Lisa Xanthopoulou, conductor

Lisa Xanthopoulou was born in Thessaloniki, were she studied piano, advanced music theory and choral conducting at the State Conservatory and the Music College of Thessaloniki. In 1992, she completed her studies at the Department of Music of the Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki.

In 1993, she was accepted at the Universtität der Künste in Berlin, where she studied orchestral conducting with maestros H.M. Rabenstein, H.D. Baum, I. Jackson and M. Husmann. During the course of her studies, she was selected by the German Music Council (Deutscher Musikrat) to participate in their support program for young conductors (Dirigentenforum), where she had the opportunity to work with distinguished maestros such as: K. Sanderling, M. Soustrot, D. Kitajenko, K. Masur, Cl. P. Flor, P. Gulke, B. Kontarsky, J. Kalitzke, and others.

In 2002, she was chosen to participate in the Maestros von Morgen program (Tomorrow's Maestros).

She has conducted significant German orchestras such as: Berliner Symphoniker, Radio Symphony Orchestra of Stuttgart, Munich Symphony Orchestra, Beethovenhalle Orchestra, Prussian Chamber Orchestra, State Orchestra of Frankfurt/Oder, Landeskapelle Eisenach, Cottbus Philharmonic Orchestra, the Neubrandenburg Philharmonic, Nürnberg Symphony Orchestra, the Baden-Baden Philharmonic, Plauen-Zwickau Theater Philharmonic Orchestra, Cologne Sinfonietta, Heilbronn Chamber Orchestra, Folkwang Chamber Orchestra of Essen, Philharmonic Orchestra of the City of Reutlingen / Württemberg and Rheinische Philharmonie State Orchestra of Koblenz, among others. She has also conducted the Sicilian Symphony Orchestra on the occasion of six concerts in Sicily, the Philarmonia Hungarica and the Women's Chamber Orchestra of Austria.

As the assistant of Maestro Mario Venzago, she conducted the German Youth Orchestra. She toured also with the Saarland Youth Symphony.

In October 1998, she was invited for the first time to record works by Sibelius with the Greek Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra, and in January of 1999, she conducted the Greek Radio and Television Orchestra of Contemporary Music. She has collaborated repeatedly with Thessaloniki State Orchestra, Athens State Orchestra (Patmos Festival of Religious Music), the Symphony Orchestra of the Municipality of Athens, the Symphony Orchestra of the Municipality of Thessaloniki and the Orchestra of Greek National Opera.

In May of 2002, she conducted Bizet's Carmen at the Mainfranken Theater of Würzburg, and in September of the same year, she collaborated with Thessaloniki Concert Hall (Thessaloniki Megaron) on a production of Verdi's opera Rigoletto. In March of 2004, Greek National Opera invited her to conduct four performances of Offenbach's La Vie Parisienne, and in May of the same year she conducted Tosca at Osnabrück Theater.

In January, March and April of 2005, she conducted a cycle of performances for children with Nordwestdeutsche Philharmonie. In April of 2005, she conducted the premiere and eight further performances of Strauss' Die Fledermaus at Greek National Opera in Athens. In November 2005, she conducted Mozart's Cosi Fan Tutte at Ulm Theater. In February 2007, she conducted performances of Strauss, Die Fledermaus at the Thesssaloniki Opera.

She has received awards at international conducting competitions such as 1st prize at the 2002 Bad Homburg Conductors' Contest and 2nd prize at the 5th A.Pedrotti Conductors' Contest in Trento, Italy, in 1997 (no first prize was awarded that year). She was one of the three finalists in the 5th Conductors' Contest in Cadaques, Spain.

She has been avidly involved in the dissemination of Greek symphonic music abroad, especially in Germany, conducting works by Greek composers in well-known concert halls such as the Berlin Konzerthaus and elsewhere.

In September 2005, she was appointed Artistic Director of Thessaloniki Opera, the first time this position was introduced. During her administration, in addition to the artistic and administrative development of Thessaloniki Opera, she also established an educational program named "Pes Opera". This pioneering program has familiarized thousands of children and young people with opera as an art form. She introduced the "Pes Opera" Festival, which for two years was the final event of the educational program. The idea of the Festival was based on an all-day presentation - by and for children - of a multitude of musico-theatrical events, interactive games, competitions and other events related to opera. She also had the innovative idea of designing digital material comprising an opera guide and an electronic game for children. Furthermore, she organized the very first competition for opera composers in Greece, in which 50 young Greek composers took part. The six finalists had the opportunity to see a fully staged performance which was at the same time the world premiere of their work.

In February of 2006, during her first season as artistic director, Thessaloniki Opera staged Puccini's opera La Bohème. In February of 2007, she conducted J. Strauss' operetta Die Fledermaus.

In October of 2007, she conducted four performances of Strauss' opera Ariadne auf Naxos at the Seongnam Arts Center in South Korea.

In December of the same year, she conducted the Brandenburg State Orchestra of Frankfurt / Οder.

In 2008, the Municipality of Thessaloniki presented her with an award for her contribution to the city's cultural life. In June, she was asked to conduct the Orchestra of Cairo Opera at a Gala event including the famous pianist Cyprien Katsaris as a soloist.

In March 2011 she conducted for the first time in Turkey the State Symphony Orchestra of Izmir, interpreting works of Turkish and Greek composers.

She has received enthusiastic reviews ever since her very first appearances, both in Greece and abroad.