

George Christofi

Composer | Music Theorist | Researcher

Artistic Profile and International Presence

George Christofi is a Cypriot composer whose work explores the transformation of sonic material through timbre, gesture, spectral thinking, and instrumental colour. His music develops from the interaction of harmony, texture, and sound, often moving between refined detail and expressive intensity. Drawing on contemporary compositional techniques while remaining connected to the cultural memory and sound-world of Cyprus, Christofi has developed a distinctive musical language that has been presented internationally.

His works have been performed in more than fifteen countries across Europe, America, and Asia, and have been broadcast by BBC Radio 3 and CyBC. They have appeared at major festivals and venues including the ISCM World Music Days 2018 in Beijing, the ISCM World Music Days 2025 in Portugal, the International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival, LondonEar Contemporary Music Festival, Seoul International Computer Music Festival, International Review of Composers, APNM Chamber Music for the 21st Century in New York, Spontaneous Combustion New Music Festival in the USA, Nuova Musica a Treviso, PHONOS - Fundacio Musica Contemporania in Barcelona, Attention Musiques Fraiches! in Brussels, Festival Aucarre - Petites Formes Operatiques in Belgium, Heidelberger Fruhling, LSO St Luke's in London, and the Athens Concert Hall.

Christofi has collaborated with distinguished soloists and ensembles including Mario Caroli, Sarah Leonard, Harry Sparnaay, Rohan de Saram, Domenico Melchiorre, Lorenza Ramou, Prodromos Symeonides, Xie Ya-ou, Talea Ensemble, Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles, Ensemble Cairn, Ensemble Transmission, Ensemble 360, Ensemble 10/10, Orchestre National de Lorraine, Endymion Ensemble, Kreutzer Quartet, Jeunes Voix du Rhin, Ensemble BerlinPianoPercussion, Trio IAMA, DissonArt Ensemble, Ensemble SHADOW PLAY, and others.

"His music develops from the interaction of harmony, texture, and sound, often moving between refined detail and expressive intensity."

Selected Works, Commissions, and Critical Reception

Among his significant works are Diplophonia for solo flute, Tetrasomia for two pianos and two percussionists, Sirens for voices and ensemble, L'ame du vin for solo percussion, poeme I for two flutes, Fefxis for saxophone orchestra, and Kyklos for ensemble. Diplophonia was presented at the ISCM World Music Days in Beijing and was praised in World New Music Magazine for its well-structured sonic arch and its deft mixture of traditional and extended flute techniques. His mini-opera Sirens, created in collaboration with L'Opera National du Rhin, Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles, Jeunes Voix du Rhin, conductor Jean-Paul Dessy, and director Matthew Jocelyn, was described in Le Soir as bewitching and as creating astonishing dramatic tension. His work Tetrasomia was also positively reviewed in Le Republicain Lorrain for its fluid evocation of the four classical elements.

Christofi has received commissions from organisations and ensembles including Talea Ensemble, the Pharos Arts Foundation, L'Arsenale, the Ursula Vaughan Williams Trust, Hull Sinfonietta, Southampton Wind Orchestra, European Contemporary Orchestra, Ensemble Transmission, Ensemble C Barre, ESML Saxophone Orchestra, CNU Wind Ensemble, GuitART, Triptychon Ensemble, and Centro Culturale San Fedele. His work *L'ame du vin*, commissioned by Fondazione Culturale San Fedele in Milan as part of the Niccolo Castiglioni programme, was performed in Milan, Freiburg, Basel, and London, and was included in the CD recording *Progetto Niccolo Castiglioni*. In 2024, Talea Ensemble gave the world premiere of *Kyklos* at the International Pharos Contemporary Music Festival, with a subsequent presentation in New York as part of Talea's Cycles of Unrest series.

Interdisciplinary and Socially Engaged Work

His artistic practice also extends to theatre, dance, opera, and socially engaged projects. His music for Aristophanes' *Ecclesiazusae: Prova Generale* was nominated for a Cyprus Theatre Organisation award. He collaborated as composer-in-residence with choreographers at the Northern School of Contemporary Dance in Leeds, including the work *Up into the Silence...* with Danish choreographer Peter Fonss, based on the poem by e.e. cummings. He also participated as composer-guide in Carnegie Hall's Lullaby Project through El Sistema Cyprus, contributing to a programme that uses music to support maternal health, child development, and the parent-child bond.

Education, Residencies, and Formation

Christofi studied at the University of Hull, where he received a BMus with First Class Honours and the Department of Music Prize for academic excellence, before continuing at the University of York, where he completed an MA in Composition with Distinction and a PhD in Composition. His doctoral research focused on sound transformation, timbre, harmony, texture, and musical gesture, with particular reference to spectral and post-spectral approaches. His studies and research were supported by a number of scholarships and awards, including the University of York MA Scholarship, the Vinson Award, the Sir Jack Lyons Research Grant, the A.G. Leventis Foundation Research Scholarship, grants from the Association pour la Creation et la Diffusion Artistique, and support from the Cyprus State Scholarship Foundation.

He was selected for several leading international academies and residencies, including the Voix Nouvelles Academy at Fondation Royaumont, where he was chosen among a small group of young composers from around the world; Centre Acanthes in Metz and Mons; the IRCAM Academy in Glasgow; the Visby International Centre for Composers in Sweden; and the Niccolo Castiglioni programme at Fondazione Culturale San Fedele in Milan. Through these programmes he worked with or attended classes by composers such as Brian Ferneyhough, Salvatore Sciarrino, Toshio Hosokawa, Olga Neuwirth, Georges Aperghis, Philippe Boesmans, Thierry Blondeau, Daniel D'Adamo, and Michele Reverdy, and collaborated with ensembles including Ensemble Cairn, Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles, Orchestre National de Lorraine, and Ensemble BerlinPianoPercussion.

Teaching, Research Platforms, and Cultural Leadership

Alongside his work as a composer, Christofi has developed a substantial profile in higher music education, artistic research, and cultural leadership. He taught for many years at European University Cyprus, first as Scientific Collaborator and later as Lecturer and Assistant Professor in Music Theory and Composition, teaching composition, orchestration, harmony, analysis, aural skills, and related subjects. He also served as

Coordinator of the Bachelor of Music programme and Vice-Chair of the Department of Arts. He currently teaches in Cyprus state education and continues his collaboration with European University Cyprus as a Scientific Collaborator in composition.

In 2018, he founded the Contemporary Music Lab, a platform dedicated to composition, artistic research, and contemporary music practice. Through the Lab, he has organised international composition workshops, lectures, concerts, and research symposia, supporting the creation and premiere of new works by emerging composers from Cyprus and abroad. The Lab has hosted composers from a wide range of countries and has contributed to the development of contemporary music activity on the island. Christofi is also co-founder and director of technAI, a research centre concerned with intersections between technology, creativity, and culture.

Curatorial and Scholarly Activity

His wider curatorial and research activity includes the coordination of Action 51, Young Performers Repertoire, within the Creative Europe project Interfaces, in collaboration with the Onassis Foundation and Klangforum Wien. The action curated and commissioned pedagogically oriented contemporary repertoire for young performers and made it available online under a Creative Commons licence. He also participated in the Erasmus+ project EUTERPE, supporting international collaboration between student composers and performers in connection with the Ionian University in Corfu.

Christofi's scholarly work includes conference papers on contemporary instrumental techniques, notation, and the relationship between sound, gesture, and visual thinking. His recent outputs include the co-authored chapter Artistic Freedom and State Censorship during the Greek Military Junta (1967-1974), published in Music, Aesthetics, and Politics in the 20th Century by Biblioteca di Athena Musica, Italy, and the poster presentation Listening, Plurality, and Reflection: Rethinking Democratic Education through the Teaching of Harmony and Aural Skills at the European Association for Music in Schools Conference in Vienna.

Performance Activity and Continuing Contribution

As a performer, Christofi co-founded the Cyprus Guitar Trio with Vasilios Avraam and Socrates Leptos. The trio explores repertoire written specifically for three guitars and has appeared in Cyprus and abroad, including the world premiere of Maximo Diego Pujol's Concierto para tres guitarras, cuerdas y timbal with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra under Miltos Logiadis.

Through his compositional work, international collaborations, research activity, and cultural initiatives, George Christofi has contributed consistently to the visibility of contemporary Cypriot music internationally, while remaining actively engaged in the artistic life of Cyprus.

Selected Highlights

- Works performed in more than fifteen countries across Europe, America, and Asia.
- Broadcasts by BBC Radio 3 and CyBC.
- Selections for ISCM World Music Days 2018 in Beijing and ISCM World Music Days 2025 in Portugal.
- Collaborations with Talea Ensemble, Ensemble Musiques Nouvelles, Ensemble Cairn, Ensemble Transmission, Orchestre National de Lorraine, and other international ensembles.
- Founder of Contemporary Music Lab and co-founder/director of technAI.