

## THE CHURCH'S DIGITAL MUSEUM

"Solidarity," a non-governmental organisation under the aegis of the Church of Greece has recently inaugurated a digital museum, in which the cultural wealth of the Greek-Orthodox Church is being displayed.

The collection comprises 25,000 exhibits and documents, and can be accessed: [art.solidarity.gr](http://art.solidarity.gr). Through the use of the Interactive Cultural Map, the visitor may look at archi-

tectural monuments, museums, heirlooms and cultural assets connected with ecclesiastic structures and organizations.

Showing an image of Greece divided in districts, the Digital Map offers the possibility for the user to select a particular geographical district and be informed about the ecclesiastical cultural data of that area, in both photography or audio material.



## Scientists revive ancient Greek harp

Italian experts have revived an ancient Greek musical instrument using manuscripts and fragments found during archeological excavations.

Fransesko de Matisse and his colleagues at the Conservatory of Music of Salerno designed the harp-like 'epigonion' using the Enabling Grids for E-science infrastructure for computing power, ScienceDaily reported.

"The combination of the EGEE grid computing infrastructures and the high speed GEANT2 and EUMEDCONNECT networks provided not only the immense computing power needed by ASTRA, it also allowed researchers, historians, physicists, engineers, archaeologists to bring their knowledge and their experiences together," said technical coordinator of the project, Domenico Vicinanza.

The reconstructed instrument is a three-dimensional mechanical model of the epigonion with simulated tone, body and resonance.

The ASTRA (Ancient instruments Sound/Timbre Reconstruction Application) project will display the epigonion at the EGEE User Forum in Catania, Italy from March 2 to 6, 2009.

Participants will be able to listen to a professional musician playing ancient scores on the new instrument. They will also get the chance to play it using a MIDI keyboard and run real reconstruction on the grid.

The epigonion, which was introduced in Greece in 180 BCE, is known to have had 50 strings and to have been played without keys.

## NIA VARDALOS: Moviemaking is all Greece to her

*This time, Nia Vardalos doesn't just go Greek. She actually goes to Greece.*

*The star of My Big Fat Greek Wedding, the big fat sleeper hit of 2002, mines her Hellenic heritage for laughs once more in My Life in Ruins, opening May 8. She's Georgia, a tour guide who has lost her kefi — or mojo — and finds it again, thanks to a ragtag group of travelers led by Richard Dreyfuss and an inscrutable bus driver.*



On your left, you'll see ... love? Georgia (Nia Vardalos), a professor who moves to Greece, gets a job as a tour guide and falls for the bus driver in *My Life in Ruins*, which opens May 8.

close my eyes before they say 'Action' and feel the wind blowing through the columns. It doesn't get any better."

That she had celebrated the culture in *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, shot in Chicago and Toronto, bolstered her cred with the locals. "A journalist explained to me the reason why the film was so popular in Greece: 'We love to make fun of you Greek Americans.'"

That favor is returned with the

casting of Alexis Georgoulis as bus driver Poupi (pronounced "poopy"), Georgia's unlikely love interest. Described by Vardalos as "the George Clooney of Greece," the model-handsome 34-year-old makes his American film debut hidden behind a bushy beard and a tangled mop of hair.

But don't be fooled by his appearance. When women on the production team saw his audition tape during a lunch break, "we didn't move, breathe or chew," Vardalos says. "When the scene was finished, everyone jumped up and down and said, 'We've found him!'"

Reuniting with the actress as executive producers are Tom Hanks and Rita Wilson, who has a brief role in the film. This is the fourth time Wilson and her husband have collaborated with her fellow Greek. "We don't have a deal with Nia," she says. "We just love her. Actually, the script came to us, and it just happened to take place in Greece. We wanted her to rewrite it, and it was just serendipitous."

Vardalos briefly lost her own kefi with her Greek Wedding follow-up, 2004's *Connie and Carla*. The musical farce, a distaff *Some Like It Hot* in which she and Toni Collette posed as drag queens, was mostly ignored by the over-40 fans charmed by her first scripted effort. "It was for a different audience," she says. "I have no regrets about doing a film about an issue that is so close to my heart — equal rights for our gay brethren."

Wilson has her own theory: "Sally Field told me this a long time ago. You have to allow people to know who you are before you make a change. If a change is made too quickly, people aren't going to accept it."

With *My Life in Ruins*, Vardalos is firmly back on familiar turf. But the film faces different challenges: namely, Spock and Kirk. The rejuvenated redo of *Star Trek* opens the same day.

"They think it's a movie for women," she says about the counterprogramming proposed.

## Final sweep of fire-hit areas

*SOME of the towns worst hit by Victoria's Black Saturday bushfires will be open to the public this month, police hope.*

*Yesterday a police spokesman said residents from Marysville, where at least 45 people died, should be able to return on March 20.*



*From March 23, the public would be able to visit the towns destroyed in the Marysville complex of fires.*

*Police said disaster victim identification teams would begin a final sweep of the area on Wednesday. "They are hoping to have it completed by Friday the 20th," the spokesman said.*