

Described by Lukas Foss as an "extremely gifted guitarist-composer," **Apostolos Paraskevas** was born in Volos, Greece. He holds a doctorate (DMA), in composition from Boston University, an Artist Diploma in guitar performance from the Modern Conservatory in Salonica and a fixation for composing and performing music related with Death for the past 10 years. He has also studied at the Instituto Superior de Arte in Havana, Cuba. Lukas Foss (USA), Theodore Antoniou (Greece) and Leo Brouwer (Cuba), were teachers who had a major influence on his music.

His appearances as a performer/composer and as a concerto soloist with more than 15 major orchestras around the world include concerts in such venues such as Carnegie Hall/New York, Weill Recital Hall, Tsai Performance Center/Boston, Jordan Hall, the Athens Concert Hall/Athens, Aquinas Concert Hall, and Wertheim Performing Arts Center/Miami.

Fanfare magazine described him as "an amazingly versatile guitarist" and for his new CD *Visions of Azure* "...a wonderful and essential guitar CD". *Classical Guitar* magazine wrote: "Apostolos Paraskevas is a genuine innovator, a young and highly gifted musician..." and *Acoustic Guitar* wrote that "Paraskevas' own compositions, are adventurous, attractive, and well constructed; his readings of Latin American works are intelligent and expressive and his playing makes challenging pieces accessible and intriguing".

Mr. Paraskevas' awards include: Grammy Nomination, Bridge Records/NewDance/1998, Honorary Diploma for the Arts from the Palacio de Junco (Cuba) for his artistic activity; Honorary Diploma, 1991 Guitarist of the Year from the Greek National Center for Music Studies for his concert entitled *Sound Show*; the Red Cross Diploma for his artistic contribution; Finalist in the 1994 ALEA composition competition; First Prize in the 2000 "Lukas Foss" Composition Competition, First Prize in the 1996 composition competition of the Greek Union of Conservatories (advanced category), Winner of the 1997 "Call for Scores" National Composers Conference (SCI); First prize at the "I. Papaioanou" Composition Competition (Greece) 1997; Grants from the American Music Center, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, and the Award for Artists and Writers by the American Academy of Arts and Letters. In addition to the Athens Concert Hall, Mr. Paraskevas has received commissions from the Augustine Foundation, BATH Music festival, Hellenic Radio Television, Berklee Clarinet Choir, Rivers School of Music, Hellenic Composers Association, David Starobin, and ALEA III.

Apostolos Paraskevas is the founder/Artistic Director of the International Guitar Congress-Festival in Greece/Corfu and a member of the Hellenic Association of Composers. His works have been published by Santerrelle Verlag/Germany, Guitarissimo/ Sweden, Papagrigoriou-Nakas Music Publications, Amoriello publications, NJ and his performances and compositions can be heard on Centaur, NorthStar and Bridge Records. Currently he is a Professor at Berklee College of Music in the composition department, and a Composer in Residence at Northeastern University.

Other recent performances include: In January 2001 Apostolos Paraskevas' orchestral piece "Night Wanderings" had its New York premiere at Carnegie Hall with the National Festival Orchestra under the direction of Lukas Foss and few months later two of his guitar concertos with him as soloist had their NY premiere at Carnegie Hall/Weill Hall (A. De Ritis, filled in for conductor L. Foss) in June 2002 in a sold out concert. In July 2003 he performed his Third Guitar concerto at the Hamptons Music Festival with Lukas Foss conducting the Atlantic Chamber Orchestra. His orchestral piece "Ephatha" (commissioned by the Athens Concert Hall) had its premiere last April in Athens with Theodore Antoniou conducting the Hellenic Music Ensemble.

Her voice was described by Theodore Antoniou as "... beautiful with a quite advanced technique." and by Lukas Foss as "crystal clear and mesmerizing!" **Erika Tordeus Paraskevas**, mezzo soprano was born in Stockholm/Sweden where she started her voice and piano lessons in 1985. Since her first performance in Stockholm in 1986 she sang in concerts, and music festivals in London/England, Greece, Cyprus, Germany, Boston/USA, Russia, Estonia and Indonesia. Recent solo performances include solo appearances with the New England Conservatory Orchestra and Chamber singers, ALEA III/Boston in the premiere of A. Paraskevas' "Fourth Guitar Concerto", with the Cyprus State Orchestra Ensemble in Cyprus, with the Athens String Chamber Players at the VI Corfu Festival in premieres of contemporary music by Greek composers and most recently with the Atlantic Chamber Orchestra in NY under the direction of Lukas Foss. In June 2002 she had her Carnegie Hall debut in New York/USA

She studied voice with Birgit Johansson and continues with Susan Clickner at New England Conservatory.



PROGRAM

Apostolos Paraskevas, guitar

- Meta (2000) (european premiere)
- tell my wife I love her... (premiere) (2003)
- Escape (european premiere) (1995)

Anthony De Ritis
Apostolos Paraskevas

Erika Tordeus Paraskevas, mezzo soprano Apostolos Paraskevas, guitar

- Cadencia (1973)
(text by Nimia Vicens)
- Something to Sing about (premieres) (2003)
- to Hope
- to Dance
- to Go For

Ernesto Cordero
Apostolos Paraskevas

- Dabadi, Tarira (premiere) (2003)

Leonidas Kanaris

- The Daedalus and Ikaros Journey (1995)
(text by A.P)

Apostolos Paraskevas

- I Will always Love You

Dolly Parton (arranged by A.P)