

# Composer at the service of clarity

"I always wanted to meet a woman who composed adagios. The kind of songs in which joy and hope emanate from sadness. I met this woman: It's Eleni Karaindrou."

Thus spoke Manfred Eicher, the founder of ECM – the well-respected recording label based in Munich that specializes in European jazz as well as a classical repertory. Eicher was the final speaker on a panel addressing a press conference in Athens last week. The gathering's focus was the concerts Karaindrou is set to give at the Vrachon Theater tomorrow and Friday. The concerts will act as the finale of the ECM Festival which began last week.

At the press conference, Eicher was particularly warm.

## The art of the simple

"Eleni dominates the art of what is simple, as opposed to that of simplification. There is a huge difference between the two – you all know this very well. Eleni is at the service of the dialectic of clarity."

Prior to Eicher, three of Karaindrou's closest collaborators had also used warm words when speaking about their colleague. The first of the three, Paraskevas Karasoulos, spoke on behalf of the Hymettus Festival that is hosting the concerts. He was followed by

Alexandre Myrat, director of the Camerata Orchestra. Myrat will conduct the Greek orchestra along with ERT's mixed choir – the latter is led by Antonis Kontogeorgiou.

Finally, it was Maria Farantouri's turn. A longtime fellow traveler of Karaindrou's on the music route, the vocalist is also part of the upcoming concerts.

Twenty years have passed since Karaindrou's first concert at the Herod Atticus Theater.

"I can't wait; in between I have become richer as a human being, I have been deeply moved. These are moments that I wish to share," said Karaindrou at

the press conference.

Eicher is in charge of both concerts, in which Karaindrou will present her score for Theo Angelopoulos's new film, "The Dust of Time," in a world premiere. The concerts further include music for the popular Greek television series "Deka" (Ten), along with musical scores and songs from the world of theater and cinema. Also participating in the concerts is the Jazz Quartet.

"In 'Ten' I used all the music sound textures that are familiar in my music, among them the harrowing sound of the bouzouki," noted Karaindrou, who studied history and archaeology before turning to music.

## Rich finds from ancient cemetery in Greece

ATHENS, Greece: New excavations at an ancient cemetery in northern Greece have yielded gold jewelry, copper and iron weapons and pottery. Archaeologists digging in part of a vast burial ground near Pella, the ancient Macedonians' capital, have unearthed 43 new graves dating from 650-279 B.C., the Greek Culture Ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

The dead included 20 warriors who had been buried in the Archaic period, between 580-480 B.C., with copper helmets and iron swords, daggers and spearheads. Ornaments of gold foil – specially made for funerals – covered their mouths, eyes and chests, the statement said. A total of 915 graves have been excavated over the past eight years at the site of Arhontiko, about 530 kilometers (330 miles) northwest of Athens. Archaeologists estimate this represents just five percent of the cemetery.

"The settlement (to which the cemetery belonged) flourished in wealth and population mainly during the Archaic period," the ministry statement said. "The funerary use of (the gold ornaments) and the other grave goods points to a strong belief in life after death, and rebirth."

Artifacts from previous digs include gold masks, crowns and diadems, as well as quantities of local and imported pottery.

Arhontiko was first settled around 6000 B.C. and abandoned in the 14th century A.D.

# Researchers uncover Roman Greek embalming practices

*The writings of Ancient Greeks and Romans made us privy to the notion that funeral garments were used to wrap the bodies of the deceased in Ancient Greece, and water, wine and olive oil were used to wash and treat the corpses. But a question remains: were embalming practices used? According to Swiss and Greek researchers, the answer is yes. The discovery of a mummy dating to A.D. 300 indicates the practice of embalming in Greece under Roman rule. The team's finding was recently published in the Journal of Archaeological Science.*

Led by Dr Frank Röhli from the Institute of Anatomy at the University of Zurich, the researchers said the mummy of the middle-aged woman was found in a lead coffin inside a marble sarcophagus. This sarcophagus was first found in 1962 during an archaeological dig in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki. Experts say it dates from the Hellenistic and Byzantine Periods.

In this study, the team showed that a number of oils, spices and resins were used to embalm the body, whose remains are kept at the Archaeological Museum of Thessaloniki. Not only did this method help preserve the skeleton, but some soft tissues were also partially pre-



Visible brown lashes and various soft parts remain on the head

served, including hair and blood cells, and a hand muscle, as well as a gold-embroidered silk cloth that covered the body.

The multidisciplinary research team used both histological and physico-chemical methods, such as macroscopic and anthropological analyses, including gas chromatography-mass spectrometry and electron microscopy tests, to determine what substances were used during the embalming. Myrrh, fats and resins were found. What the researchers could not determine was whether the lead coffin played a key role in the preservation of the remains. The team said the study, carried out in collaboration with researchers from Demokritus University of Thrace in Greece, helps increase the understanding of how people used tissue-preserving, anti-bacterial and anti-oxidative substances in the mortuary practices of Roman Greece. Institute of Anatomy research assistant Christina Papageorgopoulou, the person responsible for getting the study off the ground, said: "Never before has such embalming been shown for this time period in Greece." Previous data has suggested that only selected people were embalmed in Roman Greece, the research team added. "This is, thanks to the mummy research at the University of Zurich, another significant increase in knowledge for society, as well as for historical research," said Dr Röhli, Swiss Mummy Project coordinator. Swiss Mummy is using non-invasive testing methods that have no adverse impact on tissues in order to obtain information about life and death, and after-death alterations of historic mummies.

Studies such as this one have the potential to fuel partnerships between social and natural scientists, the researchers said. "This transdisciplinary approach is particularly of interest in mummy science," said Dr Röhli. "It is a main focus of our own research unit."

## Schoolgirl 'hired as prostitute for brothel'

The owner and manager of a Melbourne brothel have been charged with allowing a 14-year-old girl to work as a prostitute.

Andrew William Hewinson and Janette Woods each face more than 100 charges for letting the girl - who is still at school - work at the licensed brothel last year.

They are denying the charges.

Police allege the girl worked at Pickwood Lodge, in Lygon Street, Brunswick, between March 11 and May 20 last year.

It is understood the girl, now 15, has been taken into the care of the Salvation Army.

Brothel owner Hewinson, 45, of Lower Templestowe, and manager Woods, 54, of Brookfield, were listed to appear for a contested hearing in Melbourne Magistrates' Court on Wednesday but the case was adjourned.

Both are charged with 117 offences under the Prostitution Control Act.

They each face 39 counts of receiving payment knowing it was derived from sexual services provided by a child, 39 counts of allowing a child to take part in prostitution without taking reasonable steps to prove the child was over 18 and 39 counts of allowing a child to take part in the act of prostitution.

It is understood Woods managed the brothel but no longer works there.

Woods' lawyer, Zoe Broughton, told the court she feared publicity of the case would affect her employment.

Neither Hewinson nor his legal representative was in court.

Police prosecutor Senior Constable Nick Papadopoulos requested the matter be adjourned because the victim was unavailable to give evidence on Wednesday.

Magistrate James Mornane adjourned the hearing until January.