

# Festival Hellenika returns to Adelaide

*Adelaide is gearing up for a two-month program of Hellenic arts and cultural events as the annual FESTIVAL HELLENIKA returns in 2010. The 2010 program will start with 'The Migration of Ideas: It's All Greek to Me' exhibition at the Immigration Museum and will finish with a night of local artists presenting their work on film as well as their creative writing and performances at the historic Scots Church in the city centre.*



## GREEK EUROVISION: Katerine Avgoustakis disqualified

As it was made known, the song submitted by Katerine Avgoustakis for the Greek Eurovision Song Contest preselection was already available on the internet since the beginning of November. As this was against the rules set by the Greek broadcaster, Katerine Avgoustakis has been disqualified leaving eight songs in the running for the golden ticket to Oslo.

After the announcement of the titles of the songs taking part in this year's Greek preselection for the Eurovision Song Contest, it was discovered that a remix of the song Enjoy the day submitted by Katerine Avgoustakis had been available on youtube since 5th November 2009. According to the rules of the Greek broadcaster, though, no part of the songs could be made available before the official presentation which will take place on 5th March. Today, during a meeting of ERT executives it was decided, as expected, that the song and the singer should be disqualified for breaching the rule.

The Avgoustakis' candidacy had been heavily discussed in the Greek press since the summer even before ERT officially extended their call for songs to the various local record labels. It was widely known afterwards that the singer's team reviewed many possible songs to end up with Enjoy the day.

It should be made clear that although the EBU sets the general rules applying to the participating songs, each broadcaster is free to set their own rules as long as there is no conflict with the EBU ones. For example, although the EBU rule states that the songs cannot have been made available before October 1st, each individual broadcaster can choose to set a different limit after this date or non at all.

These are the eight songs in the order they will appear in the Greek final on 12th March.

1. Christos Chatzinasios- Illusion
2. Second skin – Game of life
3. Manos Pyrovolakis with Eleni Furreira and Don't Ask (Yannis Bantourakis) – I kivotos tou Noe (Noah's Ark)
4. Yiorgos Alkaios and Friends – Opa
5. Yiorgos Karadimos – Polemao (I am fighting)
6. Melisses – Kinezos (China man)
7. Imigrú – Touch me deep inside
8. Eleftheria Eleftheriou – Tables are turning

Another seven events will be on offer to Adelaideans in the course of the festival, including music workshops, a season of Greek films and an exhibition which will feature Adelaide's unrecognised and mostly unnoticed Hellenic inspired imagery.

Asked what new elements have been introduced into the Festival in 2010, festival spokesperson Stamatiki Kritas said:

"We try to introduce new and exciting elements into the festival every year.

Our annual music concert Music Hellenika® this year is dedicated to the GREEK DIVAS – Women in Greek songs. We are also delighted to present an exclusive screening of a documentary and a concert dedicated to the rebetika song writer Markos Vamvakaris."

In its 19th year FESTIVAL HELLENIKA is different from the major Greek Festivals in other major cities of Australia as it is not run by a major Greek community organisation.

The Festival is run by an independ-

ent organisation which represents Greek community organisations and regional brotherhoods.

Asked what are the challenges of presenting a Festival which is not aligned with a major community organisation, Stamatiki Kritas replied:

"It is not a challenge; it is an advantage and an opportunity to act as a uniting force as we are the only umbrella organisation with 24 members who are all community based organisations interested in the Arts and culture."

"We are not only open to participation but we actively invite participation from the Greek and broader community in its entirety."

As a result FESTIVAL HELLENIKA has been able to form partnerships and collaborations with mainstream art bodies and organisations such as the Adelaide Festival Centre, the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra, the Migration Museum, the Fringe Festival, the Tandanya National Aboriginal Cultural Institute and other for both one-off and ongoing projects.

The Festival also actively targets

second and third generation Greek Australians and actively looks for ways of attracting the young Australian born.

They have invited representative of NUGAS onto the Board so that they can 'listen to what the second and third generation Greek Australians are interested in,' said Kritas.

"We always try to present topics and themes that are known to the youth.

For example, our main concert this year MUSIC HELLENIKA, focuses entirely on Women in Greek songs.

The great thing is that the artists who are participating are themselves young women of second and third generation Greek Australians from Adelaide."

The bottom line for the Festival is simple, according to Kritas: that Festival Hellenika® always supports, nurtures and promotes local artists.

For event information or the full and official programme of the festival please call: Stamatiki Kritas on 0402 072 741 or George Apostolou on 0417 844 140

(source: neos kosmos)

## Rare Pinus peuce white pine forests in Voras, Rodopi mountain ranges



The Voras and Rodopi mountain ranges have every reason to pride themselves on their magnificent fauna and flora, including forests of the rare Balkans-endemic five-needle white pine tree Pinus Peuce (Molika Pine), two of the just 17 such forests in the entire Balkans.

The molika pine is an autochthonous taxa of five-needle pine originating from the Tertiary Period, and Mt. Voras, the third highest mountain in Greece, has relics of an ancient Pinus peuce forest dating back to the Ice Age, while another remarkable feature are several expanses of aged chestnut woods and abandoned cherry, apple and cereal cultivations that form a beautiful landscape and important wildlife habitat.

The Pinus peuce forest expanses are of great ecological, historic and aesthetic value, and comprise one of the most important forest systems in Europe, and have been declared protected nature monuments.

The Pinus peuce pine differs from all other pine taxa in that it is the only taxa to have five-needle leaves, compared with the two-needle leaves of all other pines, and is strictly protected under Greek legislation.

The two forests are home to important and endangered species of wild goat, deer, bear and boar, and dozens of rare bird species.

All activity, except scientific study, is prohibited in the two forests.