

MIKIS THEODORAKIS

Michael "Mikis" Theodorakis (born in the Aegean island of Chios, 29 July 1925) is a Greek songwriter and a world-famous composer. The most well-known films for which he scored are "Zorba the Greek" (1964), "Z" (1969), and "Serpico" (1973). He is viewed as Greece's best-known living composer.

Theodorakis has written more than 1,000 songs and song-cycles, whose melodies have become part of the heritage of Greek music.

From 1952 to 2010 he composed 12 symphonic works including concerts and rhapsodies. Apart the above, Theodorakis scored for 18 international films and composed music for 7 international plays, as well as 12 tragedies, 11 modern plays, 5 operas, 8 ballet performances, 18 chamber music pieces, 8 hymns and 7 cantatas & oratorios.

Politically, he identified with the left until the late 1980s; in 1989 he ran as an independent candidate within the Centre-right New Democracy party in order for the country to come out of the political crisis that had been created that time. In 1990 he was elected to the parliament (as in 1964 and 1981), became a government minister and fought against drugs and terrorism and in favor of culture, education and better relations between Greece and Turkey. He continues to speak out in favor of left-liberal causes, Greek-Turkish-Cypriot relations, and against the War. He has consistently opposed oppressive regimes and was a key voice against the Greek junta 1967-1974, which imprisoned and banished him at Zatouna, the place that this race starts.

