

# **Elements of international avant-gardism, European post-modernism and Greek-Byzantine individuality in "Three Idiomela" and "Five Cavafy Poems" by Arghyris Kounadis**

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## **Abstract**

Arghyris Kounadis (born 1924) belongs to the first generation of Y.A.Papaioannou's students, graduating with composition diploma from the Hellenic Conservatory in 1956. During his subsequent studies with Wolfgang Fortner in Freiburg, and following his deliberation in modernist compositional techniques and styles (free atonality, 12-tone method, serialism, aleatorism), he arrived at a personal style by adopting a musical austerity inspired from byzantine "ethos" and by incorporating a vocal-type quality to his instrumental lines and textures. He thus formed an individual and - due to the byzantine influences - idiomatic style that alludes to a kind of post-modern musical expressionism. The present paper attempts to identify the primary elements of Kounadis' style and technique through the analysis of two of his earlier original works: the transitory "Three Idiomela" for solo piano (1956) and the mature "Five Cavafy Poems" for female or male voice and piano (1961). It also tries to connect his generic or specific stylistic features with the broad or local artistic trends of European musical postmodernism.

## **CV**

Costas Tsougras (composer - musicologist) was born in Volos in 1966. He studied chemistry (BSc 1987), music (composition diploma 1998) and musicology (BA 1993, PhD 2002) at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. He also collaborated with Dr Fred Lerdahl on his PhD research (the expansion of GTTM towards 20th-century modal music) while he was a visiting scholar at the Columbia University in 2000. He has published work on music theory, music analysis and music cognition. He is assistant professor of music theory and analysis at the Music Department of the A.U.Th. and a member of the Greek Composers' Union, ESCOM, SMT and SMA. He is the editor of "Musical Pedagogics", the GSME's (Greek Society for Music Education) scientific journal.