

The influence of musical avant-garde in the works of Dimitris Dragatakis of the late '50s and the '60s

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Abstract

Dimitris Dragatakis' (1914-2001) first works date from the early '40s and reveal influences of the traditional music of the composer's fatherland, Epirus, as well as of the Greek National School of Composition. It is in the '50s that Dragatakis' musical style begins to change, gradually incorporating elements by late romanticism, neo-classicism and finally, in the very begging of the '60s, of the avant-garde of the '50s. In his extremely productive decade of the '60s we can see a major change in his music, as he starts using certain characteristics of the avant-garde trends, gradually combining them with his musical background, to form little by little his own very personal way of creating music. In my paper, I define the kind and the importance of influences of avant-garde in the music of Dimitris Dragatakis, as well as the phases that can be seen in his works up to the late '60s. For this purpose I, on the one hand, present fragments of certain works and focus on their special musical characteristics, and on the other hand reveal new biographical details that show how Dragatakis became familiar with the modern music of his age, considering that he never took composition lessons and did not travel abroad until 1973.

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Magdalini Kalopana (b. 1976, Athens) completed her doctoral thesis with the title *Dimitris Dragatakis: Work's catalogue* (Department of Musical Studies-University of Athens), in 2008, under a State Scholarship (I.K.Y.). As a Musicologist she has been collaborating with The Athens Concert Hall, the 3rd Programme of the Hellenic Radio and D.Dragatakis' Friends Society for editions, productions and concerts (*Dragatakis Dimitris. Complete Solo Piano Music*, Naxos, 2008, *Dragatakis Dimitris. Chamber Music I*, Irida, 2005 e.t.c.). She has taken part in International Conferences: "Musical folklore as a vehicle?" Belgrade 19-21.11.2008, "2nd International Conference for PhD. Music Students" Thessaloniki 11-13.2.2009 and "Greek Music for the opera and other forms of the performing arts in the 20th century" Athens 27-29.3.2009. Her articles are often published in Greek music periodicals. She is member of the Editorial Board of the Greek musicological periodical *Polyphonia* (est. 2002).