

Tsopela, Apostolou to Perform at Bargemusic, Brooklyn

By Aria Socratous

The internationally acclaimed and distinguished Greek artists Vinia Tsopela and her nephew, Andreas Foivos Apostolou, will perform four concerts at Bargemusic November 10-13. Moored in Brooklyn just below the Brooklyn Bridge, with live music up to five days a week in a wonderfully intimate wood-paneled room with excellent acoustics and thrilling views of Manhattan, Bargemusic has been called “the perfect chamber-music hall.”

The musicians’ repertoire consists of demanding romantic and contemporary works, as well as premieres. On November 10, Apostolou will perform Rameau, Mendelssohn, and Carl Vine. On November 11, he will play Schubert, Rameau and Dutilleux. Both recitals will include premieres of his works “Collage” and “Transformations.”

Apostolou’s style draws inspiration from jazz, electronic music, minimalism, as well as extended techniques, such as knocking parts of the piano for a percussive effect.

On November 12, Tsopela will perform Liszt, Chopin, Hatzidakis and De Falla. She will play “Six Sketches,” a ballet for piano based on Greek folk songs by Manos Hatzidakis for the first time in New York. November 13 features the Tsopela and Apostolou Duo. The artists will interpret works by Schubert, Rossini, Rachmaninoff, Ligeti and Barber.

A professor of piano performance, Tsopela has received international recognition for her passion, sensitivity, and dynamism as a pianist. The Athens-born musician studied at the Athens Conservatory and graduated in Piano with the distinction of First Prize. She later studied with the renowned



Internationally-acclaimed classical pianist Vinia Tsopela and her nephew, Andreas Foivos Apostolou, also a pianist, will perform at Bargemusic in Brooklyn on November 10-13.

French pianist Yvonne Lefebure on a full scholarship from the French Government, and in 1972 came to the United States, where she continued her studies on a full scholarship at the Juilliard School in New York, earning both the Diploma and the Post-Graduate Diploma.

The Washington Post describes “a concert rich in flavor, interpretation. Tsopela conveyed the sense of improvisation in this music as well as its distinctive melodic and rhythmic contours. The first movement of Robert Schumann’s Phantasie in C, Op. 17, came on like a tropical storm - one, I must add, with very deep and mellow tones.”

Tsopela told The National Herald “as far as my recital is concerned which takes place on November 12. I start with Manos Hatzidakis six sketches, a ballet for piano based on Greek folk songs. It’s going to be the New York premiere and it’s very important because it’s based on six very well-known old rempetika. The first one is

“Sinnefiasmeni Kyriako,” it’s considered the Greek anthem. What is interesting is that Hatzidakis tried to keep the authenticity of these songs. Those are very well known melodies that people love and they still sing it. Then you can give the same feelings and all the sentiments about what the composer portrays like love and desperation. I would like to portray the authenticity of the songs. I finish with “El amor brujo” (Love the magician) which it is based on a ballet. In the middle I play the Liszt Valle d’Obermann from Années de Pèlerinage, which it’s one of the most mature works, it’s extremely philosophical, extremely dramatic and it compasses the whole life. It’s a journey and his life, how he started, how he developed, all his existential problems, love, passions, the despair. The program is one of the most beautiful programs I’ve ever assembled together.”

Andreas Foivos Apostolou was born in Athens in 1991 into an artistic family. He graduated

with distinction of a unanimous First Prize in Piano from the Conservatoire in Athens, he studied Piano and Composition at the Boyer School of Music, Temple University with Charles Abramovic, Harvey Weeden, Richard, Brodhead and Jan Krzywicki and he graduated with a double Major MM in Piano Performance and Composition at Jacobs School of Music in 2016. As a composer he has written for piano, chamber ensembles, choir, symphony orchestra and has scored soundtrack for theater and short films.

“I’m trying to do different things,” he told TNH. “I play a lot of electric guitar, so I am trying to mix electric guitar with piano and some other electronic medium with my performance and also possibly writing for film music.”

Mentored by his aunt Tsopela, Apostolou is the recipient of several prestigious grants from both Europe and United States and a very promising young artist.