2.1 Municipal Choirs	17
2.1.1 District of Famagusta	17
2.1.1.1 The Municipal Choir of Deryneia	17
2.1.1.2 Choir of Famagusta Municipality	19
2.1.1.3 Paralimni Municipality ‘Choir ‘MELIZONA’	21
2.1.2 Kerynia District.....	24
2.1.2.1 Choir of Kyrenia ‘The Voice of Kyrenia’	24
2.1.3 District of Larnaka.....	26
2.1.3.1 The Municipal Choir of Aradippou Municipality	26
2.1.3.2 The Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou.....	26
2.1.3.2i Children’s Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou.....	27
2.1.4 District of Limassol.....	29
2.1.4.1 The Municipal Choir of Agios Athanasios Municipality	29
2.1.4.2 The Municipal Choir of Germasogeia	30
2.1.4.3 Choir of Kato Polemidia Municipality	32
2.1.4.4 The Municipal Choir of Mesa Geitonia	34
2.1.5 District of Nicosia	36
2.1.5.1 Aglantzia Municipality.....	36
2.1.5.2 The Municipal Choir of Engomi	37
2.1.5.3 The Municipal Choir of Latsia.....	39
2.1.5.4 The Municipal Choir of Lakatamia	40
2.1.5.5 Choir of Nicosia Municipality	41
2.1.5.6 Choir of Strovolos Municipality	44
2.1.6 District of Pafos.....	47
2.1.6.1 Pafos Municipality ‘Musical group of Pafos’	47
2.2 Choirs of the Universities	50
2.2.1 Mixed Choir University of Nicosia.....	50
2.3 Various Choirs	51
2.3.1 ‘ARIS’ Limassol Choir	51
2.3.2 Cultural Association ‘DIASTASIS’	54

2.3.3 'EMMELIA' Choir	59
2.3.4 'EPILOGI' Limassol Cultural Movement	63
2.3.4i Choral Workshop.....	64
2.3.4ii Children's Choir 'EPILOGI' (LCSB)	64
2.3.4iii Youth Choir.....	65
2.3.4iv Mixed Choir of the 'EPILOGI'	66
2.3.5 Choir 'LEANDROS SITAROS'of Pnevmatiki Stegi, Nicosia	68
2.3.6 'POLYFONIA' Chamber Choir.....	69
3. Analysis of Questionnaire.....	72
Conclusion	77
Bibliography	78
Appendix A.....	79
Appendix B.....	82
Appendix C.....	83

Introduction

The objective of this dissertation is to explore the development of music and, more precisely, choral music in my native country, the island of Cyprus. The Cypriot lifestyle, civilization and cultural heritage, has been strongly influenced by its various conquerors throughout the centuries with the Achaean (Greeks), Egyptians, Persians, Romans, French, Venetians, Ottomans (Turks) and British with their different civilisations and cultures all leaving their own mark.

My education in music in a leading country in respect to music, has changed my perception on music and its importance for the development of not only of an individual but also of a nation. Born in a country with a rich history which survived many wars and conquerors and deeply interested in choral music I found it very interesting to learn how choral music developed in my homeland. The small research I carried out to find out more on choral music was disappointing. Many studies and researches have been carried out into music development in Cyprus, but, to my knowledge, none of them is specifically addressed to choral music. This was a challenge for me and since I am a master degree candidate in choir conducting I was given the chance to address the issue and perform a research in choir development in my country for my thesis. This research would provide a comprehensive and detailed information on the history of choirs in Cyprus, for the benefit of future generations of readers.

In order to gather the data needed, questionnaires have been sent to the conductors of the choirs via email. Unfortunately, very few of them replied and the researcher had to call them in order to either arrange a meeting with them, or kindly remind them to answer the questionair. Yet, not all of the questions were answered mostly because of missing data by the choirs archives themselves.

In my dissertation comprehensive reference is made to the historic development of choral music in Cyprus throughout the ages, and consequently, to the musicians who contributed to the formation and improvement of musical groups, associations and choirs of Municipalities of the free areas of the Republic of Cyprus as well as of the areas of Cyprus occupied by the Turkish Forces.

1. A Brief Historical Overview of Cyprus

Situated in the far end of the Eastern Mediterranean Sea, Cyprus is a small island with a long and rich history. Its geographical position together with its agriculture, forests and mineral wealth made the island a main transit station for commerce and trade and a crossroads between Europe, Middle East, Asia and Africa. Throughout the ages its strategic position attracted many conquerors who influenced the culture, the civilization and therefore the music of the island.

According to archeological findings, the civilization of Cyprus dates back 11.000 years to the ninth century B.C.

The first civilisation of Cyprus starts with the Neolithic period dating from 7000 to 3000 B.C in the area of Choirokoitia, followed by: the Bronze age, around 2300-1050 B.C, when the first traders and artisans from the Aegean region settled in Cyprus; then came the Geometric Period from 1050 to 725 B.C, and the Archaic Period from 725 to 480 B.C, when the island was ruled first by the Assyrians, and then by the Egyptians and the Persians. The Classical period from 480 to 323 B.C marks the arrival of Alexander the Great who drove away the Persians.

The Hellenistic Period, from 323 to 58 B.C, is considered to be a point of reference for the Greek Education and the formation of the Stoic philosophy in Athens with the help of the Cypriot philosopher Zenon Citium.

The Romans were some of the most influential conquerors of Cyprus and during the Roman Period from 58 B.C to 395 A.C., the character of the island changed fundamentally, with the spread of Christianity to the population and the establishment of the Church of Cyprus.

During the following years, from 395 AC. to 1191 AC, Cyprus lived under Byzantine rule in a period of calm which was interrupted by the Arab invasions and the spread of the Muslim religion. The Cypriots and the Byzantines put up a strong resistance and during the period 946 A.C. to 1181 A.C. the Byzantines became “masters” of the island again.

As far as music is concerned, the most significant period for music development was during the French and the Venetian Periods from 1191 to 1571.

In 1191 on his way to the Holy Land for the 3rd Crusade, Richard I Coeur de Lion passed through Cyprus. However, the English king quarrelled with the governor of the island, defeated him and conquered Cyprus, but when the Cypriots rebelled against the British occupation, King Richard sold the island to the Knights Templar. After further Cypriot uprisings the monks left the island and Cyprus was sold to a French nobleman, Guy de Lusignan. During that time, many of the Catholic Frenchmen were incorporated into the Greek Orthodox Church. The French culture influenced Cypriot music, which was mainly Greek until the end of the 12th century. This can be observed from the late medieval music produced in Cyprus in the early 15th century. Unfortunately, there is not much written evidence of the music on the island and the only sources of information come from the Cypriot lifestyles and culture. Moreover, important information can be found in the poem of Guillaume de Machaut 'La Prise d'Alexandrie' the King of Cyprus. The poem describes the way of life of King Peter the First during his trips to Europe. He was accompanied by Troubadours because of his love of music which proves that polyphonic music began to flourish in Cyprus during this period.

Another work containing valuable information about the development of music of that period is a manuscript which is currently in the National Museum of Turin, Italy. It includes a plainchant collection and six mass cycles, seventeen polyphonic mass movements, thirty three Latin and eight French motets, 102 ballades 43 rondeaux and 21 virelais. The main explanation is that the plainchant has its roots in Cyprus during the first decades of the fifteen century. This is also confirmed by findings in the Office of St. Hilarion¹. The Cypriot repertoire of this period, with its high quality, variety and reflection and high potential for future development, formed the basis for music before the Renaissance period.

The island was under the Ottoman Empire from 1571 to 1878. The Ottoman Empire imposed its sovereignty on all Eastern countries and in 1571 the island of Cyprus was also occupied. With the settlement of Turks on the island, there were significant population changes with all the relevant historical processes.

1. The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians p. 116–118.

During the Ottoman rule, Cypriots suffered from poverty and oppression, Cyprus was cut off from the rest of Europe and thus the European artistic and cultural streams could not flow to Cyprus. The music that appears during this period was Byzantine Church music and the traditional music of Cyprus.

The British Occupation began in 1878 when Cyprus was ceded to Britain by the Ottoman Empire after negotiations and pressure applied by British representatives in the Congress of Berlin. The occupation lasted until 1960.

During that period, European music began to spread throughout the island and started to be taught by foreign teachers in foreign language schools, as well as in the houses of ambassadors. Other political events such as the Russian Revolution, the Persecution of the Armenians by the Turks and the destruction of Asia Minor forced many musicians to take refuge, settle and create music in Cyprus. At the end of the first and the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century, the first musical activities appeared. Music education and activities were further developed in schools, clubs/organizations and Music Schools, during this period². In 1923 the Armenian Church Choir was founded by B. Mpetelian. Two of the first choirs of Cyprus are: the mixed choir of 'Olympiakos' with eighteen members founded in 1935, and the 'Aris' Choir founded in 1935 by Solonas Michaelides, one of the most outstanding musicians of Cyprus. The intense musical activity of this period created the conditions and prerequisites for the creation of the first orchestra (Orchestra Betelian, String Orchestra of the "Olympiakos" [1934], Symphony Orchestra and Mixed Choir "Olympiakos" [1935], Orchestra Mozart [1938]. The Mozart Orchestra and Choir, played an important role in musical development until 1963 when its performances ceased. Under the direction of Yiangos Michaelides the choir of Mozart gave many performances and over a period of time became increasingly well known to the public. Some of its members had previously been members of the Musical Literature and Sport Association of Olympiakos. Therefore their previous participation in major musical groups (Mantolinata – Yiangos Michaelides 1932, Men's Choir and Mantolinata of Olympiakos 1934 and mixed choir of Olympiakos 1935) gave them the experience and the resources to support the Mozart Choral Group. The Choir continued to improve under the management of its director, Yiangos Michaelides and later with the director Leandros Sitaros from 1950 until 1963

when the Choir was disbanded. The Choir of Aris still exists and is one of the best choirs on the island.

In 1955 Cypriots began a guerrilla war to expel the English oppressor which lasted until 1959. After four years of struggle, Cyprus attained independence and on October 1st 1960 Cyprus was declared as an independent country. Choral development continued mainly in schools and in clubs/associations, until 1974 when Turkey invaded Cyprus and occupied 37% of the Republic's territory and forced two hundred thousands of people out of their houses, a status that exists until today. This influenced the types of music, popular at that time as many songs were written for the missing, for refugees and the occupied villages and towns. Numerous new associations were created to keep the refugees united and also to keep the memory of the occupied areas alive through music and other cultural activities.

2. Choirs of Cyprus

The Local Authorities of Cyprus are sub-divided into Communities and Municipalities. Small villages of rural areas constitute Communities. Communities which have a population of more than 5000 or having the financial resources to function as Municipalities can become municipalities, provided they get the Ministers Council approval following by a local referendum. The total number of municipalities is 39. Since the Turkish invasion in 1974, nine municipalities have been relocated to the free areas of Cyprus and they still maintain their legal status.

The Mayor and the Municipal Council are directly elected by the citizens and are the policy makers for the Municipality. The municipalities' responsibilities include the construction and repair of infrastructure (roads, rainwater drains, street lighting) parks, green areas and play areas, collection and disposal of refuse, protection of public health and the environment. Furthermore, depending on their financial resources Municipalities promote other activities for the common good, such as music (through the establishment of choirs, organising festivals, participation in other events both locally and abroad) arts, sports and education.

Since 1981 The Union of Cyprus Municipalities has been established, in which all Municipalities participate voluntarily. The Union acts as a link between Local Authorities and the Government and other National Institutions as well as acting as a link between Cyprus and the European Union.

Art and cultural education in Cyprus is promoted through the local authorities (municipalities). Music, theater, painting and dance – mostly traditional dance- are the main activities that the municipalities of the island promote through the cultural associations. The latter are formed mainly by amateur volunteers who want to contribute to the community and the cultural development of their area. Music is presented through the choirs of each particular municipality and sometimes the philharmonics.

Throughout the years, many choirs developed in Cyprus and they can be divided into four main categories: School choirs, Choirs of Associations Choirs of Municipalities and various others.

What follows is a detailed presentation of the Choirs of Cyprus based on the categories that was mentioned above.

2.1 Municipal Choirs

2.1.1 District of Famagusta

2.1.1.1 The Municipal Choir of Deryneia

Deryneia is a large municipality located on the east coast of Cyprus, 2 km south of the occupied city of Famagusta. It has been a municipality since 1994.

The Municipal Choir of Deryneia was established in 1987 and for more than twenty years it has been offering a unique cultural character to the area. Since the establishment of Deryneia Municipality it has been under its auspices of Deryneia Municipality which undertakes to support the choir by providing the necessary funding and resources.

The mixed four-voice Choir has forty members and has functioned under various conductors such as; Anna Protopapa, Giannis Antoniou, Adamos Katsantonis, Andreas Gerolemou and Tasos Protopapas. Since September 2010 the conductor has been Andreas Zakos. The Choir is managed by a seven-member committee.

The aim of the Municipal Choir of Deryneia is, through the Choir, to familiarize the public, both locally and abroad, with polyphonic music, as the showcasing and continuity of the traditional and Cypriot folk song. At present, the Choir is an essential part of the cultural institutions of Deryneia and it participates in all the religious, spiritual, national, and cultural activities of Deryneia Municipality.

The choir has a rich artistic history. It has participated in choir festivals in London, Thessaloniki, Megara and Pharsalus (Greek towns) as well as choral societies meetings in many municipalities and communities in Cyprus. It has also cooperated with other local choirs in hosting choirs from Greece in joint musical events.

The Choir, through its former president, was honored in 1999 by the Union of Choirs in Greece. In March 2000, the Choir presented the composition of the famous Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis's, "Aksion esti" for the Cyprus public Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC- PIK). In July 2001, the Choir together with the Greek musician Basilis Lekkas performed an artistic representation at the roadblock of Deryneia. In October of 2001 and 2002 the Choir worked with the same artist in the national artistic manifestations of Patra and Rhodes, Greece.

In spring 2002, together with the Voice of Larnaca Municipality and 'Ichokinisi', the Choir, co-organized the musical "People works" of the famous Greek composer Stamatis Kraounakis. In December 2003 the Choir visited Dijon in France, where it presented a music program, together with the chorus "A Travers chants". In July of 2004 the Choir took part in the official celebrations of the Republic of Cyprus in Nicosia for the reception of the Olympic flame.

The Choir also participated in March 2005, in the Choir Festival of the Club 'Friends of Music' in Kavalla. In March of 2006 the Choir visited Brno in Czech Republic and performed in concerts with the Brno Philharmonic Choir. In June of 2006 the Choir sang before the President of the Republic of Cyprus on the occasion of the official inauguration of the 'Sea' Museum of Agia Napa. In March 2007 the Municipal Choir of Deryneia hosted the Choir of the Stagiros - Akanthou Municipality for the common celebrations of the national anniversaries of 25th March and 1st April. The following year, in March 2008, the Choir was hosted by the Municipalities of Stagiros – Akanthou and performed in concerts with other choirs. Furthermore, they cooperated with the Belgian Choir 'Terra Nova' in giving a concert in the municipality of Deryneia in February 2008. The Municipal Choir of Deryneia visited the city of Namur in Belgium in October 2008 where it gave a concert.

In May 2009, the Choir sang for the Cypriot President Mr. Demetris Christofias in the presidential theatre for a charity event for people with multiple sclerosis. In October 2009 the choir hosted the choir "Chorale de l'Université Antonine" from Lebanon and the following month they visited Lebanon. In March of 2010 they hosted the Choir of the music Club "Naousa Conservatory" and in October of the same year, the Municipal Choir of Deryneia was hosted by 'Naousa Conservatory'.

The Choir's repertoire includes songs from Cypriot traditional music, but it also extends to the repertoire of the wider Greek choral association such as traditional, religious, patriotic and somewhat Éntekhno - 'art song', orchestral music with elements of Greek folk rhythm and melody. The repertoire of the Choir's also includes European and international music, from classic to modern pop and rock music.

Andreas Zakos – choir conductor of Municipal Choir of Deryneia – is a graduate, B.A. and M.A., of the Music Department, Choir Conducting and Education of Charles University – Prague. From September 2007 to July 2009 he was the conductor of the Choir 'Fenix' in the St. Mary and Great Carol's Church – Karlovo, Prague. Since September 2010 he has been the conductor of the Municipal Choir of Deryneia.

During the period 2004 to April 2009, he participated as a choir member and as a conductor in several concerts. From September 2009 to June 2010 he was a member of Larnaca Municipal Choir and since September 2010 he has been the Conductor of the Municipal Choir of Deryneia. He also teaches the violin and singing as well as playing the piano, and the bouzouki – a traditional music instrument.

2.1.1.2 Choir of Famagusta Municipality

After independence, Famagusta developed rapidly and it was one of the most developed cities in Cyprus. This upswing was forced to an end by the Turkish troops in 1974 is an occupied city on the east coast of Cyprus and is the capital of Famagusta District. Its inhabitants fled to the non-occupied area of Cyprus, refugees in their own country and they live with the hope that they will soon return to the land of their ancestors.

In March 1997 the Famagusta Council decided to establish the Municipal Choir in order to reinforce the willingness of the people to fight for their rights. The mission of the Choir is to keep the memory of the town alive and to cultivate in its former inhabitants the desire to return to their uninhabited city.

The Choir has 45 members and Nikos Vichas has been its conductor since January 2003. The Choir is a member of the Greek Union of Choirs and its repertoire includes a wide range of classical, religious, patriotic songs written by Cypriot and Greek composers. The Famagusta Choir has so far been very active and its work has been well recognised by composers who gave their compositions to the Choir for their premiere performance.

In its 16 years' of existence the Choir has given many successful performances in Cyprus and abroad. Two years after the formation of the Choir of Famagusta it gave a Christmas Concert and a year later the concert in Salamis, Greece with religious,

patriotic, operatic and traditional Cypriot works which were considered to be outstanding performances. In May 2002 the Choir successfully participated in the Fourth International Choral Contest of Rhodes, Greece and in October 2003 the Choir presented a concert in Salamis, Greece in collaboration with the Music Ensemble of Koullis Theodorou. In 2007 it gave two joint concerts with the Academic Choir 'Angel Manolov' of Sofia – Bulgaria, which took place in Cyprus and Sofia.

In July 2009 the Choir participated in the Third International Folkloric Festival of Prague, in October 2010 in the second International Festival of Cracovia in Poland and in 2011 in the International Festival of Venice, Italy.

Through its presentations and participations in International Festivals the Choir has strengthened the desire of the people of Famagusta for justice, freedom and the peaceful return of all refugees to their homes.

Nikos Vichas – Famagusta Municipality choir conductor – was born in Limassol and he had his first music lessons in the National Music School. He was a student of Defkalionas Iakovides. He learned to play the piano, violin and accordion from Aram Boskianian and guitar by Richard Douglas., he continued his studies in Music Education, Harmony, Counterpoint and Fugue in the National Conservatory of Athens his teachers being Kalianos, Xinarides, Vourtsis and Dragatakis.

Mr Vichas took his degree in Composition with Yianni Avgerino. Furthermore, he studied choir and orchestra conducting with Antonis Kontogeorgiou and with the American teacher Tamara Brooks. He continued with General Pedagogy and Music Pedagogy in the Ionian University.

His first presentation as a composer took place in Tipouketos boite with Christos Tsiamoulis and Yiannis Zevgolis. He wrote music for the theatre and collaborated with students of the drama school of Pelos Katselis and he worked as a music teacher as well.

Mr Vichas has also composed music for theatrical plays, such as 'Peter the First', 'An angel in our neighbourhood', 'The Chocolate Soldier' and 'The green dress'. Through his cultural, social and intellectual activity Mr Vichas established the cultural association 'Modern Times', of which he is the chairman and the conductor of its choir.

He is one of the founding members of the Theatrical Development Company of Limassol (E.Θ.A.Λ), and is the arts manager of the National Conservatory. Furthermore, he participated in the foundation of the Cyprus Conductors Centre, as a member of Judging Committees for music contests of the Cyprus Music Committee, Cyprus Guitar Association, and is also one of the founding members of the Coordinating Council of Cultural Institutions of Limassol. He cooperated with CyBC in music productions such as movies and documentaries.

During his presence on the music scene, Nikos Vichas has composed considerable works such as: the Cypriot Suite for Symphonic Orchestra in 1988, Suite 'Old Type' for string quartet in 1987, 'Blooming 89' for orchestra, choir and ballet in 1990. He also composed, Sonata in A minor for piano in 1991 and 'The trip' for harp, flute and violoncello, 'Return' for string quartet and piano, 2009, 'Cyprus – one minute for Europe' for modern Orchestra in 2012 and 'Mediterranean' for small Orchestra in 2012.

During Mr Vichas' long career in music, he has participated in many concerts, as a conductor of well-known soloists and groups, in Cyprus and abroad such as Choral Festivals, Cultural activities and anti-occupation concerts.

The compositions of Mr Vichas have been performed by the National Orchestra of Cyprus, the Athens Trio, the Quartet of Limassol, the Symphonic Orchestra of Cyprus, the Symphonic Orchestra of Sofia, Camerata Europaea Berlin, soloists and other musical groups with the Centre of Cypriot Composers in Cyprus and abroad. Six CD's of his work have been published comprising classical music, orchestral music, movie music and songs. A few of the songs are: The Trip, Honorary, the theatrical, Nikos Vichas, Days and Nights and Orchestral and Choral Folkloric Cypriot Songs. He has also published two books of Choral songs.

2.1.1.3 Paralimni Municipality 'Choir 'MELIZONA'

Paralimni is a coastal town situated in the South East of Cyprus within the Famagusta District. Since the Turkish invasion and occupation of the northern part of the Republic of Cyprus in 1974, it has increased in size and status, due to the influx of refugees

fleeing from the North. Paralimni is now the temporary administrative centre of the Famagusta District.

The Choir "Melizona" of the Paralimni Municipality was founded in 1988 and it was originally called 'Choir of Paralimni Municipality'. It is a mixed choir with forty to fifty amateur singers; since 2007 the conductor of the Choir has been Ms Maria Papazachariou-Christoforou. The repertoire includes classic, Éntekhno Greek, traditional, religious and candades.

The main objectives of the Choir are the promotion of culture and of traditional music to the choir members and to the general public. Moreover, through music, art and promotion of culture in general, the members of the choral society will become more aware of social concerns; which will in turn influence the cultural development of Paralimni Municipality and the broader region; and they will contribute to improving the image of Paralimni Municipality, both in Cyprus, in Europe and internationally.

The Choir 'Melizona' has performed in a variety of artistic events organized by themselves or other municipalities in the region. It has also participated in TV programs and in choral festivals in different areas of Cyprus and municipalities in Greece such as, Alimos, Argyroupolis, Nea Chalkidona, Dramas, Corfu, Zakynthos, Kastorias, Trikala, Nea Ionia Magnesia, Lefkada and Iraklion - Crete. The Choir of Melizona has also toured in different towns of Europe including London - United Kingdom and the Fontaine Le Dijon of France.

The Choir organizes annual Christmas Carol Festivals and since 2000 every other year it has been organizing the Choral Festival with participants from all over Cyprus, Greece and Europe.

The Fifth Choral Festival was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Choir and to the memory of the great Greek Cypriot Composer Marios Tokas. In 2008 they had a very successful tribute to the Greek composer George Hatzinasios, in which the composer himself took part.

In 2010 the Choir 'Melizona' had a very successful participation in the Traditional Festival organized by the Paralimni Municipality and a year later Melizona participated in the annual memorial service to Marios Tokas in Limassol, with one of his

compositions, the hymn 'Theogennitor Maria' (Maria - God's Mother). Last but not least, the choir has recorded "From Heart", a collection of Cypriot songs.

In November 2011 the Choir Melizona participated in "Aikaterinia" of the Choir Esties Pieridon Muses' in Katerini Imathia in Greece. The seventh Choral Festival took place in 2012 in Paralimni Municipality.

Last September the choir participated in the events for the 191st anniversary of the fall of Tripolis, in the context of the program twinned municipalities.

In October 22, 2012 the choir co-participated successfully with other Choirs from Cyprus in 'Kypria' with the musical work of Ioannis Xenakis "ORESTIA".

2.1.2 Kerynia District

2.1.2.1 Choir of Kyrenia ‘The Voice of Kyrenia’

In 1992 the musicians, Nelli Loucaidou, Nicos Hadjistephanou, Takis Neophytou, Anna Neophytou and Maro Hadjistephanou, all refugees from the Kyrenia District of Cyprus, founded the choir “The Voice of Kyrenia”. The main purpose of the choir was to keep alive the memory of their occupied homeland and also to strengthen the national struggle for return and justice, through music and other cultural activities.

During its 14 years of operation, the Choir has taken part in a large number of activities and appeared many times on radio and TV programmes, in Cyprus and abroad. “The Voice of Kyrenia”, has performed and participated in festivals and other musical events, in various countries, including Greece, the United Kingdom, Austria, Hungary, Norway and Belgium. The Choir has also produced two CDs with a mixed sample of its work.

Its repertoire basically includes songs about the occupied homeland and about the struggle to regain it, as well as selections from the Greek and international repertoire, both contemporary and classical. Sometimes the songs are accompanied by visual aids, slide shows of photographs of places in the Kyrenia District and other parts of Cyprus, along with explanatory texts.

In addition to its musical and cultural activities, the Choir is also the organizer of the “Annual Choir Festival for Memory and Struggle”. In close co-operation with the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, as well as other similar organizations and groups, the choir is trying to promote its aims and objectives and fulfil the hopes of its members.

Two recent and very important activities of the Choir were firstly the organization of a concert, in co-operation with the Cyprus State Orchestra, dedicated to the Cypriot composer Solon Michaelides on the occasion of the centenary of his birth and secondly an extremely successful performance in Brussels to mark the occasion of Cyprus’s accession to the European Union.

The foremost objective of “The Voice of Kyrenia” Choir is to continue its operation until Kyrenia is being returned to its legal residents.

Nelly Loukaidou – choir conductor of ‘The Voice of Kyrenia’ – and the choir members. Nelly Loukaidou has been the permanent conductor and leader of the choir from the very first day of its establishment. Coming from the occupied Municipality of Karavas situated 3miles to the west of Kyrenia, Nelly devoted her life to teaching music in secondary schools and is now retired. She is the soul of the Choir, tireless, persistent and perfectionist, well-known and completely dedicated to the purpose she serves.

The Choir is accompanied by the excellent pianist and gifted musician Avgi Kozaki, who is also a music teacher in Secondary Education. She is stable, dedicated and talented, and has offered her services selflessly and voluntarily since 1999.

The members of the Choir are refugees from the city and province of Kyrenia as well as friends of Kyrenia; love singing, embrace the struggle for justice and the creative and artistic objectives of the Choir and want to help in the promotion and implementation of those objectives.

The members of the choir are all amateurs with no music training and they offer their services voluntarily. They are basically highly literate people, in their sixties who come from a variety of different professions, such as civil servants, teachers, doctors, private employees, self-employed, retired persons and housewives who spend much of their free time and their artistic efforts running the four-voice choir, which is a four-voice mixed. The result of this effort is undoubtedly very good, and united their first-rate voices constitute a comprehensive choral ensemble, which is one of the best in Cyprus.. Most of them have been involved in the Choir for many years and are united by close ties of friendship, exemplifying in practice the phrase that is written in the logo of the Choir, "a singing group will go back again".

2.1.3 District of Larnaka

2.1.3.1 The Municipal Choir of Aradippou Municipality

Aradippou Municipality is located in the south of Cyprus near the International Airport of Larnaka. The Municipality has been established since 1986 and it has gradually developed into a busy urban centre.

In November 2002, the Cultural Committee of Aradippou Municipality created the Municipal Choir, fulfilling its mission to make a contribution to the cultural evolution, to the growth of love for music and the arts and to encourage people to participate in cultural activities. At the same time, it has contributed to the maintenance of the cultural heritage and the popularisation of human polyphonic music.

The four-voice Municipal chorus consists of fifty members and is directed by the conductor Loukas Xenofontos. The first presentation of the choir (2003) was very successful and took place in the folklore museum Costas Kaimakliotis, organized by the Committee of Culture.

Other notable participations of the choir were made in Greece - Serres, Thessaloniki, New Apollonia and Tyrnavo and in the International Festival of Prague.

2.1.3.2 The Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou

Founded in 1926, Athienou is one of the oldest municipalities of Cyprus. It is located on the cease fire line of the occupied area of Cyprus and belongs to Larnaca District.

The Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou was created by a group of citizens who wanted to develop the cultural activities of their municipality. The Choir was founded in October 1999 as a two-voice choir under the conductor Christos Pechlivanis and had eighteen members. Since September 2001 the conductor of the Choir has been Ms Christina Hatzistathi. Nowadays, the choir members have doubled and the Choir has been upgraded to a four-voice mixed choir. It performs in a variety of social and cultural events in its district and elsewhere. In May 2003 the first choir meeting was organized in Athienou with the Deryneia Choir. In 2004 they hosted the choir of Xanthi

Municipality (Greece) and during the same year they performed in Xanthi. In 2005 the Choir of Athienou hosted the Volos Municipality Choir and in August of the same year they performed in Volos. In December 2006 they were hosted by the Choir to Arioso in Dijon, France where they performed, and in April 2007 they hosted to Arioso Choir in return. During the years 2008 and 2010 they exchanged performances and hosting with 'Nea Moudiana Halkidikis' and 'Corfu'. In July 2011 the Choir presented five performances in the Festival Chorale Verona Garda Estate in Italy.

Christina Hatzistathi – choir conductor of Municipal Choir of Athienou Municipality and Cultural Group of Athienou – was born in Morfou and studied music in the National Conservatory of Greece where she was awarded degrees in piano teaching, harmony and counterpoint. She also graduated from the Higher Technical Institute of Nicosia in the field of Electrical Engineering. For fifteen years she accompanied the Choir of Larnaca Municipality as a pianist. Since 1999 she has been the pianist of the Larnaca Progressive Movement Choir which has participated in International Festivals in Italy and Romania. In 2001 she took over as conductor of the Municipal Cultural Group of the Athienou Choir and transformed it into a four-voice mixed choir. In 2004 she founded the Choir of the Cooperative Bank of Achna Forest (a refugee settlement near Achna village which is occupied by the Turkish troops). Today she works as a music teacher in Primary Schools.

2.1.3.2i Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou

The Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou had a short period of operation from 2001 to 2009, its members gradually increased from twenty to fifty and the conductor was Ms Evdokia Hatzicharou.

The first performance of the Children's Choir was during the celebrations of the twinning of Tremetousia village, an occupied village, with the municipality of Corfu, which took place in December 2001 in Athienou. The Children's Choir subsequently participated in a variety of other local events in the municipality such as Choir meetings, Christmas celebrations and events of other organizations in Athienou. Besides the

events of the municipality, the Choir participated in other charity festivals in Nicosia and Larnaca as well as in festivals of other communities. It also participated in children's programs on National television, CYBC, and on the private TV broadcasting channel Sigma.

On 1st May 2004 the Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou took part in the celebrations for Cyprus's entry into the European Union. During the summer of 2004 the Choir was hosted by the Club 'Friends of Music and Arts' of Kiparrisias Municipality (Peloponnesus - Greece) and hosted then in the summer on 2005.

For unknown reasons, the Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou is no longer active.

Evdokia Hatzicharou – choir conductor of Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou – is from Athienou and the occupied village of Pentagia – Morfu. She is a graduate of the Greek Conservatory of Larnaca and the National Conservatory of Thessaloniki – Greece. After finishing her studies she worked as a teacher in private conservatories and in secondary education in Cyprus and was a member of the Philharmonic of Larnaca Municipality during the years 1989 – 1991. Since 1995 she has been a music teacher in Primary Education and in 2001 she took over as conductor of the Children's Choir of the Municipal Cultural Group of Athienou. She is also an amateur composer and wrote the music for the short movie 'Nekri Zoni' (Dead band) directed by Tofarides Kyriakos. She also participates with her own compositions in song competitions in Cyprus. In 2002 her song 'St. John' won the second prize in the Pancyprian Song Contest for the composition of Cypriot dialect songs.

2.1.4 District of Limassol

2.1.4.1 The Municipal Choir of Agios Athanasios Municipality

Agios Athanasios is one of the six Municipalities of the greater Limassol area and was established in 1986. The Municipality is located in the north-eastern part of Limassol.

The Municipal Choir was founded in March 2009 with Antigoni Kiriakidou, the musician, as conductor. The mixed four-voice Choir has forty amateur members and is managed by a six member's board. The main aim of the Choir is to cultivate, inform and enable people to involve with choral music, thus contributing to the cultural development of the area. Despite its recent establishment, it has been invited to participate and has performed in many events organised by the Municipality and other bodies.

The Choir's first concert was in October 2009, when it participated in the first choral meeting with the choirs of Kato Polemidia and Germasogeia Municipalities. In June 2010 it participated in the second choral meeting which took place in the main square of the Municipality of Agios Athanasios with the choirs of Proodeftiki Kinisi Larnakas and the bi-communal choir for peace in Cyprus also taking part. The event was attended by the Government Representative Mr Stefanos Stefanou. In April 2012 the Choir performed in the centenary celebration commemorating the hundred years of the Liberation of Macedonia in Katerini, Greece. In December of the same year the Choir participated in a charity concert organised by the association 'A Dream - a Wish' for children suffering from cancer. The Choir's rich repertoire includes compositions of Greek, Cypriot and other composers.

Antigoni Kiriakidou – choir conductor of Municipal Choir of Agios Athanasios Municipality – is a young musician who recently graduated in Musicology and Music Pedagogy in Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She decided to become involved in choir conducting during her studies with Professor Ioannis Adamides who imparted his love for choral music to her. She conducted the choir of the Music Department of the University, having a mainly classical repertoire. During her short but successful career she has organised three festivals with the Municipal Choir of Agios Athanasios and she

has made her own musical adaptation in choral and orchestral music. She puts a considerable effort into the development of her choir.

2.1.4.2 The Municipal Choir of Germasogeia

Founded in 1994, Germasogeia is a Municipality situated to the east of Limassol. It has a 3.5km coastline with sandy beaches, five star hotels and clubs. Every year thousands of tourists visit the area.

In order to reach its goal for the cultural development of its citizens and the promotion of both Cypriot and Greek, the Municipal Council founded the Adult Mixed Choir in 2003 which since 2006 has been under the direction of Solonas Kladas.

The Choir now has over 50 members and since its foundation it has participated in numerous events organized by the council or the Churches of the area. It has also participated in festivals organized by Municipalities of Cyprus.

One of the most notable events that the Choir has participated in is the concert organized by the Greek Community in Prague in 2008 which was held for the celebrations of the national anniversary of the 28th of October 1940.

Furthermore, other performances of the choir are also of major importance, and include the Cyprus Festival with Stavros Hadjisavvas, in 2009 held at Petra tou Romiou, Paphos, the tribute to the Greek Composer Mikis Theodorakis on his 85th birthday in 2010, the festival for the 50th anniversary of the Cyprus Republic in 2010, in Litochoro Greece, the concert dedicated to the poet Nikos Gatsos together with the famous Greek singers Costas Makedonas and Anastasia Moutsatsou in 2011 at the Rialto Theatre and the tribute to Cypriot composer Marios Tokas in 2012 in Germasogeia.

Solonas Kladas – choir conductor of Municipality Choir of Germasogeia – comes from Limassol and has a Master degree from the Pedagogy Faculty of Charles University in Prague in the fields of Music Education, Pedagogy and Choir Conducting. During his studies he was a member of the Mixed Choir of the Faculty of Pedagogy and for three years he was a member of the selective Chamber Choir of the same University. As of 2003 he was a member of the Mixed Choir of Prague under the direction of teacher

Miroslav Kosler with whom Solonas had the last three years' lessons for choir conducting. He also had choir conducting lessons with Professor Stanislav Pechacek PhD, PeaDr Ivana Stibrova, and Prof. PeaDr Jiri Kolar.

During his stay in Prague he undertook the management, including the conducting, of various choirs such as the Mixed Choir of Pedagogy School of Charles University, Men's Choir of Prague and the Orthodox Church of St. Cyril's and Methodius' Choir. He also collaborated with professional and semi-professional music groups such as the Philharmonic and Symphonic Orchestra of Jindrihuv Hradec, the Students Orchestra of Prague, the Philharmonic Orchestra of Roudnice n.L, the Military Philharmonic Orchestra of Prague and the Mixed Choir of Prague for which he was the manager for external affairs. Together with the above mentioned groups, he participated in many local and international music festivals and since then he has had an excellent collaboration with them. During the Academic year 2005-2006 he was a lecturer at the Charles University of Prague.

Upon his return to Cyprus in 2006, he was employed by the Music Department of the Nicosia University as a teacher for Choir and Orchestra Conducting and he also took over the management of its University Choir. Furthermore, he took over the management of the choir of the Music Lyceum of Limassol. The experience and knowledge he acquired during his studies in Czech Republic have helped him in his work in Cyprus.

The Nicosia University Choir was founded in 2005, has fifty two members and has performed several times in festivals and other events. In September 2008 it was invited by the French Consulate, the French Cultural Centre of Cyprus and the Leventis Foundation, to give concerts in Paris with Orchestra Le Moure and professional soloists. In the same year the Choir participated in the International Music Festival Kypria 2008 with outstanding reviews. In 2009 the Choir was invited to represent Cyprus at the 22 International Choir Festival of Prague-Praga Cantat where it was awarded the second prize and silver medal in the category of the female voice choirs.

In addition, in 2010 the Symphonic Orchestra Jindrihuv Hradec performed three concerts with the works of Evagoras Karagiorgis under Mr. Kladas' direction, within the

Festival Kypria 2010. In September 2011 the same orchestra performed in three concerts in the Czech Republic, again under Mr. Kladas' direction.

Mr. Kladas is now a candidate doctorate in Pedagogy Faculty of Charles University in Prague.

2.1.4.3 Choir of Kato Polemidia Municipality

Kato Polemidia was founded in 1986. It is one of the six municipalities of the Limassol District and is located in the southern part of Limassol.

The mixed choir of Kato Polemidia Municipality was founded in 1992 and has sixty members. Some of its members are professional soloists with Greek-Cypriot and Classic repertoire, who have performed in Festivals in Cyprus, Greece and in International Competitions with honorary distinctions and awards. The conductor of the choir, from the beginning to date, is the soprano, musician Maria Mandaliou-Georgiou. The Choir is the core of a large-scale effort of the Municipality's Council to promote cultural development in the region, but also more generally to preserve their cultural heritage and as a tool for the promotion of human polyphonic music.

The rich repertoire of the Choir includes polyphonic compositions from Greek, Cypriot and foreign composers. It also includes folk Cypriot songs (demotiká), light Greek songs (Elafró) as well as religious and national (Agonistika) songs.

The Choir has a long history of wide-ranging activities and has participated in numerous events both in Cyprus and abroad. The main participations of the Choir are presented below.

The Choir's first concert was in December 1992, in the celebrations for the United Nation's Universal Declaration of Human Rights in the Theatre of the City Hall of Limassol. In 1994 the Choir participated with other choirs, in the memorial event for the blockade of Kokkinia by the Germans in the Second World War. Later in 1996 the Choir performed in the fifth Choral Festival of "THE VOICE OF KYRENIA" in memory of the 1974 war of Cyprus which led to the division of the Island.

The Choir performed in a concert for human rights in the area of cultural events in Limassol Municipality and for many years it has participated in the choral Festival of

Polemidia Municipality. Moreover, every year they take part in the Christmas Carols Festival in the Municipal Theatre of Nicosia.

Additionally, the Choir has participated in many Choral Festivals organized by other Municipalities, such as Dheryneias, Strovolou, Lakatamias, Mesa Geitonias as well as the Choral Festival organized by 'PASYDY' (Pancyprian Public Employees Trade Union) which took place in the Municipal Theatre of Nicosia. Another event of major importance is the Choir's participation for the 'Theotokos' Foundation – a Charity Institution - at Pattichion Municipal Theatre of Limassol, also with the participation of a great Cypriot composer Marios Tokas. In addition, in November 2006 the Choir performed with one of Greece's leading composers, Mimis Plessas.

In the Greek Choral area, the Choir was twice invited to give concerts in the festival of Nikaia Municipality, in the Festival of St. Stefan Municipality and more in the Artistic Festival of Arta Municipality and in the eleventh Choral meeting of Ermioni Municipality and Isle-Skyros (Niso-Skiro) where their performance was applauded.

Their first recorded CD includes ten Traditional Cypriot Songs and was published in autumn 2000.

Maria Mandaliou-Georgiou – choir conductor of Choir of Kato Polemidia Municipality – was born in Limassol in 1969; Maria Mandaliou-Georgiou is a soprano music teacher and has her own private school of music. She graduated with distinction in Educational Music, Singing Performances and Harmony. She is a Soloist on the Cyprus Operatic Stage and has performed in the Operas of Verdi, IL trovatore, Rigoletto, La Traviata. She has also participated in the 'Nights of Opera' and in two recitals 'Lucia di Lammermoor' (Pattixeio Municipal Theatre of Limassol and Municipal Theatre of Nicosia). She has participated in International Festivals of Cyprus and Greece, and has worked as a soloist with other Cypriot choirs. She had sung in recitals in Limassol, Nicosia, and Stokesley in England.

Furthermore, she had an honorary award and the fifth place for the Soprano category, in the International Song Contest of Middlesbrough in England. She teaches the piano, singing performance, and the theory of music in her own Music School which

is an annex of the National Music School of Athens and she is also the art director and conductor of the mixed choir of the Kato Polemidia Municipality.

2.1.4.4 The Municipal Choir of Mesa Geitonia

The Municipality of Mesa Geitonia is an urban municipality in the central part of greater Limassol on the south coast of Cyprus and was established in 1986. Founded in September 1998, the Municipal mixed Choir has forty five members their conductor being Ms Marina Spirou. Its repertoire includes mainly Greek and Cypriot songs such as Éntekhno, folk music (Dhimotika), traditional music and laika¹. During its fifteen years of existence the Choir has participated in various festivals and events organized by the Mesa Geitonia Municipality and others, in Cyprus and abroad. These include cultural festivals, National anniversaries, the Limassol Carnival and Christmas Carols.

The Choir's most noteworthy activities in Greece are its participation in a concert organized by the Municipality of Kalyvia Thorikou, Attikis in the context of the twinning of the two municipalities. During the summer, 2004, the Choir took part in the Summer Festival of Palliki's Municipality, Kefalonia, where it presented the musical 'Cyprus wedding' and sang chants in the church of the municipality. The first CD of the Municipal Choir was recorded in 2004 and constitutes an interesting specimen of choral music.

In 2006 the Choir gave three great performances; the first one, 'Night of Music' took place in Pattichion Municipal Theatre of Limassol in collaboration with the Municipal Philharmonic of Mesa Geitonia. The second successful performance in April was organized by the Conservatory of Rethymno Crete. In June of the same year the Choir organized the Choral Festival with the participation of other Municipal Choirs of Cyprus.

Moreover, in September 2007 the Choir participated in the Choral Festival 'Triandriotika' organized by the Municipality of Triandria Thessaloniki. In the following

2. Laiko is a Greek music genre that is composed in the Greek language with the music tradition of the Greek people. It is the urban music of Greece.

years they participated in other Festivals organized by Municipalities of Greece in Alexandroupoli, Sikeai and Komotini.

2.1.5 District of Nicosia

2.1.5.1 Aglantzia Municipality

Aglantzia Municipality, established in 1986, is one of the municipalities of the suburbs of Nicosia, the capital of Cyprus. The Municipality has two choirs, the Municipal Choir and the Children's Choir. The Municipal Choir was founded in 1989 its main aims being to entertain local audiences and to participate in and contribute to cultural events which are organised by the Municipality in Cyprus as well as abroad. It is a four-voice mixed choir with forty members and the conductor is Ms Glykeria Andreou. The repertoire varies according to the character of the event. The repertoire includes patriotic songs, Greek songs, folk songs and Christmas carols.

Aglantzia Childrens' Choir was first founded in 1999 and was re-founded in 2009 by the conductor Elina Zarvou. The Choir has 30 members now and participates in cultural and other events (Christmas, Easter, Carnival) organised by the Municipality. One of the Children's Choir's most notable participations was in the Christmas Choir Festival 2011. Moreover, during the first years of its foundation it sang with the Hitjazz group and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation's orchestra. The Children's Choir was founded not only for the purpose of entertainment but also in order to cultivate children's love for music and to give them a healthy occupation for their free time.

Elina Zarvou – choir conductor of Aglantzia Municipality's choir – was born in Nicosia in 1983. Her love for music became evident in her childhood when she started learning to play the piano, guitar and flute. She also sang in various choirs where she had the opportunity to participate in various festivals in Europe. She graduated with a distinction in Musical Theatre and Classical Singing. During her studies in the United States one of her professor was the famous soprano Jeannine Wagner. She continued her studies in London in Classical Singing/Opera under the mentoring of Professor Alexander Ivashkin. She also played important roles such as Cherubino from *Le Nozze di Figaro* – W.A Mozart, Prince Orlofsky from the operetta *Die Fledermaus* – Johann Strauss and Hodel from the musical, *Fiddler on the Roof* by Jerry Bock.

When she finished her studies and returned to Cyprus, she participated in the cultural events Kypria² 2009, 2010 and at the EKON³ London festival 2010. Elina had the chance to work with and teach in music laboratories with different choirs, in Cyprus as well as in Europe. She was an active member in the chamber music (mousiki domatiou) group " Polyphonia". Nowadays she conducts and teaches in Arte Nuova College (Arte Music Academy) in Nicosia, singing performance in the Music school of Limassol. For the last three years she has taken over and re-organised the Children's Choir of Aglantzia, and for the last year she has also been working at the English School of Nicosia.

2.1.5.2 The Municipal Choir of Engomi

Engomi is one of the nine Municipalities of greater Nicosia and is located in the central part of Cyprus in the west of the city of Nicosia. It was established in 1986.

The Municipal Choir of Engomi was founded by the musician Maria Koutsoupidou in October 1993. The choir's main objective is to preserve and develop the high national morale of Greek-Cypriots through music, Cypriot folklore music, as well as to promote quality music in the cultural activities of Cyprus. Special attention is given to religious, national, social and charity events organised by Engomi Municipality and other cultural associations in Cyprus. Its outstanding artistic career has been appreciated by many local and foreign tv and radio stations, who have hosted the choir on their programs. The Municipal Choir of Engomi has collaborated on many occasions

³ The International Festival KYPRIA hosts artists and bands from all over the world, multifocal (POLYPROSWPES) productions with increased economic, technical and organizational requirements (<http://www.moec.gov.cy/kypria/>).

⁴ EKON was set up in 2008 and seeks to present to London audiences works by artists and art groups that share a passion for new, experimental and alternative art practices. It offers both emerging and established artists an opportunity to innovate, experiment and exchange ideas. The EKON promotes collaborative artistic and educational projects, joint productions or interactive works that bring together Greek and foreign artists, community art groups and cultural institutes. (<http://www.ekon.org.uk/>).

with the CyBC (TV and radio programs) and the Symphonic Orchestra of the National Guard of Cyprus.

Its artistic activity expanded to Rhodes, Greece when in July 1995, the Choir gave concerts which were accompanied by text and pictures. A year later, they participated in events to publicise the Cyprus problem, organised by the UK National (Greek) Federation in London.

In June 1996, the choir recorded part of its repertoire and in June 1999 in the context of cultural exchanges, it gave successful concerts in Santorin and the ancient theatre of Gythio, Greece.

In June 2000, the Choir organised a musical celebration dedicated to the great composer Mikis Theodorakis, in collaboration with the Choir of Lakatamia Municipality. A month later, it gave an outstanding performance in the 18th International Festival of Preveza – Greece.

In November 2001 the Municipal Choir of Engomi participated in the 17th International Choral Festival of Thessaloniki, Greece and in July 2002 the Choir was awarded the prize for the best performance in the 19th International Festival of Nis - Serbia. In the context of this great choral gathering with choirs from countries all over the Balkans, Greece and Turkey participating, music workshops were organised, where the choir conductor, Maria Koutsoupidou collaborated with the choir of the National Turkish Radio and TV Station. The Choir gave a concert of compositions by Beethoven, Nielsen and other great composers, together with the Women's Choir of Sofia, the University Choir of Nis and the Symphonic Orchestra of Nis.

In May 2004, the Municipal Choir of Engomi, in collaboration with the vocal ensemble "Melodia" of the Pneumatic Group of Limassol, interpreted Cypriot poetry to music and participated in the 13th Seminar for the literature of Cyprus organised by the University of Athens. Their work was a creation of the well-known composer Anastasia Gai and the Choir was accompanied by the famous baritone Kyros Patsalides and the National Orchestra of Cyprus.

The same concert was presented in Nicosia Cyprus by the CyBC television, under the auspices of the Minister of Defence and the proceeds were donated to the Cyprus defence fund.

Furthermore the Choir has given many concerts, dedicated to the national struggles of the Cypriot people for freedom, resulting from the lost national land of Smyrna⁴, Constantinople⁵, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, and the continued occupation of the northern part of Cyprus.

Since September 2005 the Choir has been under the conduction of George Loizou, and has forty members.

2.1.5.3 The Municipal Choir of Latsia

Latsia Municipality is situated 7 Km to the south of Nicosia. It was established in 1986, and covers an area of 16.28 sq. Km. Latsia is a typical example of a new Municipality in Cyprus, exhibiting rapid development and expansion in every aspect.

The Municipal Choir of Latsia was founded in 2002 and for 12 years has an exceptional artistic presence in cultural events in the municipality of Latsia. The mixed choir has 35 members and it is under the conduction of the mixed choir is Mr. Fotis Mousoulides. The Choir's repertoire includes various types of music, such as Greek and Cypriot traditional, folk songs. The status of the Choir has been upgraded through its participation in various cultural events in the area. It has participated in many events both in Cyprus and abroad, such as the 13th Choral Festival in Argos Orestiko, Greece in 2004, the choral meeting in Kilkis, Greece, in 2004, the Choral Festival in Argostoli Kefalonias, Greece, in 2009 and the International Choral Festival in Rome MRF in 2012. In addition, the Choir participates in all the cultural events organized by the Municipality of Latsia.

Fotis Mousoulides – choir conductor of The Municipal Choir of Latsia – was born in 1975 and he began to learn music from his early childhood. He graduated from the Greek Music Academy in Accordion and Harmony as well as from the Trinity College of Music in Music Theory; at the same time, he also took guitar, saxophone and flute

⁵ Smyrna was an ancient city located in a central and strategic point on the Aegean coast of Anatolia.

⁶ Constantinople was the capital city of the Byzantine Empire and was the largest and wealthiest European city of the middle Ages. Eventually, the Empire of Christian Eastern Orthodoxy in the east ended after falling to the Ottomans in the historic battle of 1453.

lessons. In 2000 he graduated in Music Education from the National University of Athens and is now in the process of preparing his doctoral degree entitled 'Pythagorean tradition in the work by Ioannis Xenakis' at the same University.

He has participated in many concerts and competitions as a composer or performer on the accordion and has worked with some of the most famous composers and singers of Greece, such as Alkinoos Ioannidis, Antonis Vardis, Vasilis Lekas, Dimitris Basis, Antonis Remos, Gerasimos Andreatos, Anastasia Moutsatsou, Lizeta Kalimeri, Stelios Pissis, Dimitra Fani and Koullis Theodorou.

Furthermore, he was part of the editorial team of the book 'The Greek music in the Olympic Games and the Olympics (1858-1896)', published in 2004 by the Ministry of Culture of Greece and he also wrote two articles about Ioannis Xenakis entitled 'Ioannis Xenakis, the demand for a world of music and the Pythagorean model' article from the proceedings of the international conference 'Ioannis Xenakis', Athens 2005 and the Golden Section and the Fibonacci series in Ioannis Xenakis' works: traces of ancient Greek mathematics in 20th century music, at the International Conference for the Ioannis Xenakis, European University, Cyprus 2011.

Mr. Fotis Mousoulides moved to Cyprus in 2004 where he began working as a teacher, accordionist and orchestrator. He is also the conductor of the Municipal Choir of Latsia and the Children's Choir of Lyric Odeon.

2.1.5.4 The Municipal Choir of Lakatamia

Lakatamia is situated in the Southwest perimeter of Greater Nicosia, its main feature being Pedieos River which runs through Lakatamia. The municipality was established in 1986 and is one of the nine municipalities of greater Nicosia.

The Municipal Choir of Lakatamia was founded in June 1992. It is a four-voice choir with forty members all of whom are inhabitants of the Municipality. The choir conductor is Neofytos Evaggelou. The objectives of the Choir are the promotion and importance of music, fostering the well-being of the local people and their active participation in the cultural life of the Municipality.

The Choir's repertoire includes Entechno and traditional Greek music as well as foreign music, always edited for four-voice choir. The Choir participates in all cultural events organized by the Municipality, in various festivals organized by other associations in Cyprus and abroad. In October 1996 the Choir recorded an anniversary program for the 28th of October 1940 (Second World War) in the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation CyBC. The work carried out so far by the Choir includes concerts in collaboration with the choir of Alexandroupoli Municipality (1998) and Kalymnos (1998-1999). These events were carried out within the cultural exchanges under the twinning Protocol of the two cities with the Municipality of Lakatamia.

The Choir has also participated in the eleventh International Choral Festival of Malta (1999), in the International Festival of Edipsos, Greece (2001), and in concerts dedicated to the Greek composers Mikis Theodorakis (2000) and Manos Hatzidakis (2003). Furthermore, every year the Choir organizes the Pancyprian Choral Festival with choirs and music groups from all over Cyprus.

2.1.5.5 Choir of Nicosia Municipality

Nicosia Municipality is the metropolitan municipality of Greater Nicosia. Nicosia, known locally as Lefkosia, is the capital and the largest city in Cyprus. After the collapse of the Berlin wall it remains the only divided capital in the world, with the North part occupied by Turkish troops. It is located near the centre of the island, on the banks of the Pedieos River.

The Choir of Nicosia Municipality was founded in November 2004. Mr Koullis Theodorou is the conductor and Savvas Savva the pianist. The Choir's repertoire includes songs mainly by Greek composers as well as traditional Cypriot songs. Every year, the Choir takes part in the Christmas festivities which are organized by the Municipality of Nicosia and the traditional Easter Celebrations in the Linear Park.

The Choir has given numerous performances, some of them quite outstanding; for instance, in 2005 the Choir participated in the Choral Festival of Nicosia area with two concerts entitled 'Legends, fairy tales and other stories', in Nicosia and Limassol. In

2006, the Choir cooperated with the French Choir 'Chypre en Coeur' in a concert in Nicosia. During the International Festival 'Kypria', the choir presented the show 'In the footsteps of the singer Geronimos' which took place in the Municipal Theater of Strovolos. The Symphonic Orchestra of Bulgaria State Radio participated in the same event, under the director Metodi Matakiev. In 2008 the Choir held two concerts dedicated to Vassilis Tsitsanis⁶ and George Zampetas⁷, in the Municipality of Nafplio during the celebrations of the Cyprus Republic. In the following year the Choir participated in the recording of the disc 'In the footsteps of the singer Geronymos'. In the same year they took part in the choral Festival of Mesa Geitonia Municipality and in July it performed in the International Choral Festival in Prague.

In May 2010, the Choir held a concert called 'Greek Composers', a tribute to Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Kouyioumtzis, and Stavros Xarchakos. In August of the same year, they participated in the Choral Festival Verona Garda Estate in Italy. Moreover, in September they participated in the concert dedicated to 'Stavros Kouyioumtzis and Stavros Xarchakos'.

The Choir participated in the International Choral Festival Music Reisen Faszination which was held in Tuscany Italy, in July, 2011. In November the same year they performed in the concert 'Memorable Days' which took place in Pallas Theater, Nicosia. In September 2012, the Choir performed in the event 'Cypriot Poets' held in the city of Nicosia.

Koullis Theodorou – choir conductor of Choir of Nicosia Municipality – was born in Nicosia. The multifaceted world of music enables the artist to deal with various branches of musical art, as a singer, composer and producer. He composes for television productions, the theatre and the cinema. Many of his works have been published in local newspapers and magazines.

⁷ He was a Greek songwriter and bouzouki player. He became one of the leading Greek composers of his time and is widely regarded as one of the founders of modern Rebetika. Tsitsanis wrote more than 500 songs and is still remembered as an extraordinary bouzouki player.

⁸ He was a Greek music composer, singer and one of the greatest bouzouki artists of all times.

His performances in Cyprus and abroad present the work of Cypriot artists as well as of artists who have marked Greek discography with their work. Some of his most important work during the period 1989 until today includes amongst other things the concerts he gave in 1989 to the whole of Cyprus with the oratorio of the Cypriot composer Stelios Tsolias,, his participation as a composer and a singer (1994) in the production of the CD “Ton Athanaton” (The Immortals) together with the well-known Greek singer George Ntalaras, the singer Michalis Christodoulides and the Choir Diastasis. Furthermore, in July of the same year, with the same artists he took part in two major concerts given for Cyprus in the ancient theatre “The Odeon of Herodes Atticus⁸”, under the direction of Michalis Kakoyiannis. In 2000, together with George Ntalaras and the choir Diastasis, Koullis Theodorou performed in a major concert dedicated to Odysseas Elytis⁹ and George Seferis¹⁰ which took place in the “Freedom Stadium”, Nicosia. Three years later, in 2003, he performed the work of Yannis Markopoulos ‘The Free Besieged’ with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra. Furthermore, in the same year he cooperated with the Turkish director Dervis Zaim, for the music of the film ‘Camur’ (Mud), which won the award for CIST-UNESCO in the 60th International Film Festival of Venice, Italy. In August, 2004 Mr Theodorou gave a concert in the Park Pedion tou Areos¹¹ as part of the celebrations for the Olympic Games and during the same year he took over the Choir of Nicosia Municipality as an art director. Moreover, over the following years he gave concerts in various countries all over the World, including, Buenos Aires (2005), Sidney (2005), Luxembourg (2005), London (2006), Athens (2007), Melbourne (2009).

In October 2010, he performed in a concert with the distinguished Cypriot pianist Savvas Savva, for the Cyprus Press and Information Office dedicated to the 50 years Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic of Cyprus. In 2011 he took over the editing

⁹ The Odeon of Herodes Atticus is a stone theatre structure located on the south slope of the Acropolis of Athens. It was built in 161 AD by the Athenian magnate Herodes Atticus in memory of his wife, Aspasia Annia Regilla. It was used as a venue for music concerts with a capacity of 5,000.

¹⁰ Odysseas Elytis (November 2, 1911 – March 18, 1996) was regarded as a major exponent of romantic modernism in Greece and the world. In 1979 the Nobel Prize in Literature was bestowed on him.

¹¹ George Seferis (March 13, 1900 – September 20, 1971). He was one of the most important Greek poets of the 20th century, and a Nobel laureate. He was also a career diplomat in the Greek Foreign Service, culminating in his appointment as Ambassador to the UK, a post which he held from 1957 to 1962.

¹² Pedion tou Areos is one of the largest parks in Athens. The park was designed in 1934 and its purpose was to honour the heroes of the Greek revolution of 1821, 21 of whom are depicted in marble busts standing in the park.

and presentation of the weekly TV show 'Early Saturday evening' of the CyBC. In 2012 he composed the music for the TV series 'Cypriot skits' of the CyBC.

During Koullis Theodorou's successful music career, in the years 1994-2010, he recorded twelve records such as, 'The Immortals', 1994, with George Dalaras, Michalis Christodoulides, Dimitris Lagios and the group of Diastasis, 'When it rains in August' which refers to the second invasion of the Turkish troops in 1974, the CD 'Early in the Morning' which contains Cypriot dialect poems set to music and 'Assembly' a record meeting with the great pianist Savvas Savva and Greek composers' songs. It should also be mentioned that his CD 'The immortals' went gold in 1994 as well as his participation in the CD 'When we fall in Love' in 2006. Furthermore, Mr Theodorou received an honorary award from the Cyprus Students and Youth Association in 1997, from the Chief of the National Guard of Cyprus Evaggelos Florakis, for his contribution to the National Guard (2002), from the occupied Municipality of Famagusta in 1998 and 2003 for his creative contribution to the Municipality and in 2010 he also received an honorary recognition from the House of Representatives for his contribution to Cyprus culture.

2.1.5.6 Choir of Strovolos Municipality

The Municipality of Strovolos was established in 1986 and is the second largest Municipality in Cyprus after Limassol, with a population of over 60.000 inhabitants. Is located near the center of the island and is one of the nine municipalities of greater Nicosia.

The choir of Strovolos Municipality commenced its activities in September 1991. The teacher and cultural director is Mr. Stelios Karaolis, while Ms Elena Aristodemou is the pianist. The mixed choir of the Municipality has fifty members.

Since its inception and over the course of twenty years, the Choir has set great targets, such as jazz music in the field of choral music, the broader music education development in the Municipality's society, to maintain and continue the musical heritage of our country, as well as the collaboration with other cultural organizations within Cyprus and abroad. These objectives have been achieved to the highest possible level.

Its repertoire includes songs that cover a wide range of Éntekhno Greek songs by acclaimed Cypriot, Greek and foreign composers, local and Greek folk music, religious music, and works inspired by their struggles for freedom and justice for Cyprus.

The Choir's most important milestones during its twenty years of operation have been the grand concerts dedicated to the great Greek composers of the 60's, (Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Xarchakos), and the concert dedicated to folk music which covered a wide range of broader Greek folk music, traditional songs and musical flashbacks in Greek song.

In 2001, the Choir recorded and published a CD with twelve songs from its rich repertoire, in celebration of the ten years since its establishment. In 2006, the Municipal choir of Strovolos released a CD which had been recorded during the choir's concert dedicated to Manos Hatzidakis.

Other major events were the tributes to Mikis Theodorakis (2005) on the occasion of his eightieth birthday, in collaboration with Manolis Mitsias and his orchestra, to Manos Hatzidakis (2006), in collaboration with the Cypriot artist Nicola Stylianou, to the 'National Palin-genesis' and the 'Easter' (2008), in cooperation with Lakis Xalkias, as well as the Rebetiko song in co-operation with the Colors Orchestra.

The Choir had the opportunity to gain experience through its participation in the World Choir Olympics in Bremen, Germany and in Graz, Austria, in which the Choir won the silver medal in its category. Moreover, in October 2009 they participated with great success in the Choral Festival in Salerno, Italy.

In addition, the Choir went to take part in various Choral Festivals in Greece - Thessaloniki, Veria, Pefki, Koropi, Rhodes and Crete. It also participated in the Choral Festival organised by Strovolos Municipality and other Municipalities and associations all over Cyprus (Limassol, Larnaca, Lakatamia, Pafos, Pralimni, Dherynia, Mesa Geitonia, Polemidhia, Aglantzia Dhali PA.SY.DY)

In May 2011 the Choir celebrated its twenty years of creative path on a grand scale with a concert including popular songs the Cypriot and Greek repertoire, accompanied by a music group. The Municipal choir in collaboration with the Traditional

Youth Orchestra participated in a charity concert with the proceeds going to support charitable organizations; the repertoire included Greek traditional and Éntekhno songs.

2.1.6 District of Pafos

2.1.6.1 Pafos Municipality ‘Musical group of Pafos’

Pafos is a coastal city in the southwest of Cyprus and is the capital of Paphos District. The Musical Group of Pafos was founded in October 1986 by the musician Sotiris Karagiorgis, who is the current conductor of the Group’s Choir. The Choir members are mainly citizens of Pafos Municipality and participate in the choir altruistically for their love of music.

The aim of the Group is to promote choral music and to contribute to the struggle for freedom, democracy and justice in Cyprus. The backbone of the music’s stimuli is the local and broader traditional Greek music and compositions written by prominent Greek and foreign composers.

From the day it was founded, the Musical Group of Pafos has participated in all noteworthy events organized locally and nationwide. The Group have given concerts and taken part in various choral and other festivals in Cyprus, Greece (Preveza, Heraklion, Mytilene, Thessaloniki, St. Paraskevi, Tripoli, Nea Makri, Pefki, Lamia) and Europe (Hungary, Malta, Germany).

In October 1999, in collaboration with the Handorfer Kantorai Choir of Munster, Germany and the Symphonic Orchestra of Cyprus, the Group participated in three performances of Josef Haydn’s Oratorio “The Creation” which were organized within the context of the Kypria International Festival, 1999.

Since 2008, the Group has also organized annual concerts entitled “The Musical Group of Pafos Sings...” compositions by great Modern Greek composers such as Mikis Theodorakis, Manos Hatzidakis, Stavros Xarchakos.

Furthermore, since 1988 the Musical Group of Pafos has been the regular organizer of the Cypriot Choral Festival of Pafos, in which overseas choirs take part in the context of choir exchanges with other choirs from abroad.

Sotiris Karagiorgis – choir conductor of ‘Musical group of Pafos’ – was born on the 29th of January, 1948, in Tsada a small village near the town of Pafos, Sotiris

Karagiorgis was first influenced by his father George Karagiorgis, who was an excellent lute player.

After he finished his national service in the army in 1968, his love for music guided him to the National Conservatory of Athens and the following year to the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki. In the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki, he had the opportunity to have as teachers the great Cypriot composers and conductors Solonas Michaelides and Andreas Charalampous. He graduated from the State Conservatory of Thessaloniki in Harmony, Education in Music, Counterpoint and the harmonization of wind instruments. After his studies, he returned to Cyprus, where he was employed as a music teacher in high schools of the city and province of Pafos. Moreover, he started organizing orchestras, giving concerts, and began composing music for ancient Greek tragedies with the memorable Chrisanthos Kakogianni. He composed music with lyrics by Andreas Markidis, Kostas Barnalis, Theodosios Pieridis, Tefkros Anthias and he performed concerts. Additionally, he wrote music based in the Cypriot Tragedy by Chrisanthos Kakogiannis entitled 'Blessed land' (Gi Makaria). Later, he continued his studies in the Greek Conservatory with Andreas Charalampous and he took the degree of Fugue.

He worked with the Satirical Theatre, composing music for serious theatre such as 'The villagers of Dario Fo', for comedies 'Ornithes kai Lisistrati of Aristofanis', 'Don Quixote' and for Children act, 'The magic tree', 'Tembelchanas and Koutornitho', 'O Agganistos', and 'The barrel with the honey'. Also, he collaborated with E.T.H.A.L¹² of Limassol with the comedy 'We lost the uncle stop ...' and with 'ΔΗΠΕΘΕ' of Ioannina – Greece with the production 'Don Quixote'. In October 1986 he created the Choir of Musical Group of Pafos. He participated, together with the Choir, in all important cultural events of Pafos Municipality and Festivals in Cyprus and abroad. Also, he worked together with various organizations and associations with the involvement of the choir. He is the initiator of the Pancyprian annual Choral Festival of Paphos at which choirs from Cyprus and other places all over the world are hosted.

In summer of 2008, he started the composition of music for the poems written by the national hero Evagoras Palikaridis and in May the next year he released the CD 'At

¹³ Limassol Theatre Company Growth.

the edge of the Sky', with the participation of his Choir. One year later, he wrote the music for the poems written for Archbishop Kyprianos, in a production at the Holy Monastery of Machairas, which was released in 2012, entitled 'Kyprianos, the witness of faith and fatherland'.

2.2 Choirs of the Universities

2.2.1 Mixed Choir University of Nicosia

The mixed choir of the Music Department of the University of Nicosia was founded in 2006 with the inauguration of the Department, and since 2007 it has performed under the direction of Solonas Kladas.

The choir is composed mainly of students of the Music Department of the University and of others with the approval of the conductor. Its repertoire includes works of all periods of music. In 2008, the choir presented the first implementation of Faidros Kavallaris work "Aphrodite Kyprogennia" (Venus Born in Cyprus) within the framework of the Cyprus International Film Festival 2008. During the same year the work was presented twice in the UNESCO Theatre in Paris, following an invitation by the French Cultural Centre in Cyprus and the Leventis Foundation. In 2009 the choir participated in the International Choral Festival Competition «Praga Cantat 2009» in which it won the second prize and silver medal in women's choir. In 2010 the choir participated in the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the Cyprus Cultural Heritage Institute and in 2011 it participated in the closing ceremony of the 10th International Film Festival in Cyprus.

Also noteworthy is its participation in the closing of the International Festival 'Cypria 2012' with the presentation of the play 'Oresteia of Aeschylus' of Yiannis Xenakis.

2.3 Various Choirs

2.3.1 'ARIS' Limassol Choir

The choir of Aris was established in 1938 by the distinguished Cypriot composer Solon Michaelides who was its conductor until 1956, when he left to take over the National Orchestra of Thessaloniki, Greece. In 1962, the choir made a new start under the direction of Marinos Mitellas, who has been its permanent conductor and director since then.

From the day of its foundation the choir has consistently served quality music. Its repertoire is wide and includes all kinds of choral music from classical to folkloric. The choir has given numerous performances in Cyprus and abroad and has received excellent reviews. It has been widely recognised by the public and is seen as an exceptional music group. Besides the numerous performances the choir has held in Greece, it has also performed in Germany, Poland, Bulgaria, France, Austria, Belgium, Holland where it participated in the famous Festival of Choral Music in Arnhem and in the United Kingdom, where it performed in the world famous Wales Llangollen Eisteddfod.

The Choir has also given two important performances in collaboration with the Greek composer Yiannis Makropoulos in his works "Eleftheroi Poliorkimenoï" (Free Besieged) and "H litourgia tou Orfea" (Orpheus Liturgy) in Vienna, Paris, Brussels, Utrecht, Bruges and in Athens (Music Palace and the ancient theatre Odeon of Eroses Atticus) and in Thessaloniki. The Liturgy of Orpheus was recorded live in Vienna.

During its long history in choral music the Choir had performed with other musical and choral groups, pianists, soloists, state and symphonic orchestras; it has also, worked with, amongst others, the Bonn University's Symphonic Orchestra in the performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony in Bonn, Amsterdam and Cyprus, the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, the Symphonic Orchestra of Athens and Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT), Mantolinata Niedderkassell, Germany and the Cyprus State Youth Orchestra.

In Cyprus and Germany, in collaboration with the baritone Pieris Zarma the Choir has also given performances with classical songs, parts from operas, compositions of

Greek composers and Cypriot songs. Furthermore it has performed works with a number of conductors, such as Tamara Brooks, Horst Noeman, Emil Platen, Alkis Baltas, Giorgos Kotsonis, Michalis Rozakis, Mikis Theodorakis, Yiannis Markopoulos, Marios Tokas, Bambis Pramateftakis, Ayis Ioannides and Marinos Tyrimos.

The Choir has recorded six albums of works of Cypriot and Greek composers. The recent work of Yiannis Markopoulos has been included in the recording “Orpheus’ Liturgy”. The Choir’s latest CD was recorded live in the summer of 2006 during a concert with The Mandolinata of Niederkassal in the Limassol Municipal Garden Theatre.

The Choir also collaborated with the incomparable composer Marios Tokas, in one of his most significant works, “Theogennitor Maria” (Maria God’s Mother). In 2008 the Choir worked with George Theophanous, with his work “I sing for my Island” which was presented in Cyprus and Greece and included lyrics of Cypriot poets related to the history of Cyprus.

In addition, the Choir participated in the Operas “Fidelio”, “Ekaterina Cornaro” the Requiem, “Messiahs”, “Missa Solemnis” and “Carmina Burana” and also performed parts of the operas “Aida” “Magig Flute”, “Troubadours” and “Nabouco”. Every three years the Choir organizes a choral festival, in which choirs from France, Italy, Bosnian – Herzegovina and Greece have participated. Among the Choir’s regular activities is its participation in the Sunday Church Service once a month.

Solonas Michaelides (1905-1979), one of Cyprus’s greatest musicians and composers, was born in Nicosia and studied music in the Trinity College of London and at the Ecole Normal and Schola Cantorum of Paris. His music career started in 1934 with the foundation of the Limassol Odeon, for which he was the conductor until 1956. His first performances took place in 1935 and the repertoire included works of Corelli, Beethoven, Shubert, Wagner, Grieg as well as two of his own compositions, “The Cypriot Wedding” and “The flute”. At the same time he founded the Limassol Music Association and the first Symphonic Orchestra in 1938. In 1939 he founded the Aris Choir of Limassol.

During the years 1941 – 1956 he worked as a music teacher in Lanitio Gymnasium of Limassol. In 1957 he was appointed director of the National Odeon of Thessaloniki and the Symphony Orchestra of Northern Greece. During his long career he conducted in concerts in Greece, Europe and the United States of America. He participated in music conferences and he used to be a member of International Contests Committees.

He was awarded the Order of the Phoenix medal for his outstanding contribution to music. Furthermore, he was honoured by the Music Academy of Athens and for his book Encyclopaedia of Ancient Greek Music, a remarkable composition which includes operas, cantatas, chamber music, orchestral compositions and compositions of various instruments.

Marinos Mitellas – choir conductor of 'ARIS' Limassol Choir – was born in Limassol in 1938 and graduated the Greek Gymnasium of Limassol. His music teacher was the well-known Solona Michaelide who inspired his love for and devotion to music and his great contribution to Choral music and Musical Education generally in Cyprus.

He continued his music studies in Athens and upon his return to Cyprus he was employed as a music teacher in Secondary Education, where he worked with commitment inspiring his pupils with his love of music and especially choral music, until his retirement as a Headmaster.

In 1961 he successfully revived the Aris Choir through which he raised the standards of choral music in Cyprus. This was achieved with the teaching and performance of demanding works both locally and abroad which gave him and the choir popular recognition. He continues to be the conductor and the leader of the Choir. He has been honoured on numerous occasions for his contribution to choral music and musical education; by the Municipality of Limassol, the Political party of AKEL, the Amathusia Rotary Club of Limassol and the cultural organizations of Nemesos and Epilogi. He has also been awarded the Prize of Literature and Arts of the Republic of Cyprus.

Mr Mitellas has been a member of several musical committees of CyBC radio and tv station, of the Limassol Municipality and the Ministry of Education and Culture. Now he is a member of the Council of the Symphonic Orchestra of Cyprus.

2.3.2 Cultural Association ‘DIASTASIS’

The Cultural Association Diastasis was founded in 1984 by a group of people who loved arts and music and wanted to achieve their artistic visualization and expectations. With its establishment, Diastasis developed and still preserves two groups, the vocal ensemble, which has 45 members and the dance team 20 members. Following its successful activity, two more parts of the association were created in October 1998 and December 1997, “The Children’s Choir” with 50 members and “The Teens’ Dance Group.

The association has completed twenty seven years of hard work and contribution to arts and culture. The goals set by the association, which were the achievement of high standards, have been achieved. The development of the groups for children and teenagers has given young people the opportunity to promote their talent in music and dance, to improve their knowledge of arts and music, to meet others and participate in healthy activities thus avoiding undesirable habits or pastimes.

Furthermore, the two groups for adults, choir and dance, offer the opportunity to young artists and musicians to create and demonstrate their talent and become well-known to the audience of Cyprus and other Countries. Unfortunately, for the moment, Cyprus is unable to support these young artists to the extent which they expect. The association has given numerous successful performances in Cyprus and abroad, giving the message that a small Island is able to offer high quality entertainment. The press has reported extensively on its performances and has written excellent reviews concerning the high standard of its performances.

One of the most important milestones of Diastasis is its cooperation with one of the most talented Greek composers, Demetris Lagios, who passed away at an early age. This great artist and composer worked with Diastasis in many performances such as “Ina Ti” (For what), “Kypros - Ayia Pathi” (Cyprus – Holy Passion) “Ammohostos Glykeia Politia” (Famagusta – Sweet Town) and “Ton Athanaton” (The Immortals).

After his death, Diastasis went on to cooperate with another remarkable Cypriot composer, Michalis Christodoulides with excellent results. Their performances were based on the history and the struggles of Cyprus for justice and freedom. They include the plays “Krifoi Anemoi (Secret Winds), “Kypros tou Halkou kai tis Thalassas” (Cyprus – Country of Copper and the Sea)” Kypros Esai” (Cyprus for Ever) and “Eis Gin Enalian Kypron” (To Cyprus).

The Cooperation of Diastasis with George Dalaras is also of major importance, with performances based on the Cyprus Issue given in all the Towns of Cyprus, Europe and the United States of America. Through the performances they promoted the struggles of Cyprus for justice and freedom. The most notable of their performances took place in the ancient theatre Odeon of Erodes Atticus in 1994 under the direction of Michalis Kakoyiannis.

The influential presence of Diastasis in the musical activities of Cyprus, concludes a number of successful performances such as: “Nine Music Pictures” composed by Manos Hadjidakis, “Untitled” with Costas Hadjis, “Musical Moments” and “Musical Moments 2”, “Peripatos stin odo Oniron” (Walk in the dream road) composed by Manos Hadjidakis, which took place in the Royal Theatre of London with the famous Nana Mouskouri as a guest singer, “Cinema on Stage”, the performance “60 years Music Magic of Walt Disney” which was presented in the contest of the European Festival in 1998, the performances “Oliver”, “Cats”, and “Les Miserables” based on the musicals of the same name, “Magic Night” in collaboration with the Osipov National Folk Instruments Orchestra, Moscow and “The Sound of Waves” which took place in the ancient amphitheatre of Kourion in Limassol in 2001.

Furthermore, on the occasion of completing 20 years of life and service, Diastasis gave the performance “Musical Moments 3” with the collaboration of Deborah Meyers, Doros Demosthenous, Riana Athanasiou and the soloists of the Kremlin Symphonic Orchestra under the direction of Pavel Ovsyannikov.

Diastasis has also participated in various events and festivals in Greece, such as Athens, Ithaki, Zakynthos, Crete, as well as in Cuba. It has also presented performances based on the History and the civilisation of Cyprus, in London, Paris, Moscow, New York, Hamburg, Berlin and St. Petersburg.

Many of its performances were given in support of charity organisations such as the starving Ethiopian Children, The Cyprus Red Cross, for Children with Special Needs and for the Children of Lebanon.

During the celebrations of its 25 years of musical existence, in 2009, Diastasis, presented seven performances, “Cyprus Love and the Sea” in collaboration with the dance group of the association and the Cultural Dance Group “Dionysus” which represented Cyprus in the International Tourist Exhibition of Moscow; The Children’s Choir performed songs from Old Greek Films and presented the work of the memorable composer Demetris Lagios; The Children’s Choir participated in the festivities for the beginning of the Games of the Small States of Europe in Nicosia; In August 2009 all the Choirs of Diastasis performed the work “Musical Moments for Ever” in collaboration with the 21st Century Orchestra of Moscow and in October of the same year, they gave a concert in St. Petersburg. The celebrations ended with the retrospective performance which took place in Rialto Theatre of Limassol, with George Dalaras as a guest singer.

Other important performances of the choir association are; “The songs of our soul” under the direction of Vasos Argyrides, which was presented in Nicosia, Limassol and Paralimni, in 2010, and was also recorded on compact disc; “the Beatles with Diastasis” in 2010, the performance was dedicated to the legendary band “the Beatles” under the direction of Andreas Giorgallis; “The Holy Passion” in 2011, which included two performances and was presented in Isaac’s Temple and Smolni Theatre in St. Petersburg, under the direction of Vasos Argyrides. In 2011, the successful performance “The songs of our soul” was also presented in The European Council, Brussels, with the participation of the singers G. Dalaras, M. Zorbala and K. Hadjichristodoulou.

Vasos Argyrides – choir conductor of ‘DIASTASIS’ choir – comes from Limassol where he still lives and works. He studied composition and instrumentation in Tchaikovsky’s National Conservatory, in Moscow. His Symphony “Cyprus Pictures” has been interpreted by the National Orchestra of Moscow which earned him the title Master of Fine Arts. In 1990 his opera “Manolis...!” (from the play of the same name by George Neofytou), which took place in Pfalztheater Kaiserslautern, Germany, enjoyed great

success and received excellent reviews. The same opera was performed in Cyprus by the Music Academy of Hamburg under a completely different production. Furthermore, these two compositions of Vasos Argyrides have been published in CD.

Mr Argyrides has composed music for more than thirty theatrical plays, in collaboration with the Theatrical Organization of Cyprus and other Theatrical Organizations. In November 1986 he represented Cyprus in Thessaloniki Biennale of Contemporary Art while in 1992 his music for ballet "Journey" was performed by the Cypriot dance group "Roes" in Marseille Biennale, France. He has also composed music for two films of Andreas Pantzis and for two documentaries for the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT) based on the visits of George Seferis to Cyprus. The music he composed for the movie "Homeland alone in the air and the sea" of Antis Roditis was awarded the gold medal at the International Movie Festival of Houston.

Vasos Argyrides also won the Best Music Prize in the Movies Festival of Drama in 1993 and his music for the play "Richness" of Aristofanis received the Best Music Prize in the PanHellenic Theatre contest of 2000. He is a member of the Greek Musicians Union. Mr Argyrides has worked with the Cultural Association "Diastasis" and other artistic groups of Cyprus and has also collaborated in music discography and concerts with many famous Greek artists, some of whom have also interpreted his songs. In addition to music for the theatre and movies, he has composed music for song cycles for lyrics of famous poets Odysseus Elytis, Dionisis Karatzas, Costas Fasoulas and Pampis Anagiotos.

In September 2005 he composed a great suite based on Stavros Xarchako's compositions, which was presented by the Osipov National Folk Instruments Orchestra Moscow, in the ancient theatre Odeon of Erodes Atticus, In the context of Athens Festival.

In October 2007 he participated in the International Festival Kypria 2007 with the famous Symphonic Orchestra "21st Century" of Moscow and Nena Venetsanou where he presented his adaptations (διασκευές) of Traditional Cypriot music and the lyrics of Odysseus Elytis. This concert was also performed in the New Opera Theatre of Moscow and the Academic Capella of St. Petersburg. In November 2008 the concert was presented by National Philharmonic of Kiev, Ukraine and in February of the following

year in Cadogan Hall of London by the Symphonic Orchestra of Oxford. His work “The Treasured Land” which includes his adaptations of Traditional Cypriot Music for Great Symphonic Orchestra has been recorded with great success.

The musical program of the festivities for the beginning of the 2008 Games of the Small States of Europe in Nicosia was also directed by him and he is also the composer of the official song of the games performed by Marios Frangoulis. Following that, he continued his collaboration with Marios Frangoulis and the Symphonic Orchestra “21st Century” of Moscow, with concerts in Cyprus and other concerts in Ukraine and Russia with other orchestras. Moreover, he was the arts director of many important events of “Diastasis”.

In the context of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Cyprus Republic he gave a grand concert in the New Opera of Moscow. The repertoire included his music and songs, presented by the Osipov National Folk Instruments Orchestra of Moscow and the soloists Margarida Zombala, Vakia Stavrou and Alexander Zaharov.

During the visit of the Russian Federation President, Dimitry Medventev, he undertook the artistic direction of the concert given in the Presidential Palace of Cyprus. His collaboration with the Osipov National Folk Instruments Orchestra and George Ntalaras, continued in 2011 with the work “The love songs of Greeks” in a tour in Russia, Cyprus and Israel.

Adriana Sergidou studied in Lancaster UK, where she received the Bachelor of Music (Hons) having as professors John Clegg in piano and Denis McCaldin in conducting. After receiving the scholarships of Philip Andrews and Music Department Studentship, she received the Master in Music in Conducting and Analysis in the same University.

She conducted the choir and the Symphonic Orchestra of the University during her studies, in compositions of famous composers such as the Requiem by Faure, The Requiem by Durufle, Choral Fantasy by Beethoven and the Brandenburg concerti by Bach.

In 1995 she was employed by the Ministry of Education as a Music Teacher in Secondary Education. In the same year she took over the Children’s Choir and also founded the Chamber Choir of the Municipal School of Music in Limassol.

She worked part time in the Symphonic Orchestra of Cyprus, as an external partner of the music association of the Technical University of Cyprus. Furthermore, she also founded the Women's Vocal Quartet and worked as an Orchestra conductor in the Music School of Limassol. She participates as a pianist in concerts with music groups and choirs in Cyprus and abroad.

Ms Sergidou collaborated with the Choirs of the Cultural Association "Diastasis", Aris in Limassol, Pnevmatiki Stegi of Nicosia, the Limassol Literary Society and the Choir of PA.SY.DY.

2.3.3 'EMMELIA' Choir

The choir "Emmelia" was founded in February 2004 by Ms Eleni Kyprianou who has been its conductor since that time.

Emmelia was launched with the two groups: Children and Youth (similar and mixed voices). In September 2007 the Mixed Adult Group was formed and in September 2009 the Youth group evolved into the Juvenile Girls Group.

The Choir's repertoire includes international choral classic works from the Renaissance period to the 20th and the 21st centuries and new editions of Greek-Cypriot folk and Éntekhno

During its eight years of existence the Choir has participated in various festivals and events organized by assorted local bodies, such as Municipalities, The Technical University of Cyprus, CyBC, Holy Mitropolis of Lemesos, Bulgarians' Association of Cyprus, The Church of St. Stylianos Linopetra Lemesos.

The Choir's most noteworthy activities are: Its video recording in 2004 by the French TV channel Mezzo, its participation in the concerts organised by the Cyprus State Orchestra in February 2005, with works of the Hungarian composer Bela Bartok, under the direction of the Polish conductor Maciej Zoltowski. It cooperated with the Cyprus Lyric Stage Organisation for the performances of the Operas «Hansel und Gretel» (with The Cyprus State Orchestra) «Cavalleria Rusticana» and «I Pagliacci» (National Theatre of Serbia) under the conduction of Zorica Miteva and Dejan Savic. The Choir has also collaborated several times in concerts with the distinguished Cypriot

Soprano Mytilineou Cleo, soloist of the Hungarian State Opera House. In September 2009 the Cypriot Soprano, Mytilineou Cleo, organized master-classes for classical songs in which she taught herself. She also performed the symphonic work of the Composer Andreas Charalampous dedicated to Gregoris Afxentiou¹³.

The Choir has successfully participated in major international choral festivals. The Choir was awarded an honorary distinction in the 7th International Choir Festival of Rhodes, in July 2005, the bronze medal in the 16th International Festival of Advent and Christmas Music, Prague, in December 2006, the silver medal in the International Choral Festival Competition "Praga Cantat" in October 2010. In July 2008, the Choir also participated in the 5th International Choir Games in Graz, Austria.

In the field of Greek music "Emmelia's" most noteworthy activities are its performance in the concert "To minore tis fonis" (The minor scale of voice) with the Greek composer and guitarist Notis Mavroudes, in December 2005, the Concert "M.H. Paron" (Manos Hadjidakis Present) dedicated to the Greek composer Manos Hadjidakis, with the soloist Lia Vishi in May 2008 and the concert "«M' ανθόφυλλα και ρύζι» (With flower leaves and rice) - Tribute to Yiannis Ritsos" in December 2009 with the participation of the Greek singer Costas Thomaidis.

Among the important presentations of the choir is its participation in the event "Cyprus through the ages" at the Curium Ancient Theatre in July 2011, organized by the Holy Metropolis of Lemesos, in which the internationally renowned Cypriot baritone Kyros Patsalides took part.

Also the Choir has so far worked with two choirs from Athens, Greece and has given joint concerts with them in Lemesos: the first in November 2011 with the acclaimed Mixed Choir "Fons Musicalis", under the conduction of Kostis Konstantaras in the "Polyphonic Gathering" concert at the Rialto Theatre and the second in March 2012 with the Mixed Choir of the Kapodistrian University of Athens, with the conductor Nikos Maliaras at the Cultural Centre Panos Solomonides.

A recent event was the choir's participation in the "Formal Cypriots Concert" in Vienna, hosted by the Cultural Center of Cypriots in Vienna, chaired by Cypriot baritone

¹⁴ Grigoris Pieris Afxentiou (1928–1957) was a guerrilla fighter who fought against the British rule of Cyprus and is considered a national hero.

Kyros Patsalides. The concert took place in the famous Music Hall “Musikverein” (Hall of the Friends of Music), room Brahms-Saal. The program included works by Cypriot composers and songs of the Greek Composers Mikis Theodorakis and Manos Hadjidakis. The choir performed under the conduction of Constantine Diminaki with the soloists Cyrus Patsaliidis, Antonis Koroneos (soloist of the National Opera of Athens), the Cypriot soprano Zoe Nikolaidou and the Greek soprano Katerina Kouri.

Eleni Kyprianou – choir conductor of "Emmelia" Choir – is a music teacher and the conductor of “Choir Emmelia”. Ms Kyprianou got her first degree in music education and choir conducting at the Conservatory of Sofia in Bulgaria and her master’s degree in choir conducting and theory of music education and teaching of singing at the Music Academy of Liszt Ferenc in Budapest, Hungary. Her tutors were Anna Belcheva – Bulgaria and Hartyányi Judit, Párkai István and Erdei Péter in Hungary. Since 1996 she has worked as a music teacher in secondary education.

She has cooperated with the Ministry of Education and the Pedagogical Department of Cyprus as a lecturer to teachers of secondary education, including:

1. The training of trainee teachers of the Pedagogical Department of Cyprus, in 1999, in choir conducting and music pedagogy systems – the Kodaly method,
2. The conduct of mandatory training for music teachers (Ministry of Education) in Choir organization in 2000.
3. The conduct of seminars on the subject “Musical Activities – Another Approach” in 2004 in two parts “Voice and singing as a means of human expression and “ Music coexistence, musical communication” - Pedagogical Department, 2004.
4. The training of trainee teachers of the Pedagogical Department of Cyprus, in 2005, in choir organization and conducting.
5. The conduct of mandatory training for music teachers (Ministry of Education) in “singing teaching in the classroom” in 2009.
6. Training program for trainee music teachers, of the Pedagogical Department, in 2011, with the sample teaching at the first grade of St. Nicholas School in Limassol, with the topic: "The song in class".

7. The conduct of a series of six, non-mandatory seminars, for music teachers of the Pedagogical Department of Cyprus, during the period of November 2012 to February 2013, on the subject “Choral singing inside and outside the classroom under the NAP Music / techniques of choir conducting”.

She has also been distinguished with the school’s choirs’ participations in the National Music Contests, held in Cyprus during the recent past years, organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture of Cyprus. These are mentioned below:

- The mixed choir of Linopetra High School won the first award in February 2006,
- The mixed choir and the peer voices choir of St Nicholas High School won the first award in 2007 and represented Cyprus in the “Creative Expression Week” held in Athens in April 2007,
- The girls peer voices choir of St. Nicholas High School won the second award in 2008,
- The mixed choir of St. Nicholas High School won the second award in March 2011 and
- The vocal ensemble of the “Archibishop Makarios III – A’ High School” of Paphos won the first award in February 2012.

Since November 2012, she has undertaken the management and conduction of the recently established Musical High School of Paphos.

Furthermore, Ms Kyprianou’s activities as a conductor include her collaboration with Epilogi - Cultural Movement of Limassol, with the creation and direction of the children’s choir (March 1996 - October 2003) and the Mixed Choir (March 2000 - June 2003). During that period she participated with the above choirs in art competitions in Italy – Parma and Greece - Drama, Chalkida Polygyros and Athens (Odeon). In February 2004, Ms Kyprianou founded the Cultural Group “Choir Emmelia” on her own initiative and has been the conductor of the choral ensembles since then.

As conductor of the Choir Emmelia, she collaborated with the Cyprus State Opera and the Polish Conductor Maciei Zoltowski, in February 2005, the Greek Composer and Guitarist Notis Mavroudes , the Greek – Cypriot soprano Maria Papaioannou and others, as previously mentioned, in the activities of “Choir Emmelia”. Moreover, she has been accepted for participation at the International Master class – Choir Conducting Academy 2013, which will be held in the town of Radom of Poland in July 2013.

Ms Kyprianou's wider cultural activities include her participation as presenter at the Classical Music Festival "Berengaria" in April 2004.

She was a member of the Board of Directors of the Rialto Theatre in Limassol for the years 2000- 2003.

She is also a member of the musicological group International Kodaly Society of Budapest and participated in the meetings held in July 1999 in Kecskemet, Hungary, in July 2001 in Helsinki, Finland and in August 2009 in Katowice, Poland.

2.3.4 'EPILOGI' Limassol Cultural Movement

Epilogi was founded in 1992 by a group of mainly cultured and artistic people whose aim was to fulfil the need for a vibrant cultural life in the town of Limassol and make a contribution to society in general. It is a non-profit making organization, which is governed by a 15-member board. Chairman of the committee is Mr Costas Constantinou, and the Artistic Director is Mrs. Angelina Nikolaidou-Spanou.

Nowadays, Epilogi is one of the largest cultural organizations in Cyprus with more than 250 active members, mainly young. The organization has four choirs, "Choral Workshop", "Children's Choir", "Youth Choir" and "Mixed Choir".

The Cultural Movement Epilogi is an active member of the European Choral Association-Europa Cantat, Jeunesses Musicales International, Anna Lindh Foundation, The National Network of Cyprus, the Association of Limassol Cultural Organizations. The organization is supported by the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Co-operative Savings Bank of Limassol, OPAP, the Cyprus Youth Board and many others. Since 2010 its programs have been supported by the European Cultural Foundation, the European Youth Foundation of the European Council, the "Youth in Action" and "Culture 2007-2013" programmes of the European Union.

Epilogi has participated in many festivals, concerts, annual art competitions for young talents and other events directly related to literature, with a large audience. The choirs of "Epilogi" have also participated in International contests and have won prizes and medals, including the "Grand Prix St. Petersburg 2009 – III" and the "World Choir Festival and Slovakia Cantat 2010" in Bratislava.

Through international cultural exchanges, “Epilogi” has had the opportunity to cooperate with choirs and other cultural institutions throughout Europe and the Middle East.

2.3.4i Choral Workshop

Started in 2007, the Choral Workshop is addressed to children aged between 5 and 9, its teachers being experienced conductors Angelina Nikolaidou – Spanou and Christina Krasidou. One of its aims is to encourage young children to develop their artistic talent and be able to present it to children of their own age. They also participate, together with the Children’s choir, in the annual concerts organized by Epilogi.

2.3.4ii Children’s Choir ‘EPILOGI’ (LCSB)

The Children’s Choir was founded in 1996 and is the first of the four choirs of Epilogi. Conductor of the choir since 2003 is Mrs. Angelina Nicolaidou-Spanou. In 2000 the Choir was renamed to Children’s Choir Epilogi. Limassol Co-operative Savings Bank (LCSB) as the LCSB is one of the main financial supporters of the association. The Children’s Choir has approximately sixty members aged from 8-13 years.

The Choir’s repertoire includes a wide range of works from the Renaissance to contemporary music, works by Greek and Cypriot composers, as well as arrangements of traditional songs.

During its seventeen years of life the Choir has performed in numerous contests and musical events both locally and abroad. Besides its presentations in Greece, the Choir has performed in Italy, Hungary, Serbia and France. In Christmas 2006 it represented Cyprus in the European Choral Festival “Noel in Alsace” in Strasburg, France. Also, the Choir was awarded the bronze medal for its performance at the International Choral Contest of Prague in December 2007.

In the framework of its International collaborations, the Choir has worked with distinguished conductors and orchestras including the Budapest Concert Orchestra with Notis Georgiou (Kypria International Festival 2007 – Carmina Burana), the Cyprus

Symphony Orchestra with Viacheslav Volich (in December 2008 - presenting John Rutter's "Mass of the Children") and HGM Jazz Orchestra Zagreb with Sigi Feigl (Jazz Youth Dialogue – 2010).

The Choir is also a member of the European Choral Association-Europa Cantat.

2.3.4iii Youth Choir

The "Epilogi" Youth Choir was founded in 2007 and since then its Artistic Director has been Mrs. Angelina Nicolaidou-Spanou. It has 60 members, between the ages of 14-20, most of them being former members of the "Epilogi" Children's Choir. Its repertoire is more or less the same as the Children's Choir. The Youth Choir is a member of "Europa Cantat".

The choir has participated in numerous festivals and music events, and competitions, where the choirs of "Epilogi" were awarded gold, silver or bronze medals, some of which are mentioned below.

One of its first participations was in the production of Carmina Burana, in 2007, at the Kypria International Festival, together with the Budapest Concert Orchestra, Hungarian soloists and the conductor Notis Georgiou.

In 2008, the Choir participated in the Christmas Concerts of the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, presenting John Rutter's "Mass of the Children", with the participation of Cypriot soloists, under the direction of Viacheslav Volich, Conductor of the Symphony Orchestra of the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre of Belarus.

In 2009 the Choir took part in the "GRAND PRIX of ST. PETERSBURG 2009 – III" World Choir Festival and Competition, where it was awarded the Silver Medal in the Youth Choirs Category, and the Gold Medal in the Folklore Category, the first gold medal ever to be won by a Cypriot choir in an international competition. In December 2009, together with the mixed choir of the University of Nicosia, the "Epilogi" Youth Choir held a Concert in Nicosia, under the auspices of the Czech Ambassador in Cyprus, with a repertory of Czech composers.

In another concert dedicated to Marios Mitellas and held at the Rialto Theatre in Limassol, the Choir performed together with the other choral groups of the “Epilogi” Cultural Movement (choral workshop, Children’s Choir, Mixed Choir), as well as the Teachers’ Choir of Komlo, Hungary and ARIS Choir from Limassol. In April 2010 the Choir took part in the 4th Edition of the choral competition “Slovakia Cantat” in Bratislava, where – among 40 choirs from 17 countries - it was awarded the Bronze Medal in the “Musica Sacra a cappella” Category, with the Silver Medal in the Category of Youth Choirs under 21 years, and with the Silver Medal in the “Folklore a cappella” Category.

Its participation in programmes sponsored by “Europa Cantat” led to a transfer of know-how and new ideas and also to the organising of choral programmes in Cyprus, such as the “Choir Crossroads 2011”, which was selected to be co-sponsored by the “Culture 2007-2013” European program.

The participation of Epilogi in the Europa Cantat association and events organized by other international organisations is of utmost importance, because it helps in the gaining of experience and the exchange of ideas and in addition, it promotes our cultural traditions and the artistic creations of young Cypriots.

2.3.4iv Mixed Choir of the “EPILOGI”

The Mixed Choir of Epilogi was founded in March 2000. Its first conductor was Ms Eleni Kyprianou followed by Mr. Nenad Bogdanovic (2003-2009). Today the Choir performs under the conducting of the artistic director of Epilogi Ms. Angelina Nicolaidou-Spanou. It has forty members of all ages, most of whom are amateurs. Its aim is to motivate the people of Limassol and the Suburbs to participate in social and artistic activities and thus to improve their way of life.

Its repertoire includes, amongst others, Greek compositions, arrangements of traditional songs, works from all times of the international choral literature, including contemporary.

During these twelve years of its existence the Choir has participated in a variety of social events and choral festivals in Cyprus and has performed in a number of festivals in Italy, Greece and France.

In addition to the Choir's performance in Greece (Drama 2001, Rhodes 2004, Preveza 2005 and Alexandria Imathias 2007) the Choir participated in the 2008 International Choral Festival of Soave, Italy and at the same time, gave concerts in various churches of the area. In March 2009, the Choir participated in the International Music Festival of Claye-Sully, in France.

Furthermore, the Choir participated in concerts together with a number of well-known choirs such as the mixed choir of Preveza "Armonia", the Female Vocal Ensemble of Patra, the "Viadana" Chamber Choir of Dunaujvaros, Hungary, the Teachers' Choir of Komlo, Hungary and the choir "Aris" Limassol.

Angelina Nicolaidou Spanou – choir conductor of 'EPILOGI' Limassol Cultural Movement – studied music pedagogy, theory, singing and music teaching and choir conducting, in the Liszt Ferenc Academy of Music in Debrecen, Hungary. She had conducting lessons with Sándor Berkesi and theory lessons with Zsolt Szeztay.

After her return to Cyprus in 1995 she was employed by the Ministry of Education of Cyprus as a teacher of music and singing, as well as school choir and orchestra conductor in secondary education.

The school choirs under her direction have been participating since 2006, in the National School Music Games organized annually by the Ministry of Education and have acquired a total of 11 first prizes.

Furthermore, during her career she had presentations and lectures for teaching and choir conducting, in seminars organized by the Cyprus Ministry of Education, the Pedagogical Institute, the University of Cyprus and the Cyprus Institute of Music.

In November 2003 she was promoted to the direction of Epilogi Children's Choir, which she later divided into two groups and formed the musical workshop. Since, May 2007 she has formed and conducts the Epilogi Mixed Youth Choir.

The Children and Youth choirs have successfully participated in various festivals and competitions under her direction, in Serbia, Italy, Slovakia, Greece, France,

Hungary, Germany, Russia and Czech Republic, where they have been awarded a total of six medals, two bronze, three silvers and one gold medal.

As from April 2009 Mrs. Angelina Nicolaidou-Spanou has been delegated the Artistic Director of Epilogi Cultural Movement. Since then she has been the manager and the conductor of the four choral groups of the organization, Musical workshop, Children's Choir, Youth Mixed Choir and Mixed Choir.

2.3.5 Choir 'LEANDROS SITAROS' of Pnevmatiki Stegi, Nicosia

The Choir of Pnevmatiki Stegi, Nicosia, was founded by Leandros Sitaros in 1966 after his return from America where he studied Music Education and Orchestral Conducting. Leandros Sitaros was one of the most important musicians of his period (1927- 1984). During his career he attended music seminars in Eastern Berlin, 1977 and 1979 and in 1979 he won a prize in the UNICEF children's songs competition. He also wrote music for the theatre, songs and three compositions dedicated to the first President of the Republic of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios the Third.

After the death of Leandros Sitaros, Ms Maro Skordi took over as the Choir's conductor. Over the years, the Choir has cooperated with Cypriot and foreign soloists and conductors such as Marios Papadopoulos, Ayis Ioannides, Wayne Bennett, Aleksandar Vujic, Michel Piquemal, Walter Mik, Roland Melia and Notis Georgiou. It has also collaborated with orchestras including the Yugoslavian "Sinfonietta String Orchestra", the French "Bernard Thomas" Orchestra and the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

The Choir has performed in several events organized by the CyBC and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Cultural as well as in other events including the '10th Commonwealth Law Conference', '39th Commonwealth Parliament Conference', the 'International Seminar of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe – OSCE', organized by the Ministry of Exteriors, the 'Human Rights', the '100 years of Cyprus Athletics', 'Kouyoumtzis' with the collaboration of the composer himself and the Thessaloniki Thermaikos Choir .

The Choir has also given concerts with classical repertoires including Requiem by Fauré, Missa Brevis by Mozart, Die Schoepfung by Haydn, and Mass in G by Schubert, Beethoven's 9th Symphony, Haydn's Te Deum and Orff's Carmina Burana. Moreover, it has performed compositions of Greek and Cypriot composers such as Stelios Tsiolas San Ximerosi (When it's dawn'), Christos Philippou 'The Symphonic Epic of 'Digenis Akritas'', Marios Meletiou 'Lemonanthousa mou kira Ammohostos', 'Ode to Ayios Kassianos', Michalis Christodoulides '1955', 'Aphrodite's milk', 'Tribute to Kyriakos Matsis', and Mikis Theodorakis 'Axion Esti', 'Pneumatikon Emvatirion'.

In addition, every year the Choir of "Leandros Sitaros" gives two concerts, a Christmas Concert at the Church of Faneromeni in Nicosia and an Easter Concert at the Byzantine Museum.

Some of the Choir's work has been recorded to CDs, such as 'Christmas songs in Greek', 'Christmas songs 2', 'Kypros' by the composer Aris Aristophanous, the "Epic of Digenis Akritas" by Christos Philippou, "1955" by Michalis Christodoulides, "EOKA Songs" instrumentation by Savvas Savva and the Easter Hymns "Evfrenestho ta Ourania".

The "Leandros Sitaros" Choir participated in the European Choral Competition 'Let the Peoples Sing' organized by BBC (Canada, 1993), as well as in International Conferences, festivals in Cyprus (KYPRIA), Greece (Athens, Peloponnesus, Karditsa, Kifisia, Argyroupoli, Livadia, Thessaloniki, Kefalonia, Corfu, Crete), Hungary (Cegled and Budapest), Czech Republic (Bohemia and Prague), France (Marseilles), Spain (Catalonia), England (Cambridge), Malta, Italy (Venice and Rome) and Austria (Vienna).

2.3.6 'POLYFONIA' Chamber Choir

The "Polyfonia" Chamber Choir was founded in November 2003 by Maro Skordi. The Chamber Choir specializes in "a-capella" music. Its repertoire is extensive and includes traditional songs from various countries, light Greek music, musical's songs, Negro spirituals, Christmas carols and classical music from the medieval times and the Renaissance period to the 21st century. In addition to its participation to other music events, the Chamber Choir organizes two concerts of its own every year.

The Chamber Choir took part in Choral Festivals in Cyprus (Larnaca Christmas Festival, Ayia Napa Medieval Festival, Paralimni Cultural Month) and in other events in collaboration with organizations such as the Goethe Institute, the United Nations, the University of Cyprus and the University of Nicosia. Furthermore, it participated in concerts with the French crossover singer Emma Shapplin and was also one of the basic contributors in “Long Distance Call” by the Dutch composer Merlijn Twalfhoven. Moreover, the Chamber Choir ‘Polyfonia’ performed music by the Cypriot composer Christos Stylianou and participated in KYPRIA 2007 in Michalis Christodoulides composition ‘Kryfoi Anemoi (Hidden Winds) – 40 Years of Creation”. “Polyfonia” has also collaborated with the ‘Okto’ guitar chamber group and the conductors Ayis Ioannides (Bach chorales) and Roland Melia (16th cent. Madrigals, Charpentier: “Messe de Minuit”).

In July 2012 ‘Polyfonia’ gave a concert for the International Society of Music Education Conference in Thessaloniki and in December 2012 it collaborated with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra in the Orchestra’s Christmas Concert with the musical tale ‘The selfish giant’ by Alkis Baltas.

Maro Skordi – choir conductor of Choir ‘LEANDROS SITAROS’ and ‘POLYFONIA’ Chamber Choir – had Mr Dimitris Tirimos as her first piano teacher. Later on she received the Harmony Diploma in National Conservatory of Cyprus (Ethnikon Odeion of Cyprus) under Yiangos Michaelides. She continued her studies at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (Euing prize in History, Form and Analysis), the Jordanhill College of Education and she has the Master’s Degree in Music Education (Institute of Education, University of London).

She worked as Music Teacher and Assistant Headmaster in Secondary Schools, at the Pedagogical Academy of Cyprus, the Department of Education of the University of Cyprus, the Curriculum Development, the Cyprus Pedagogical Institute, the Cultural Services, as Music Inspector in Secondary Education and as Leading Officer of Education at the Ministry of Education and Culture. She also worked as a teacher in the course of Music Education and Internship (University of Cyprus, University of Nicosia and European University, Cyprus).

Her contribution to music development continued with her involvement in various committees for which she was president and member of jury committees locally and abroad (Music Teachers' Association, Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Pancyprrian Gymnasiade, Cyprus Music Committee, International Eidsteddfod, Llangollen, and Wales).

She has taught in seminars and music workshops and has actively participated in many conferences on Music Education in Cyprus and abroad. Ms Skordi launched and presented for the first time in Cyprus, the Cyprus State Orchestra Educational Programs, and Music Education innovations such as 'Artists in schools', 'Educational Concerts', 'District Choirs and Orchestras' and she worked for the setup of the first Music Lyceums in Cyprus (2006).

In addition to conducting the Choir of the University of Cyprus and the Hellenic College of Music Children's Choir, she is the conductor of the Choir "Leandros Sitaros" of Pnevmatiki Stegi, Nicosia, the "Polyfonia" Chamber Choir and the European University Cyprus Choir. In addition, she is the writer of 'Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol I start on a musical journey' and is also the co-writer of the Greek Music books for the first Year of the Gymnasium.

3. Analysis of Questionnaire

The questionnaire has been forwarded by e-mail to the artistic directors and /or the conductors of the active choirs of Cyprus. After I contacted them personally, twelve of them replied. The sample is considered to be representative of the choirs in Cyprus since it includes choirs that previously existed on the Island as well as the more recent ones founded by organised groups / associations and municipalities.

This method of data collection was used as the subject related to a specific sector, musicians and artistic directors. The questionnaire used is open-ended and gave the opportunity to respondents to expand in their answers and focus to a certain extent on their priorities. The questionnaire, which is included as Appendix A, was in multiple languages (Greek and English) and consisted of nineteen questions.

Questions 1–3

Most of the conductors studied in Greece which is a result of the common language and the nationality. Fewer conductors have studied in other European countries such as UK, Czech Republic and Hungary.

Question 4

Six of the respondents did not reply to the question because they are not conductors. Seven of the respondents are conductors. Three of them answered that they had always wanted to become conductors, another three said that they made the decision to become conductors during their studies and one said that he had decided to become a conductor, just before his studies.

Question 5

Seven of the respondents answered that they had chosen this occupation as a result of their love and desire to teach music, two of them studied music because they had been dealing with music since their childhood, one of them said that this was due to the culture of the country where he studied and three of them did not reply to the question.

Question 6

Ten of the thirteen respondents answered that they had conducted during their studies and four of them admitted that they had gained valuable experience through conducting. Furthermore, one explained in detail that he had acquired knowledge, learned how to improve his communication with the choristers, spectators and the organisers, and how to make rehearsals more interesting.

Question 7

Eight of the thirteen respondents have worked abroad in choir conducting.

Questions 8 & 9

Most of the choirs are mixed, one is a children's choir and one is a mixed youth choir. The number of members in the choirs range from 35 to 50, the largest choir having 60 members and the smallest 26.

Question 10

All of the conductors use warming techniques before the rehearsals and some of their replies are given here below:

- The exercises are done in the same order as in any opera voice lesson: Placing voice, sounding vowel formation, staccato, exercises for the aperture of voice extent, etc.
- Breathing Exercises combined with diaphragmatic exercises, cephalic timbre exercises as well as jargon and dynamic choir exercises.
- Various exercises for sound homogeneity, upwards and downwards extension, audio quality improvement, duration etc. Also application of various rules for the development of hearing audio homogeneity etc.
- Ten-minute vocal exercises with piano suite.
- Various vocal and breathing exercises.
- Time is determined by the work. They all try not to overwhelm the choristers.

Question 11

All of the respondents have answered this question and the answers are similar.

New singers have a test so that the conductor can evaluate their abilities and experience in singing. Then they have an induction period, during which they attend the rehearsals of the choir and after that, when they are ready, they join the choir. Usually they are placed next to experienced choristers who act as their mentors. They also have any help they may need, but if they cannot perform adequately they are asked to leave.

Question 12

From the replies to this question, it can be concluded that the most common method used by the conductors to keep the rehearsals interesting is the content of the repertoire, the warm and friendly atmosphere that exists during the rehearsal.

Other responses include:

Movements during singing in addition to a warm atmosphere, the conductor's ability to transfer his own energy to the choir, short breaks for musical references (usually musical themes) even for a related funny story, the use of light exercise rules, the teaching of new songs at the beginning of the rehearsal, change of track when the choir gets tired of a particular piece and variety.

Furthermore, they usually briefly introduce the track by talking about the composer and what inspired the composer.

Question 13

The replies to this question give me the opportunity to split them into two categories.

The first one is the one with classical repertoire, which relates mainly to University's choirs and includes compositions of Schubert, Haydn, Handel, Bach, Liszt, Mozart, Orff, Beethoven, etc, musicals and negro spirituals of different countries. Furthermore, compositions with orchestral accompaniment, string quartet, guitar, church organs, harp etc.

The other one, which is the most widely known, has a repertoire of Greek and Cypriot Composers, Greek and Cypriot folkloric songs, hymns, modern Greek/ Cypriot compositions, songs from movies, cantatas, Entecho.

Question 14

The answers to this question vary. Many of the conductors want to increase the number of choir members, do more work on techniques used and increase of members with higher standard of knowledge. Some would like to increase the participation of male voices and young people and to have rehearsals without absentees. Another answer is that they would like the total renewal of the choir.

Question 15

According to the responses in the questionnaires, all choirs have collaborated with other choirs, mainly Cypriot and Greek ones. Half of the respondents have also collaborated with European choirs such as choirs from Czech Republic Serbia, France, Austria, Finland, Germany and Norway.

Question 16

The average number of concerts organised yearly by each group is six, which is considered adequate by most of the conductors. Only few conductors would like this number to be increased.

Question 17

The replies to this question shows that most of the choirs usually participate in festivals organised both inland and abroad; however, only three choirs have participated in chorus competitions.

Question 18

According to the replies given to this question, choral singing in Cyprus has improved dramatically during the last years.

Question 19

I received various answers to this question. Mainly the conductors seemed quite confident regarding the development of Cypriot choirs so far. Unfortunately they are not so optimistic about the future development of choirs in Cyprus and they do not think we

could reach the level of other European countries. The main reasons for this is the difference in the rich culture in music in European countries, like the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary etc. and furthermore the lack of financial resources and the poor musical education in Cyprus. In general, the respondents anticipate that Cypriot choirs cannot easily achieve the level of professional choirs of other European countries with a strong background in this field.

Conclusion

The aim of this research was to make a historical retrospection of the choirs in Cyprus and their development through the centuries. In order to carry out the research, a qualitative approach was introduced via questionnaires.

The lack of previous researches and literature on choral development in Cyprus was challenging and intimidating. It was challenging because the researcher had the opportunity to fill the gap between the existing literature, on music development and musicians, and the choral development, which is also of outmost importance. At the same time, the lack of previous research and literature on the subject, and the Turkish invention during which a lot of data was lost, raised the difficulty of the procedure since there is no literature to draw upon.

While every possible effort was made by the researcher to eliminate the possibilities of mistakes or pitfalls there were some areas that could be improved. Although the questionnaires were sent to the conductors of the choirs many of them did not reply and the researcher had to call them one by one. Yet, even after the phone call some of them did not reply. It is the author's belief that if the questionnaires were handed to the conductors in person, the results might have been better. Nevertheless, this was not possible due to time constrains and considerably additional cost for traveling island wide.

All in all, the author considers this research to be a useful tool for the generations to come as it covers an interesting topic and gives the potential for further research. The island of Venus – Cyprus, currently faces the worst economic crisis in its modern history and this will inevitably effect the development of choirs in Cyprus. The author hopes that this research will help the Cypriots choirs to keep their history alive and draw the courage to continue offering their best to overcome the difficulties the soonest possible.

Bibliography

Θεοδούλου-Χαραλάμπους, Έλενα [Theodoulou-Charalambous, Elena], Μουσική [Music]. Viewed at: <http://www.aboutcyprus.org.cy/en/music>.

Κρατικό Αρχείο Κύπρου, [Cyprus State Archives], Λευκωσία 1972 [Nicosia 1972].

Music of Cyprus. Viewed at: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_Cyprus

"Medieval music", under the G.N U Free Documentation License. Music of Cyprus – Medieval music – Encyclopedia II. Viewed at: http://www.experiencefestival.com/a/Music_of_Cyprus_-_Medieval_music/id/5314446

Νεότερη και Σύγχρονη Ιστορία της Κύπρου, [History of Cyprus Medieval and Modern Period], Υπουργείο Υγείας και Πολιτισμού, [Ministry of Education and Culture], Λευκωσία 1992 [Nicosia 1992]. ISBN: 9963-0-4415-8

Πελοποννησιακό Λαογραφικό Ίδρυμα, [Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation], Κύπρος–Σύγχρονη Μουσική, 1999 [Cyprus–Popular Music, 1999].

Παναγιώτου, Ν [Panagiotou, N], [Music in Cyprus at the time of British Rule]. Υπουργείο Υγείας και Πολιτισμού, [The Cultural Department of the Ministry Education of Cyprus], Λευκωσία 1985 [Nicosia 1985]. ISBN: 9963-0-0004-5

The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians: London, Macmillan Publishers. Limited 2001. ISBN: 0-333-60800-3

Appendix A

ΕΡΩΤΗΜΑΤΟΛΟΓΙΟ

QUESTIONER

Παρακαλώ απαντήστε τις ακόλουθες ερωτήσεις:

Please answer the following questions:

ΟΝΟΜΑ / ΕΠΙΘΕΤΟ (Προαιρετικό):

NAME / SURNAME (Not Compulsory):

ΕΠΑΓΓΕΛΜΑ:

OCCUPATION:

ΤΟΠΟΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ:

PLACE OF WORK:

ΟΡΓΑΝΙΣΜΟΣ ΤΗΣ ΧΟΡΩΔΙΑΣ ΣΑΣ:

INSTITUTION OF YOUR CHOIR:

ΠΟΥ ΓΙΝΟΝΤΑΙ ΟΙ ΠΡΟΒΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΧΟΡΩΔΙΑΣ:

WHERE DO YOU HAVE THE CHOIR REHEARSALS:

1. Πού έχετε σπουδάσει;

Where have you studied?

2. Πόσα χρόνια ήταν η σπουδή σας;

How many years/semesters was the period of your studies?

3. Τι έχετε σπουδάσει;

What was the subject of your studies?

4. Εάν έχετε σπουδάσει μπάστρος, από πότε θέλατε να ακολουθήσετε αυτό το επάγγελμα;

- If you are a conductor, when have you decided to follow this occupation?
5. Ποίοι είναι οι λόγοι που σας οδήγησαν σε αυτή τη σπουδή;
Why did you choose this occupation?
 6. Έχετε διευθύνει χορωδίες κατά τη διάρκεια των σπουδών σας; Αν ναι, τι αποκομίσατε από αυτό;
Have you conducted any choirs during your studies? If yes what did you gain from that?
 7. Δουλέψατε στο εξωτερικό πριν έρθετε στην Κύπρο μόνιμα;
Have you ever worked abroad before coming back to Cyprus?
 8. Τι είδος χορωδίας έχετε;
What kind of choir do you have?
 9. Από πόσα μέλη αποτελείται η χορωδία σας; (S/A/T/B)
How many members does your choir have? (S/A/T/B)
 10. Χρησιμοποιείτε ζέσταμα πριν την πρόβα της χορωδίας σας; Αν ναι τι ασκήσεις χρησιμοποιείτε και πόση ώρα διαρκεί;
Do you use warming up prior to the rehearsal of your choir? If yes what type of exercises do you use and how long does it take?
 11. Πώς αντιμετωπίζετε τους αρχάριους μέσα στη χορωδία σας;
How new singers are accepted in your choir?
 12. Πώς κάνετε ενδιαφέρον τη πρόβα της χορωδίας;
What method do you follow so as to keep rehearsals interesting?
 13. Τι ρεπερτόριο έχετε κάνει μέχρι τώρα; Από ποιες χρονικές περιόδους, ποιους μουσικοσυνθέτες, ποιες εθνικότητες, αν είναι παραδοσιακά/διασκευές/δημοφιλή, επίσης είναι με ορχηστρική συνοδεία ή είναι acapella:
What repertoire have you done so far? From which historical periods, composers, nationalities, if they are folk/artificial/popular; also are they with instrumental accompaniment or acapella?
 14. Εάν μπορούσατε να αλλάξετε κάτι πάνω σε αυτή, ποια θα ήταν η αλλαγή που θα κάνατε;
If you could change anything on it, what would that be?
 15. Έχετε συνεργαστεί με άλλες χορωδίες;

Have you worked with other choirs?

16. Πόσα κονσέρτα κάνετε συνήθως το χρόνο; Νομίζετε ότι είναι αρκετά;

How many concerts do you usually have in a year? Do you think that is enough?

17. Έχετε πάρει μέρος σε κάποιο διαγωνισμό, φεστιβάλ, ή σε συνάντηση χορωδιών στην Κύπρο ή στο εξωτερικό;

Have you ever participated in any competition, festivals or meetings of choirs in Cyprus or abroad?

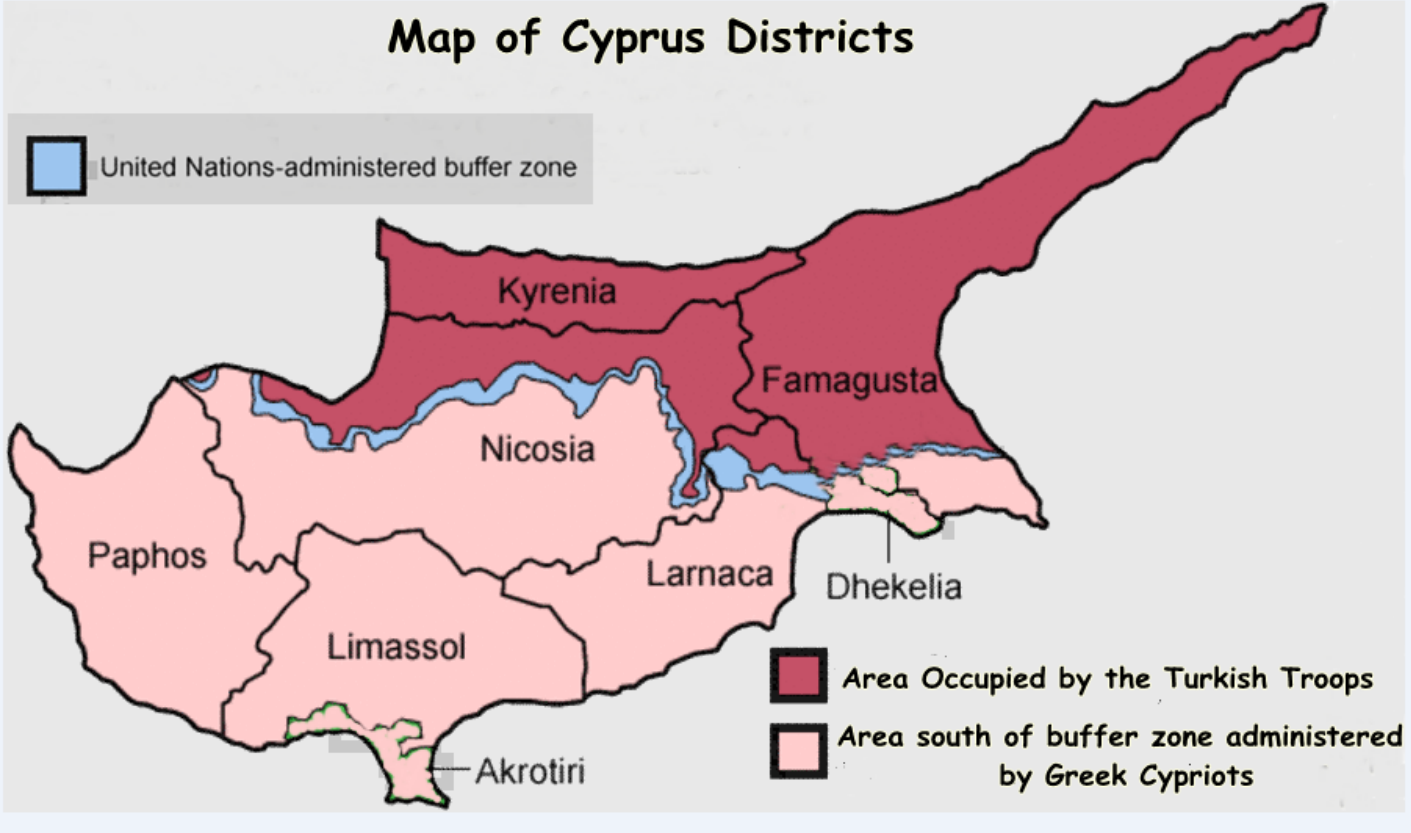
18. Νομίζετε ότι έχει εξελιχθεί το επίπεδο του Χορωδιακού τραγουδιού στην Κύπρο;

Do you think that the level of choral singing has developed in Cyprus?

19. Πώς νομίζετε θα είναι μελλοντικά οι Χορωδίες στην Κύπρο; Θα μπορέσουμε και εμείς να φθάσουμε τα επίπεδα των επαγγελματικών Χορωδιών που έχουν άλλες χώρες όπως η Τσεχία, η Αυστρία, η Ουγγαρία κ.λ.π.;

How do you think choirs in Cyprus will be in the future? Would it be possible for us to reach the professional choir standards that other countries, like Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary, Germany etc., have?

Appendix B



Appendix C



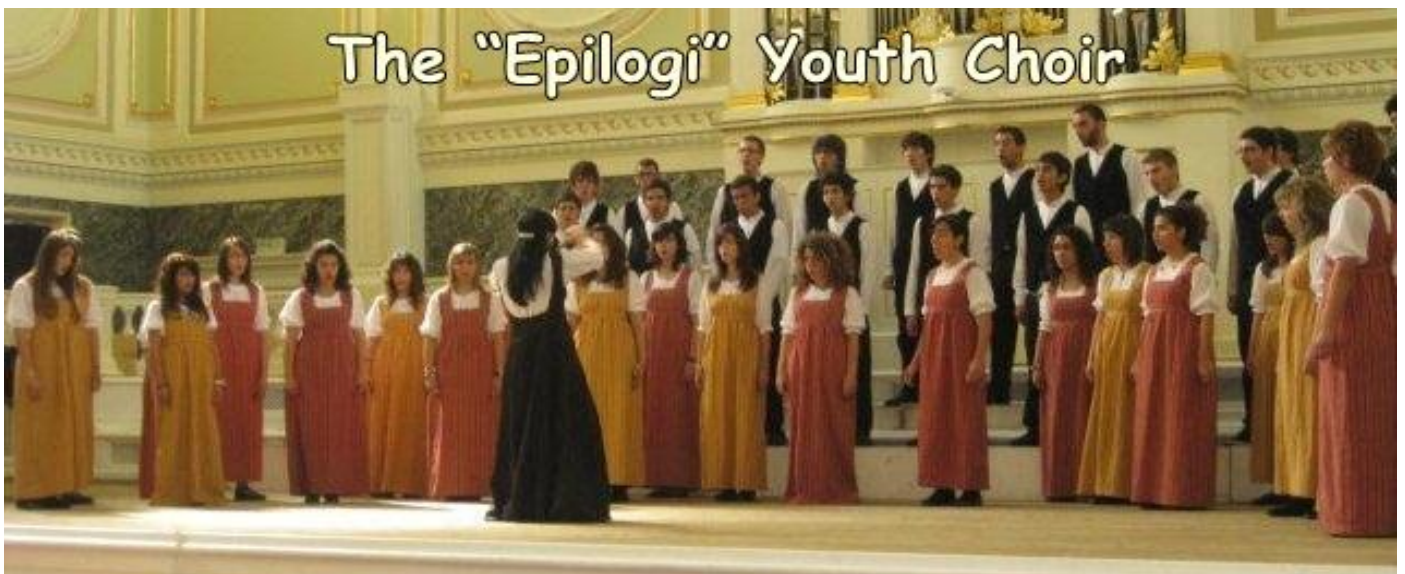
'ARIS' Limassol Choir



The Municipal Choir of Deryneia



The "Epilogi" Youth Choir





Children's Choir 'EPILOGI'



The Municipal Choir of Germasogeia

Paralimni Municipality 'Choir 'MELIZONA'



The Municipal Choir of Mesa Geitonia

