

WORLD MUSIC

GREECE

Introduction

The two compositions here by Mikis Theodorakis are labeled “popular music” or “popular songs from a song-cycle.” However, Theodorakis has firm roots in genuine Greek music and he has contributed much to the cultural revolution in Greece. So it was felt that these compositions should be listed under authentic Greek world music.

Ref: Mikis Theodorakis, [Wikipedia](#)

WD-GR1 Greece ca.1999

MES TIS THALASSINES SPILIES (INSIDE THE SEA CAVES)

WD – Greek – Instrumental

Mus: Mikis THEODORAKIS

Lyr: Yorghos SEFERIS

Perf: (Studio Orchestra)

(with bouzouki, mandolin, etc.)

Prod: (B) Don Taylor

Prod. Co: (B) FM Records; Hannover, Germany

Time: 2:01

A. Original Greek Release: (?)

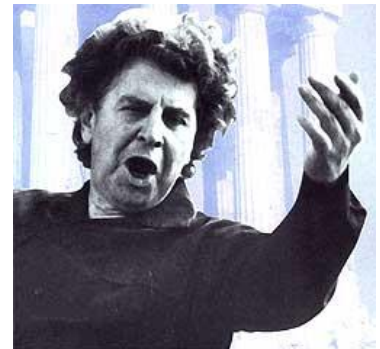
B. German Compilation **CD:** THE VERY BEST OF MIKIS THEODORAKIS –
VOL. 2 (1999)

FM 1060 (Tk 15)

Notes: The liner notes with the reissue compilation CD state that this piece is a song with lyrics by Seferis, but what is on the CD is purely instrumental. This is classic slow-tempo Theodorakis orchestration where the bouzouki sets down the theme with mandolin backing. Mikis Theodorakis is famous the world over for his many compositions of contemporary Greek music, among them the soundtrack for “Zorba the Greek.” There are countless sea caves on the Greek coast and all over the Greek islands; it is not known which ones inspired this piece.

Ref: Mikis Theodorakis, Biography, [Mikis Theodorakis](#)

The Very Best of Mikis Theodorakis – Vol. 2, Inside the Sea Caves, [Emusic](#) (◀AUDIO SAMPLE)



VARIOUS VERSIONS OF ΝΥΚΤΕΡΙΑ (LA CHAUVE SOURIS) In chronological order

WD-GR2 France 1971

NYKTERIDA (LA CHAUVÉ SOURIS)

WD – Popular – Sirtaki – Vocal

Mus: Mikis THEODORAKIS

Lyr: Manos ELEFTHERIOU ([LY-WD26](#))

Perf: Antonis **KALOYANNIS** (vocal)

Andreas Michalaki & Christos Constantinou (bouzouki)

Carl Arnold, Franco Corvasce, & Nicos Mortaitis (guitar)

Mario Molino (12-string guitar)

Yiannis Pardalakis (piano)

Ernesto Brancucci (bass)

Angelo Zappulla (percussion)

Michele Musicco (drums)

Photo by Patrick Bertrand



Cond: Mikis **THEODORAKIS**

Prod: Pierre Sberro-Terrighi

Prod. Co: Polydor-Paris

Rec. Co: Studio des Dames; Paris

Time: 3:34

1. **LP:** THEODORAKIS DIRIGE THEODORAKIS – VOL. 1 – "TA LAÏKA"

Polydor 2473.007 (stereo)

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)

2. **LP:** MIKIS THEODORAKIS

Polydor 2664.342 (stereo)

2X 12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 2)

Notes: This was the first recording of the group of 12 poems by Manos Eleftheiou, which Theodorakis started to set to music in March 1967 and later called "The Popular Songs."

During the military dictatorship in Greece, Theodorakis was imprisoned in 1967 and later kept under house arrest until 1968. During this period he was able to complete this song-cycle. Brandes writes that "Manos Eleftheiou was treading a traditional path in his verse and Theodorakis understood this immediately: his melodies were spare and simple, diverging only slightly from folk models."

The first performance of this song-cycle, sung by Antonis Kalogiannis and Maria Dimitriadi, took place in Italy in 1970. They were never heard in Greece at the time of their composition. This was "the price Theodorakis paid for defending Democracy." (Brandes 2003)

The original Greek lyrics could not be obtained, but the French translation of these lyrics is provided with the English translation (see [LY-WD26](#)). The first stanza tells us –

Une chauve-souris sous mon toit

Monte la garde du foyer

Qui donc pourra t'en parler

Que tu saches mon désespoir.

A bat under my roof

Keeps guard on my home

Who then could tell you

So you know of my despair.

This version sounds exactly like the later Greek recordings in every way except the 12-second bouzouki intro is omitted here. (See next entry.)

Ref: Brandes, Andreas 2003, Liner Notes for CD – TA LAÏKA (see below)

Theodorakis, Mikis 2001, Journal de Résistance – La Dette, (Translated from Greek to French by Jean Criticos & Pierre Comberousse), Flammarion, Paris, 320 p. (Text of this poem)

Theodorakis Derige Theodorakis – Vol. 1, [Discogs](#)



WD-GR3 Greece 1974

ΝΥΧΤΕΡΙΔΑ

WD – Popular – Vocal

Mus: Mikis THEODORAKIS

Lyr: Manos ELEFTHERIOU ([LY-WD26](#))

Perf: Antonis **KALOYANNIS** (vocal)
(with orchestra)

Cond: Mikis **THEODORAKIS**

Prod. Co: Polydor

Time: 3:45

1. Greek **LP:** Ο ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑΚΗΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΕΙ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑΚΗ ΝΟ. 1 –
ΤΑ ΛΑΪΚΑ (1974)

Polydor 2393 020/511 057

2. Reissue on **CD:** ΑΝΤΩΝΗΣ ΚΑΛΟΓΙΑΝΝΗΣ – ΜΙΚΡΑ
ΕΡΩΤΙΚΑ, ΜΕΓΑΛΕΣ ΕΡΜΗΝΕΙΕΣ (1994)

Polydor 523917-2 (CD 1 – Tk 20)

3. Reissue on **CD:** Ο ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑΚΗΣ ΔΙΕΥΘΥΝΕΙ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΑΚΗ
ΝΟ. 1 – ΤΑ ΛΑΪΚΑ (1994)

Polydor 527104-2 (Tk 2)

Notes: This melancholic song was part of a series of 12 popular songs specially composed and arranged by Theodorakis in 1974. This is probably the same version as the 1971 French Polydor release, but here the 12-second bouzouki intro is included. (See previous entry.) The bouzouki introduces a gentle melody and Kaloyannis sings about the bat under his roof who guards his home and who could tell you about his despair. He then sends his greetings carried by the wind.



WD-GR4 Greece 1974

ΜΙΑ ΝΥΧΤΕΡΙΔΑ ΣΤΗ ΣΚΕΠΗ (A BAT IN THE ROOF)

WD – Popular – Vocal

Mus: Mikis THEODORAKIS

Lyr: Manos ELEFTHERIOU ([LY-WD26](#))

Perf: Manolis **MITSIAS** (vocal)

Cond: Loukianos **KILAIDONIS**

Prod: Yiorgos Makrakis

Prod. Co: Minos-EMI S.A., Greece

Rec. Co: Studio Columbia

Rec. Date: June 1974

Liner Notes: Andreas Brandes

Time: 3:52

1. **LP:** ΤΑ ΛΑΪΚΑ (1974)
EMI 70220

2. Reissue on **CD:** ΤΑ ΛΑΪΚΑ – Mikos Theodorakis EMI Remasters – Vol. 3 (2003)
EMI 7243 584054-2 2 (Tk 2)

Notes: This second recording of the song-cycle, “The Popular Songs,” took place in Athens. Kilaidonis did a new orchestration.

Ref: Mikos Theodorakis, Ta Laika, [Studio 52](#)

M. MITSIAS

