



HISTORY OF FOUNDATION

Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra of Athens is a self-governing orchestra, founded in 2014 by the internationally acclaimed pianist, composer and conductor Vassilis Tsabropoulos and managed by a Board comprising players. The day-to-day business of the Orchestra is run by the Music Director and Founder of the MSO of Athens and an Orchestra Committee of the Board. The MSO of Athens is proud to be Resident Orchestra at the Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, where it performs since its foundation, and also enjoys successful residency at the Athens Concert Hall Megaron).

The MSO of Athens has been honored to be under the aegis of his Eminence Archbishop of Athens and all Greece, Ieronymos II and had the privilege to present an astonishing concert, on the occasion of the monumental event of the historical Cathedral Church of Athens reopening, after many years of reconstruction due to the extensive damage suffered by devastating earthquakes.

The MSO of Athens was founded in a time of economic crisis for Greece, bringing a new lease of life and fresh hope to the music scene in the country

Vassilis Tsabropoulos

Vassilis Tsabropoulos, who is considered to be one of the greatest Greek pianists, is an internationally acclaimed concert pianist, conductor and composer. Since 2000 he is an artist of ECM Records label and he has toured in Europe several times playing concerts. His unique solo piano releases, *"Akroasis"*, and *"The Promise"* are inward-looking albums and *"Chants, Hymns and Dances"* an international cross-cultural success. As The Times wrote: *"Tsabropoulos is one of those rare musicians who is equally at home in both the classical and the jazz worlds"*. Vassilis Tsabropoulos once described the making of different kinds of music as an aesthetic imperative, a conviction embodied in his ECM discography.

A prodigy, was winning music competitions from the age of ten, and after graduating from the Athens National Conservatory, continued his studies on an Aristotle Onassis Scholarship at the Paris Conservatory, the Salzburg Academy and the Julliard School. Tsabropoulos was an early achiever, winning the UNICEF competition. His distinctions and awards are too many and many are his collaborations with orchestras in Europe, performing an ever-expanding repertoire in both recitals and concertos. He has taken the stage with Europe's several important orchestras including among others the Philharmonia Orchestra, the Stockholm Philharmonic, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, the Czech Philharmonic, Budapest Chamber Orchestrate, Sofia Philharmonic, Italy Radio Orchestra etc. His repertoire varies from Bach to Beethoven and Chopin to Prokofiev. As a pianist he is highly effective in Russian music, particularly in Rachmaninoff. He has made his first USA tour in October 2004 with a significant critical and popular success. Pick of his career is his performances with London Philharmonia and Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, under the baton of Vladimir Ashkenazy in piano concertos of Beethoven and Rachmaninoff.

Vassilis Tsabropoulos is the Honorary President of the Sergei Rachmaninov Greek Society. He is also the Founder, Music Director and Principal Conductor of the Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra of Athens, which is under the aegis of the Archbishop of Athens and all of Greece, Ieronymos II, and he is the Artistic Director of the Sacred Music Festival of the Radio Station of the Church of Greece.