

Taking off where words end

Classical music will meet contemporary dance this week with two performances by Martinos Tyrimos' Rosamunde Trio and DanceCyprus. An unusual mix, it is part of a lifetime dedicated to music that has seen Tyrimos named as one of the world's greatest pianists.

He gave his first concert at the age of six, performed Haydn's Concerto in D at eight and conducted seven complete performances of Verdi's La Traviata when he was only 12, which he said was one of the "major turning points" of his life.

His list of international awards was added to recently with the 2011 Nemitsas Foundation Prize for Excellence in the Arts and Sciences, given at the presidential palace last month. *The Daily Telegraph* has described him as "a pianist with vision and an inspired poet at the instrument".

With such a long and wide spanning career, what are the high points? Conducting La Traviata aside, he says "unforgettable for me and a great honour" was performing Beethoven's concerto 4 at the Irodio theatre in Athens with the Philharmonic Orchestra of Vienna - he is the sole Greek or Cypriot soloist to have co-operated with this orchestra. He has also appeared with many of the world's other leading orchestras including Dresden Staatskapelle, Leipzig Gewandhaus, Bayerischer Rundfunk, London Symphony, London Philharmonic, Philharmonia, Cleveland, Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Chamber Orchestra of Europe and the English Chamber.

At 68, Tyrimos says he has dedicated a major part of his life, almost 20 years, to interpreting Schubert's sonatas and in 1975 became the first pianist to perform a truly complete cycle of the 21 Sonatas in public, adding his own completions to the unfinished movements.

Last year he gave a series of concerts in London and elsewhere to mark 200 years since the birth of Chopin, playing all of his works, which was hailed as a 'colossal feat'.

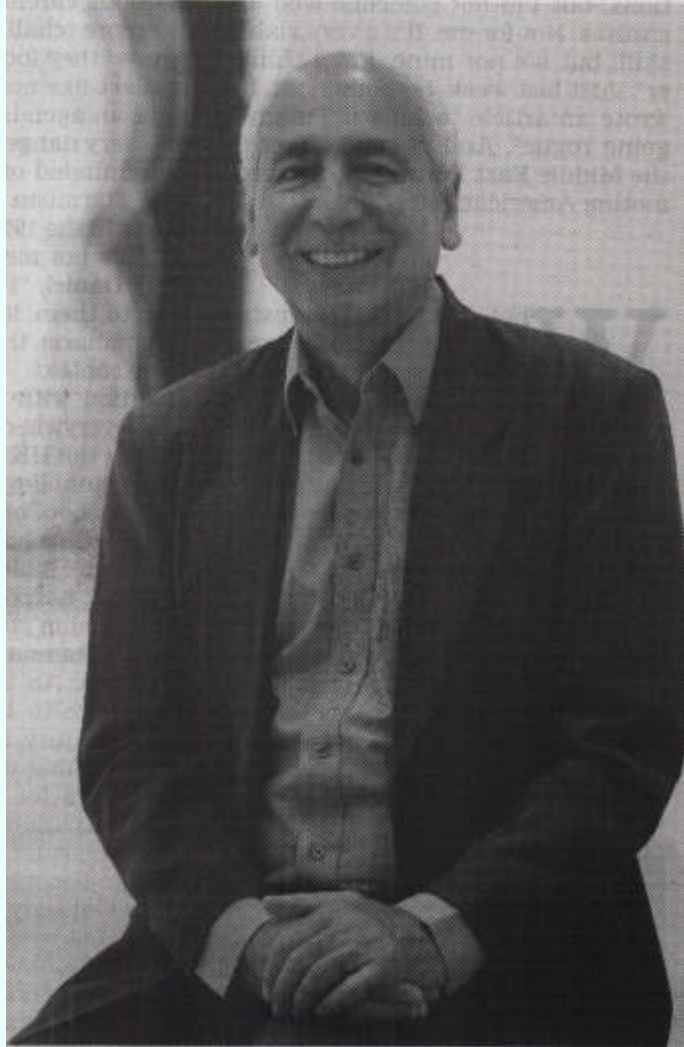
Internationally recognised composer and pianist Martinos Tyrimos is back in Cyprus this week. FANITSA ZANETTOU speaks to him

DanceCyprus and Rosamunde Trio
An evening of classical music and contemporary dance. Friday November 4, Rialto Theatre Limassol and Saturday November 5 Strovolos Municipal Theatre, Nicosia. Tickets: €25/€30. Tel: 99 920254

"With such dedication to a specific composer, one feels that you get close to the person," Tyrimos says. "To manage this I had to become a detective because many of his manuscripts were scattered around the world". One of the works was in the possession of an Austrian doctor, who after a reception at his house, gave one or two sheets of the sonata to each guest. "As a result, we found two sheets in a library in Cambridge, some sheets in Vienna, others in New York..." Music scholars have still never found the finale to this work although he was moved to find some of the sheets in the State Library in Vienna. "It was an indescribable joy to find these 'lost' pages, as I don't know why I decided to look in that particular file."

This much dedication to Chopin, however, does not mean he has overlooked others. While this month has





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But he won't single out the individuals he has enjoyed working with the most. "What is important to me is that there is at least one person in the audience who is ready to come together with the playing of the masterpieces. In the final analysis, this charming music is the greatest pleasure a person can appreciate".

"Music," he says, "begins where

The sounds of success (left): with the other members of the Rosamunde Trio and (below) conducting at the age of 12

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words end. The concepts are so delicate they cannot be expressed with words, they are beyond normal feelings”.

His first concert in Cyprus was at the presidential palace in 1992 when British High Commissioner Sir Humphrey Maud contacted him to take part in a concert for piano, cello and violin. “I had many doubts as to the musical ability of a diplomat but when I heard his wonderful cello playing I was surprised. I later learned that in his youth he had played cello with the National Youth Orchestra. That concert had a special feeling and I believe the audience enjoyed an unusual but great experience.”

When asked about the large orchestras that come to Cyprus and present interpretations of works created to be performed in bigger spaces, Tyrimos spoke about the creation of a concert hall in Athens. “Since the building was created, things have changed and now every Athenian wants to enjoy a concert in a wonderful space with fantastic acoustics and the impact on the cultural life of Greece has been huge”.

He said the creation of a similar facility in Cyprus would have a similar effect on the island’s cultural scene. “We are already at an advanced stage and everyone should support the creation of such a building, which would have the financial support of the EU. This would not only be a diamond in the centre of Nicosia but would have a huge impact on the finances of the island”.

This coming weekend Tyrimos will be playing in Limassol where his Rosamunde Trio will stage a performance with DanceCyprus for an evening of classical music and contemporary dance at the Rialto Theatre in Limassol.

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