



el sistema greece

**2023 - 2024**

**ANNUAL LIST OF ACTIVITIES**



### IL CONGRESSO MUNDIAL EL SISTEMA | 09-24.09.2023



### IL CONGRESSO MUNDIAL EL SISTEMA | 09-24.09.2023

El Sistema Greece's [exciting trip to Caracas](#), Venezuela, for the II Congreso Mundial El Sistema marked an important milestone for us, as we found ourselves in the place where El Sistema was created and which continues to inspire us to this day. The II Congreso Mundial was the first live World Congress hosted at the headquarters of the National Centre for Social Action Through Music. Bringing together musical programs from around the world, each inspired by the principles of El Sistema, this congress was a vibrant celebration of music, education and social change. With an agenda of diverse activities, these days embodied the essence of what Maestro Jose Antonio Abreu envisioned.

As part of this, members of our team traveled to the birthplace of El Sistema. More specifically the conference was attended by El Sistema Greece's Co Founder Elisa Sologni, General Manager Angeliki Georgokosta and Music Teacher Giannis Ismirnioglou.

Our trip was even more special by the presence of four of our students, Stavroula Kamakari and Eleni Vassiliou, members of the El Sistema Greece Youth Choir, as well as Alessio Hyka (French horn) and Christos Kotinis (Percussion), members of the El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra. Our musicians actively participated in the rehearsals and major concerts held during these important days, and shared the stage with musicians from Sistema programs around the world as members of the World Orchestra and World Choir that were created.

Here is an [insightful article](#) about our experience, including our students' testimonials about their unforgettable trip at the II Congreso Mundial El Sistema.

### **OUR STORIES - ATHENS CIVIL SOCIETY FESTIVAL | 18.09.2023**

Following the first Athens Civil Society Festival, the Municipality of Athens invited Civil Society organizations to the Serafio City of Athens to capture their stories on videos. We shared our own story with the participation of both our musicians and members of our team.

### **YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM - FOURTH COHORT**



The Young Leaders Program is back for [its fourth year](#) with a group of new and returning participants, including three students from the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility for Asylum Seekers in Schisto, who bring their unique skills and experiences enriching the diversity of the program. The Young Leaders embody the essence of El Sistema Greece, where music is not only an art form but a means to promote collaboration, empathy and inclusion.

### 2ND NEVRONAS FESTIVAL | 07.10.2023



El Sistema Greece participated in the [2nd Nevronas Festival](#) at Technopolis City of Athens. We presented the story of our musician Nikolas and spoke about music as a tool for social inclusion. Nikolas is a talented percussionist on the autism spectrum and was an integral member of El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra from 2018 to 2023. In the end of the presentation, Nikolas shared the stage with his teacher Angeliki Lapaki and performed together a piece for 2 percussionists. (100 people at the audience)

### RECORDING FOR JOYCE DIDONATO | 09.10.2023

All the choir classes of El Sistema Greece participated in the [Global Eden Choir Video](#) that was launched globally in November 2023. All of our students sung together the new piece “Endless Sky” and along with ESG’s Choir Master, Vagia Papagiannopoulou, discussed the challenging situation our environment faces and the actions we can take to transform life for the better.

### 1ST WORKSHOP SU JOSÉ ANTONIO ABREU E L’ ESPERIENZA DE “EL SISTEMA” | 20-21.10.2023

El Sistema Greece participated in the conference organized by the [Orchestra Sinfonica dei Quartieri Spagnoli di Napoli](#) about José Antonio Abreu and the “El Sistema” experience. Our teacher Giannis Ismirnioglou led an educational workshop for teachers, students and music professionals on the pillars of El Sistema methodology.

### HALLOWEEN CONCERT IN KYPSELI | 01.11.2023



All the violin, viola and cello students of Kypseli nucleo celebrated [Halloween](#) by playing spooky tunes for their parents and creating a mysterious atmosphere along with their teachers. (Students = 21 / People at the audience = 40)

### ECHOS: INCLUSIVE EUROPEAN YOUTH ORCHESTRAS FOR SOCIAL COHESION: BUILDING JUST AND RESILIENT MUSIC ECOSYSTEMS | 4-5.11.2023

Our General Manager, Angeliki Georgokosta had the unique opportunity to participate in the [ECHOS project training](#) implemented by Sistema Cyprus. The project seeks to contribute to the building of a more just and resilient music ecosystem, through the development of a methodology for the creation of inclusive youth orchestras in our increasingly diverse societies. This methodology was shared with musicians, music educators and music operators from 10 different countries coming together in Larnaca for a two-day experiential intense training. The diversity of the group and the quality of the training material, surely gave us new inspiration, insights and ideas on how to become more effective in responding to the needs of our community here in Greece.

The methodology developed based on the expertise and experience of Sistema Cyprus is a valuable tool for all actors working on the field of social change through music captured in this book which is available and free for all [here](#).

## OPEN REHEARSAL AT THE PRESIDENTIAL MANSION | 05.11.2023



The musicians of El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra held an open rehearsal and welcomed children residing in Accommodation Centres for Unaccompanied Minors. During the event, they provided an insightful presentation on how an orchestra operates and introduced the various musical instruments that comprise it. The activity was carried out in collaboration with the [Presidency of the Hellenic Republic](#) and the General Secretariat for Vulnerable Persons and Institutional Protection of the Ministry of Immigration and Asylum. (Orchestra number = 35 / Children from Centres = 15 / People at the audience = 100)

## 4TH TRIBUTE TO GERMAN LIEDER: THE POET'S LOVE, LIFE AND WOMAN'S LOVE | 6-8.11.2023



Stavroula Kamakari, member of the El Sistema Greece Youth Choir, participated in the [4th Tribute to German Lieder](#) at Athens Conservatoire. The tribute consisted of 2 days of masterclasses and rehearsals. The last day, a concert open to the public took place. During the three days, Zoe Zeniodi, the new Artistic Director of ESG, accompanied the singers on the piano.

## B-ME PRESENTATION AT THE IONIAN UNIVERSITY | 15.11.2023



In November, we had the pleasure to meet students of [Ionian University](#) and discuss the project B-Me: Blending Melodies-Bridging Cultural Identities. We were joined by the composer Roxani Chatzidimitriou who shared her experience collaborating with a musician with Albanian origin and incorporated Greek and Albanian elements within her composition. Her discussion with the students was an exploration of this unique creative journey. In these exchanges we always find fertile ground for innovation and development.

## YOUNG LEADERS PROGRAM - WORKSHOP ON CHILDREN'S RIGHTS | 25.11.2023



With the occasion of the [International Day for Children's Rights](#), ESG hosted Anna Mertzani, Manager of the Intercultural Center "Pyxida" of the Greece Council of Refugees. The meeting with the Young Leaders focused on the children's rights and everyone shared their experience, highlighting the importance of recognizing and defending the rights of every child. We are thrilled that this very fruitful encounter was captured by the World Ensemble through an article covering this session. Read the article [here](#).

## INCLUSION AND PROTECTION OF INDIVIDUALS WITH A MIGRANT BACKGROUND: CIVIL SOCIETY'S IMPACT" | 28.11.2023

Συμπερίληψη και προστασία ατόμων με μεταναστευτικό υπόβαθρο

Η συμβολή των οργανώσεων της Κοινωνίας των Πολιτών

28/11/23 | 17:30 - 21:00 | Σεράφειο

“ Κοινωνική ένταξη μέσω της μουσικής

**Σέβη Ματσακίδου**  
Υπεύθυνη Εκπαιδευτικού Προγράμματος  
El Sistema Greece

el sistema greece

The poster features logos for KMOP, the Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs, and the Serapio Center. It includes a quote about social inclusion through music and a portrait of Sevi Matsakidou. At the bottom, there is an illustration of three diverse people and the El Sistema Greece logo.

More than 150 people, politicians, journalists, representatives of civil society and employees of NGOs and institutions that support people with migrant and refugee background took part in this [event](#), organized by KMOP ([SOCIAL ACTION & INNOVATION CENTRE](#)), and exchanged knowledge, experiences and views on the challenges and actions for the inclusion of migrants and refugees. The educational manager of ESG [Sevi Matsakidou represented the organization](#), sharing insights through her experience for social inclusion through music.



### EL SISTEMA GREECE YOUTH CHOIR IN THE CHRISTMAS WORLD OF THE SNFCC | 1.12.2023



*©SNFCC\_Nikos Karanikolas*

On the 1st of December, the Christmas World of the SNFCC opened the festive evening with Christmas songs immersing everyone in the spirit of the most beloved season of the year. El Sistema Greece Youth Choir sang favorite Christmas songs and carols, under the direction of their conductor Vagia Papagiannopoulou. The event was implemented thanks to the SNF Nostos x Release Athens grants, as part of the Global Health Initiative (GHI) of SNF. The concert was also broadcasted on ERT2, ERTFLIX, ERTWORLD and the platforms of the SNFCC.

For the purpose of the same event, [we welcomed students from the Controlled Temporary Reception Facility of Asylum Seekers of Schisto](#) who had the opportunity to enjoy this spectacular event together with their families. (Choir number = 25 / People at the audience = 10.000)

## **COSMOS: EL SISTEMA GREECE - A CHRISTMAS JOURNEY WITH CAROLS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD | 11.12.2023**



*©SNFCC\_Mariza Kapsabeli*

More than 110 talented musicians of El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra and El Sistema Greece Youth Choir, under the direction of Kyriaki Kountouri and Vagia Papagiannopoulou, performed [a sold out concert](#) with Christmas songs from all over the world at the Stavros Niarchos Hall GNO of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Centre on Monday, December 11. The event was implemented thanks to the SNF Nostos x Release Athens grants, as part of the Global Health Initiative (GHI) of SNF. (Orchestra & Choir number = 117 / People at the audience = 1150)

## **MAC PRESENTATION - NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC STUDIES | 13.12.2023**

Music for Active Citizenship: a Young Music Mentors Programme was presented for the first time [at the Department of Music Studies of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens](#). The project offered opportunities for social and educational interaction between students of Sistema music programmes and local music students. Based on the foundations of social music education, social equality and social inclusion while providing education about the value of diversity. The project was presented by Sevi Matsakidou, Panagiotis Tsiridis and the Young Music Mentors who took part in the project and shared their participation experience with the students. The discussion that followed focused on the contribution of music education in promoting social inclusion and understanding between different communities.

## **DIMITRIO DAY CENTER OF APOSTOLI CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE | 15.12.2023**

In collaboration with the Dimitrio Day Center of Apostoli, we enjoyed our students in a [Christmas performance](#) at the Church of Saints Constantine & Helen in Moschato. The El Sistema Greece Adults Choir along with the music ensembles and students of Dimitrio collaborated and discovered all the places where love is hidden. Together they sent a message of unity for the holiday season. (students number = 22 violin, viola, cello students, 5 choir students & 15 ESG Adults Choir / People at the audience = 100).

## **CHRISTMAS BAZAAR AT MALLIARAS SCHOOL | 16.12.2023**



El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra participated in the Christmas Bazaar at Malliaras School, performing Christmas carols and famous songs from all over the world. (Orchestra number = 60 / People at the audience = 50)

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE CONTROLLED TEMPORARY ACCOMODATION FACILITY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS AT SCHISTO | 19.12.2023**



As we completed our lessons for 2023, our wonderful students at the Controlled Temporary Accomodation Facility for Asylum Seekers at Schisto prepared a concert for their friends and families. Apart from their musical talent and progress, this concert was a celebration of their friendship, their resilient spirit and the creation of a wonderful and supportive community with music at its core. (students number = 16 violin, viola and choir students / People at the audience = 30)

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT KYPSELI | 20.12.2023**



Our musicians celebrated Christmas and their achievements during these months. To complete their lessons for 2023, they held concerts for their friends and family at Kypseli. Alongside their teachers, they celebrated their development and the valuable friendship created during this musical journey. (students number = 20 / People at the audience = 60)

## MAC PRESENTATION - NATIONAL AND KAPODISTRIAN UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS, DEPARTMENT OF EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION | 21.12.2023

The project MAC- Music for Active Citizenship: a Young Music Mentors Programme was presented for the first time at the Department of Music Studies and the Department of Early Childhood Education of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. The project offered opportunities for social and educational interaction between students of Sistema music programmes and local music students. Based on the foundations of social music education, the project promotes social equality and social inclusion while educating about the value of diversity.

The [educational platform](#) of the project is now live including a [training package](#) with the theoretical principles of community music, the El Sistema programme and a set of educational activities with all the necessary materials and audiovisual media.

MAC- Music for Active Citizenship: a Young Music Mentors Programme is an Erasmus+ project implemented in Cyprus and Greece with partners Sistema Cyprus and El Sistema Greece.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERT AT THE MUSES FOYER OF THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL | 29.12.2023



The newly formed winds and percussion ensemble of El Sistema Greece, [Decibel Collective](#), under the direction of the winds teacher and sectional leader Konstantina Ventouri-Roussou, performed [two pop-up concerts](#) performing famous Christmas songs at the Foyer of the Athens Concert Hall. (Orchestra number = 20 / People at the audience = 1.000)

# 'AIR - ARTIST IN RESIDENCE' EXHIBITION

El Sistema Greece was showcased at the 'AIR - Artist in Residence' exhibition. Thanks to the support of the city of Salzburg, Francesca Canali had a transformative residency with our students, teachers and local musicians in December 2022. Her captivating Poster-Presentation, featuring our talented students, was on display at the City of Salzburg's gallery until the end of February.

## VON SALZBURG NACH ATHEN!

**Die Musikerin FRANCESCA CANALI als Artist In Residence bei El Sistema Greece  
AIR Stipendium des STADT SALZBURG**

Dank der Unterstützung der Stadt Salzburg war Francesca Canali als Gewinnerin eines AIR-Stipendiums im Dezember 2022 Artist in Residence bei El Sistema Greece in Athen und Korinth, nach den schweren Jahren der Covid-Pandemie, in denen alle Aktivitäten mit dem Ausfall von El Sistema Greece ausgesetzt wurden, was es durch diese Initiative möglich machte, viele künstlerische und pädagogische Aktivitäten durchzuführen, die auf großes Interesse, Begeisterung und Erfolg stießen. Die geliebte Romanin ist eine vielseitige Musikerin, pädagogische, Pädagogin und Forscherin, die in Salzburg lebt und von dort aus Konzerte, Musik- und Bildungsprojekte in der ganzen Welt durchführt. Hier berichtet Francesca Canali über ihre wunderbare Erfahrung.

### El Sistema Greece

El Sistema Greece hat über 1000 an verschiedenen Musikschulen, die von der Nationalen Opern- und Ballettschule bis hin zu kleinen Musikschulen in ländlichen Gebieten reichen. Die Musikschulen sind in verschiedenen Altersgruppen unterteilt, von Kindern bis hin zu Erwachsenen. Die Musikschulen sind in verschiedenen Altersgruppen unterteilt, von Kindern bis hin zu Erwachsenen. Die Musikschulen sind in verschiedenen Altersgruppen unterteilt, von Kindern bis hin zu Erwachsenen.

### Mein Aufenthalt in Athen und Korinth

Mein Aufenthalt in Athen und Korinth war eine unvergessliche Erfahrung. Ich habe viele tolle Momente erlebt und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt. Ich habe viele tolle Momente erlebt und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt. Ich habe viele tolle Momente erlebt und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt.

### Über die Musik hinaus

Über die Musik hinaus habe ich viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt.

### Persönliche Gedanken und Reflexionen

Persönliche Gedanken und Reflexionen über meine Zeit in Athen und Korinth. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt.

### Ergebnisse und Feedback

Ergebnisse und Feedback von meiner Zeit in Athen und Korinth. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt. Ich habe viele tolle Erfahrungen gemacht und viele tolle Menschen kennengelernt.





**FRANCESCA CANALI** - [www.francescainali.com](http://www.francescainali.com)

Francesca Canali (1964) ist eine internationale renommierte Violoncellistin, ehemalige Stipendiatin der Internationalen Musikschulen, Mitglied der Akademie für Musikwissenschaften in Wien, Mitglied der Akademie für Musikwissenschaften in Wien, Mitglied der Akademie für Musikwissenschaften in Wien.





**STADT SALZBURG**



**el sistema greece**

### ESG NEW LOGO | 2.1.2024

We put a touch of color to our logo, adding some more vibrancy to our musical journey! Keeping our initial design that represents our big and open music community, we enriched it with symbolic colors.

Purple signifies the deep artistic richness of music.

Turquoise captures the creativity and expression that music offers.

Yellow symbolizes the blend of different elements that create our musical mosaic.



## **NEW YEAR CELEBRATION AT KALOY FONDATION | 15.1.2024**

We welcomed the new year together with our students in Corinth. Our students from the Kaloy Fondation and from the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility for Asylum Seekers of Corinth organized a festive event open to their parents and friends.

## **EQUALITY AT THE PODIUM | 12.1.2024**

The artistic director of El Sistema Greece Zoe Zeniodi and the conductor of El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra Kyriaki Kountouri participated in the event "Equality at the Podium" held by the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Foundation on Friday 12 January at the Pallas Theatre in Lefkosia. Through the employment of this policy, the Foundation is joining the international movement towards bringing gender balance in classical music, towards a new state of affairs where female and conductors begin to hold the baton equally.

As part of the event, Zoe Zeniodi and Kyriaki Kountouri conducted Cyprus Symphony Orchestra in a concert of popular classics and then shared personal stories from their careers as women orchestra conductors and answered questions from the audience.



*©Vasso Paraschi*



### **OPEN CHOIR CLASS AT KYPSALI MUNICIPAL MARKET | 8.2.2024**

El Sistema Greece invited the children of Kypseli neighborhood, as well as all children who love singing, to participate in an exciting open choir lesson at Kypseli Municipal Market on Thursday February 8 at 17.00. The class was for children from 12 years old and above. No previous experience was required to participate, just a team spirit and love for music. The lesson was conducted by Vagia Papagiannopoulou, choir master of ESG and conductor of El Sistema Greece Youth Choir and Konstantina Angelopoulou, choir teacher at ESG. (Choir number = 30 / People at the audience = 40)

### **DECIBEL COLLECTIVE CELEBRATED THE 49TH BIRTHDAY OF EL SISTEMA | 17.2.2024**

On Saturday, February 17th Kypseli Municipal Market welcomed Decibel Collective, the newly formed winds and percussion ensemble of El Sistema Greece to celebrate the 49th birthday of El Sistema with two festive performances. El Sistema was born in Venezuela 49 years ago and to date has transformed the lives of countless children with music education as a key tool. Through popular songs, the musicians of El Sistema Greece under the direction of their teacher Konstantina Ventouri-Roussou created a festive atmosphere and sent their warmest wishes to the other side of the world. (Orchestra number = 23 / People at the audience = 150)



### **ESG PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERACTIVE EVENT OF LELA KARAGIANNI AND DIMITRIO DAY CENTER | 2.3.2024**

We had the opportunity to take part in an interactive event by «Lela Karagianni», «Dimitrio» Day Center of Apostoli, and the Museum «Benizelos Mansion» dedicated to the idea of playing! Our students from the beginner string ensemble of Kypseli who started learning music with us just 4 months ago performed in this event! The children played pieces they have been practicing in ensemble classes and earned the loudest applause. Another 2 of our violin students from Dimitrio Day Center and members of ESGYO performed pieces they are currently practicing with the orchestra!

Our students played under the direction of their teacher Giannis Ismyrnioglou and completed their performance by inviting children from the audience to play together. They gave them musical instruments, presented the notes and played the last piece together turning music into a fun game! (Orchestra number = 9 / People at the audience = 300)



## **ACADEMY FOR IMPACT THROUGH MUSIC (AIM) FIREBIRD FELLOWSHIP | 3.3.2024**

Our trumpet teacher Giannis Panagiotou has been selected for the prestigious AIM Firebird Fellowship by AIM! The Firebird Fellowship brings together teachers from pioneering music for social action programs, for a 15-month learning journey to become outstanding educators. Fellows will be guided by expert coaches and international artists, supported by a global community of peers who share the same passion for music and social impact.

## **ESG FEATURED IN THE DOCUMENTARY SERIES "BONHEUR INTÉRIEUR BRUT" | 9.3.2024**

Our team was featured in the documentary series "Bonheur intérieur brut" by Canadian filmmaker Hugo Latulippe, showcasing solution-based stories on happiness. The first episode of the documentary series showcases our mission, our classes, concerts, and interviews from our team members about the transformative power of music in fostering social inclusion and development. The episode featuring El Sistema Greece is now **available for free worldwide access on TV5.**

## **SEAN SHIBE VISITED ESG STUDENTS | 10.3.2024**

Well-known guitarist Sean Shibe visited our students at the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility for Asylum Seekers at Schisto for an inspiring performance. Our young students watched the concert with great enthusiasm and one of our violin students shared with Sean Shibe his excitement and desire to follow in his steps.



## **SONORO QUARTET WELCOMED THE STRINGS OF THE ESGYO AT MEGARON THE ATHENS CONCERT HALL | 10.3.2024**

The Sonoro Quartet welcomed the strings of the ESGYO at Megaron The Athens Concert Hall for a mentoring workshop where they worked in depth on their repertoire. This was followed by a discussion about music and the everyday life of musicians. Finally, our orchestra conductor Kyriaki Kountouri and the viola teacher Eleni Liora attended their concert at the Megaron The Athens Concert Hall.

## **EL SISTEMA GREECE WELCOMED ORCHESTRE PHILHARMONIQUE DE RADIO FRANCE | 10-13.3.2024**

El Sistema Greece had the pleasure of welcoming Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France! In collaboration with Megaron The Athens Concert Hall, UNICEF Greece Country Office and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), we organized a musical performance by musicians from the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France and their conductor Mikko Franck at an IOM shelter for unaccompanied minors in Athens. The event was a celebration of cultural exchange and an opportunity for the young people to experience the orchestra's music for the first time.

The orchestra performed for the children under the baton of its conductor, Mikko Franck, UNICEF France Ambassador. We were also honored by the presence of George Perris, international singer and Ambassador of Unicef in Greece, and Yannis Vakarelis, Artistic Director of Megaron The Athens Concert Hall.



## **RADIO FRANCE VISITED ESG STUDENTS AT THE CONTROLLED TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FACILITY FOR ASYLUM SEEKERS OF SCHISTO | 13.3.2024**

In collaboration with the Social Integration Office of the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility for Asylum Seekers of Schisto, we had the pleasure of welcoming musicians from the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France, the conductor Mikko Franck and the international violin soloist Vilde Frang. Our students presented what they had learnt and performed selected pieces for our guests. The musicians of the Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France responded with an inspirational performance, sparking a lively discussion in which they shared their experiences with the children.



## **CELLO WORKSHOP FOR ESG STUDENTS AT KYPSELI | 13.3.2024**

Karine Jean-Baptiste, the cellist of Radio France offered a cello workshop for our students at Kypseli. Through her knowledge and experience she contributed significantly to the development of our students and their artistic expression.

### **EL SISTEMA GREECE YOUTH ORCHESTRA WELCOMED STUDENTS FROM MALLIARAS SCHOOLS | 1.4.2024**

Students from Malliaras Schools visited our sectional and tutti rehearsals. It was an opportunity for them to get in touch with how our orchestra works, meet the different musicians and instruments as well as the repertoire we prepare for our summer concerts! Malliaras Schools host the ESGYO rehearsals.

### **MUSIC CONFIDENTIAL - PODCAST SERIES LAUNCH | 3.4.2024**

Our first podcast series titled "Music Confidential" was launched to explore the fascinating world of music! In this podcast, our students meet music professionals to discover the many different aspects of music. From the creative process to entrepreneurship and production, each episode hosts different people who inspire us through their stories.

**[Available here](#)**



### **ESG STUDENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE RECORDING OF THE EDEN SONG WITH JOYCE DIDONATO AT OLYMPIA | 6-9.4.2024**

Members of the El Sistema Greece Youth Choir participated in EDEN that took place in Olympia. Our students took part in the video recording of a piece by Joyce Didonato and the Olympic Hymn, in collaboration with the GNO choir and the French choir Sotto Voce, as part of the Touching of the Olympic Flame Ceremony.

## **DEBATE ON CHILDRENS' RIGHTS | 6.4.2024**

Our Young Leaders celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights with their participation in the festival by the Greek Council for Refugees. Our students joined by teenagers from diverse backgrounds, engaged in workshops exploring the UN Convention on Children's Rights through Anna Mertzani's novel "Do I Have the Right to Tell a Story?". Dynamic debate tables challenged participants to identify violations of children's rights and propose solutions. The festival's closure was celebrated with an inspiring musical performance by our students. This event was organized by the Greek Council for Refugees and the Alta Mane Fondation, Geneva.

## **THE COMMUNITY ARTS NETWORK (CAN) TEAM VISIT AT EL SISTEMA GREECE | 23.4.2024**

We had the pleasure of hosting the CAN team at El Sistema Greece and our Young Leaders navigated them in the world of the Young Leaders Program. Together with their conductor Kyriaki Kountouri they organized interactive music games to show them how the team works. Through these activities they managed in a very short time to create a vibrant group and connect through the universal language of music.



### **JOSE ANGEL SALAZAR MARIN VISIT AT ESG | 11.5.2024**

Jose Angel Salazar Marin, the previous artistic director and conductor of ESG, traveled to Athens and visited our community. He had a rehearsal with the beginners' ensembles and the Advanced Strings Ensemble. He also participated in the rehearsal of ESGYO and had an interview with one of our musicians.



### **ESGYO CELEBRATED THE INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY AT TAKIS FOUNDATION | 18.5.2024**

On Saturday, May 18th, Takis Foundation was filled with the enchanting melodies of the El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra for the 1st time, celebrating International Museum Day. Under the direction of our conductor, Kyriaki Kountouri, our musicians presented a diverse repertoire that included timeless classical melodies as well as contemporary musical creations inspired by cinema. (Orchestra number = 40 / People at the audience = 200)



## **EL SISTEMA GREECE TRAVELED TO BARCELONA TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL YOUTH ORCHESTRA SUMMIT & CELEBRATION | 24-27.5.2024**

5 of our ESGYO musicians joined 75 peers from around the world, representing countries like Spain, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, Venezuela, the UK, France, and YOLA from LA.

Our students participated in learning sessions and performances at iconic venues such as the Gran Teatre del Liceu and the Palau de la Música Catalana and collaborated with Palau Choirs and Coro de Manos Blancos. One of the most beautiful moments was the open rehearsal and community celebration at the Palau de la Música Catalana, led by the world-famous Gustavo Dudamel.

This experience not only enhanced our students' musical skills, but showcased the power of collaboration, and connected them with world-class musicians and conductors. It reflects our mission for social change through music and strengthens our international community.



## LULLABY PROJECT 2024 CONCERT | 27.5.2024

The Lullaby Project was implemented by El Sistema Greece in collaboration with Stavros Niarchos Foundation Cultural Center and New York's Carnegie Hall for the seventh year in a row. This year's project celebrated parenthood, as well as the diversity of human experience.

Renowned composers and songwriters Spiros Grammenos, Mihalis Kalkanis, Nefeli Liouta, Melentini, Mira, Sophia Bardoutsou, and Martha Frintzila, along with Vassilis Mantzoukis, conveyed these stories through original compositions. These musical stories were presented to the public on Monday, May 27, at 19.30 at the Alternative Stage of the Greek National Opera.

The Lullaby Project was implemented thanks to a grant by Stavros Niarchos Foundation. (People at the audience = 350)



*©SNFCC\_Mariza Kapsabeli*

### **JUAN CARLOS MAGGIORANI AND MATOSINHOS STRING QUARTET VISIT IN ATHENS AND ESG | 3-5.6.2024**

We had the pleasure of welcoming our esteemed friend and partner, Juan Carlos Maggiorani during the Matosinhos String Quartet's recent visit to Athens. As a distinguished musician and Artistic Director of Orquestra Geracao Juan Carlos met with our musicians, performed for them, and shared invaluable insights from his career. Together with the Matosinhos String Quartet they visited Kypseli, the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility of Schisto and an IOM shelter. They also held a concert at Kypseli Municipal Market.

We also had the opportunity for an enlightening interview, of Juan Carlos by our intern Maria Eirini Liodi to explore his journey from childhood to his professional achievements, and gain a deeper understanding of his pivotal role within El Sistema over the years. You can read the full interview [here](#).



## **EL SISTEMA GREECE & FONDATION KALOY CONCERT | 8.6.2024**

On Saturday, June 8th, ESGYO musicians traveled to Corinth for a summer festive concert with our students at the Fondation Kaloy and the Kaloy Youth Orchestra! The children came together to create a magical day full of music and joy. This event offered the opportunity to our students to get to know each other, play music together and share the day with their families and friends. The concert was also attended by our students from the Controlled Temporary Accommodation Facility for Asylum Seekers of Corinth. Days like this strengthen relationships and build friendships within our music community. (Orchestra number = 40 / People at the audience = 100)



## **DIMITRIO DAY CENTER OF APOSTOLI CELEBRATION | 14.5.2024**

We happily celebrated the 10th anniversary of Dimitrio Day Center of Apostoli. Our students had the honor of performing in the musical event "Love Makes Miracles," alongside students from Dimitrio. This special occasion also marked the conclusion of our academic year, highlighting yet another successful year of collaboration with the dedicated team at the Dimitrio Day Center. (ESG students= 31 /Audience = 250)



## **ESG SUMMER CAMP | 15-17.6.2024**

ESG Summer Camp was the perfect opportunity to enjoy playing music together! From 15-17/6 students from all our nucleus in Attica and Corinth met, collaborated, participated in activities and presented their own concert. The whole summer camp and the closing concert took place at the School of Philosophy of the University of Athens. Through this concert with the participation of our students from different nucleos we celebrated all that we have achieved together this year. (Orchestra number = 120 / People at the audience = 320)



## **DOCUMENTARY SERIES “+PEOPLE,” EPISODE FEATURING EL SISTEMA GREECE | 15.6.2024**

The documentary series “+people” hosted El Sistema Greece in one of its latest episodes.

Through the words and stories of musicians, teachers, and our entire team, the story of our music community unfolds. We would like to thank the journalist Yiannis Darras for capturing this journey through our conversations, images, and melodies.

[Watch full episode](#)

## **EL SISTEMA GREECE SCHOOL OF HIP HOP SUMMER CAMP | 25-27.6.2024**

The innovative educational music program of El Sistema Greece in collaboration with Blend Mishkin, returned this year at El Sistema Greece's main venue in Kypseli from the 25th to the 27th of June.

30 children and teenagers aged 10-16, from anywhere in Athens, without any discrimination or restriction, with or without musical background, had the opportunity to participate in the program for free. The students of the ESG School of Hip Hop collaborated with DJs and MCs as well as with famous guest artists of Hip Hop, they created and recorded their own original music. They also presented their creations to the audience on Thursday 27 June in a big concert at Kypseli Municipal Market.



## **EL SISTEMA GREECE OPENED THE CONCERT OF NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY AT ATHENS CONSERVATORY | 28.6.2024**

The El Sistema Greece Youth Orchestra opened the concert of the New York Youth Symphony at the Athens Conservatoire. The event allowed the young musicians to meet and collaborate with internationally recognized musicians and their conductor, Andrew J. Kim, providing a valuable educational experience. (Orchestra number = 50 / People at the audience = 200)

### **EL SISTEMA GREECE CONCERT AT REMATIA FESTIVAL | 2.7.2024**

ESGYO, ESGYC, the Decibel Collective, and the Advanced Strings Ensemble made their debut at the Rematia Festival of the Municipality of Chalandri. The concert was an exciting journey through space and time with classical masterpieces, famous film soundtracks, and choral pieces from around the world. (Orchestra number = 100 / People at the audience = 600)



### **NETWORKING EUROPEAN CIVIC EDUCATION (NECE) LAB ART AS A BRIDGE | 4-5.7.2024**

From 4-5 of July we participated in NECE Labs that promotes and strengthens interdisciplinary and transnational collaboration in civic education. Our teacher Giannis Ismirnioglou traveled to Vienna to provide a seminar that explored how music can break down social and cultural barriers, fostering mutual understanding and empowering the youth.

## EL SISTEMA GREECE AT CHICAGO FOR THE NATIONAL SEMINARIO RAVINIA: ORCHESTRAS FOR ALL | 13-21.7.2024

Two of our wonderful musicians traveled to Chicago to participate in the National Seminario Ravinia: Orchestras for All! Under the leadership of Chief Conductor Marin Alsop, [Sistema Ravinia](#) welcomed more than 100 students from El Sistema–inspired organizations internationally. The students experienced four days of orchestral training and mentorship from members of the [National Orchestral Institute + Festival](#). During the concert on July 10, the students performed multiple pieces side-by-side with the NOI+F musicians, led by Alsop and Lead Seminario Conductor Jessica Altarriba, as well as one work on their own with Altarriba conducting.





## **STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATIOS (SNF) INTERNS VISIT AT EL SISTEMA GREECE | 12.7.2024**

We had the honour to welcome the current cohort of SNF interns at our headquarters in Kypselis 62. First, we presented our program, our practice and our impact as well as the various projects of our organization. Then, the interns were invited to actively taste the experience of our classes by creating their own orchestra. This session was led by our Educational Advisor, Panagiotis Tsirides. A big thank you to the SNF interns for their active participation and enthusiasm!

## **EL SISTEMA GREECE AT SISTEMA EUROPE YOUTH ORCHESTRA (SEYO) 2024 | 13-21.7.2024**

For eight whole days, our four musicians traveled to Urbino and Pesaro, where they participated in this year's SEYO event along with 150 other children from 17 countries. From the first to the last day, music was the medium for creating new friendships, meeting and collaborating with super talented people, and connecting with our broader musical community! Kyriaki Kountouri the ESGYO conductor, also participated in SEYO as one of the conductors of the grand final concert held at Cantiere Rossini.



 *Marco Bargnesi*

## **PRINCETON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS VISIT AT EL SISTEMA GREECE | 25.7.2024**

In July we had the pleasure of hosting a group of students from Princeton University. As part of their summer school program in Greece, they delved into the rich history and literature of modern Greece, exploring complex and diverse topics, including the significant contributions of migrants and refugees in shaping the modern Greek state. During their visit, our Young Leaders introduced them to ESG and shared their experiences within our music community. Our conductor Kyriaki Kountouri and our teacher Giannis Ismirnioglou also participated in this session and facilitated interactive music activities to demonstrate the collaborative spirit and educational methodology of ESG. Through these activities, all the participants quickly formed a vibrant and cohesive group, showcasing how music can bridge diverse backgrounds and create meaningful connections.

## **EL SISTEMA GREECE AT THE CREATIVITY COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE C-COP | 25.7.2024**

Anis Barnat, Co-founder and Board Member and Angeliki Georgokosta, General Manger of El Sistema Greece, joined a group of professionals who work in the field of creativity for social action and had the chance to present our program, its social goals and its impact. The C-COP meetings are organised by the Bic Corporate Foundation and they really create a space for connection and exchange of best practices with creatives from around the globe. We were very grateful to be sharing the floor with organizations and initiatives that definitely worth your attention such as: Voices of Tomorrow Project: Children's Future Visions, Creativity Pioneers Fund of the Moleskine Foundation and Metatogether.

### **ACADEMY FOR IMPACT THROUGH MUSIC (AIM) RESIDENCY | 4-17.8.2024**

Our trumpet teacher, Giannis Panagiotou, joined the Firebird fellowship program, while our General Manager, Angeliki Georgokosta, participated in the leaders circle of AIM residency that took place in Carcavelos, Lisbon. The program included a series of informative and enriching activities led by AIM faculty, introducing AIM's core approaches for the development of music teaching as a tool for social change. Participants had the opportunity to learn about real experiences, challenges, successes, and to understand how they can become actors of the ripple effects of AIM. The residency gathered more than a hundred of teachers, leaders and Young Artists from programs across the globe creating a unique space for connection, reflection and experimentation. The end of the residency was celebrated with a unique concert in which Firebirds and Young Artists had the chance to share the educational and artistic experimentation that took place over the two weeks. This concert took place in the heart of the community of Quinta do Mocho, with artists from this neighborhood performing and creating a significant musical exchange

