Mikis Theodorakis

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| **Mikis Theodorakis** |
| [Εικόνα που περιέχει ανθρώπινο πρόσωπο, άτομο, μουσική, συναυλία  Περιγραφή που δημιουργήθηκε αυτόματα](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mikis_Theodorakis_Fabrik_070004.jpg) |

**Michail** "**Mikis**" **Theodorakis** ([Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_language): Μιχαήλ "Μίκης" Θεοδωράκης [[ˈmicis θeoðoˈɾacis]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Help:IPA/Greek); 29 July 1925 – 2 September 2021) was a Greek composer and lyricist credited with over 1,000 works.

He [scored](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Film_score) for the films [Zorba the Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zorba_the_Greek_(film)" \o "Zorba the Greek (film)) (1964), [Z](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Z_(1969_film)) (1969), and [Serpico](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Serpico" \o "Serpico) (1973).

He composed the "[Mauthausen Trilogy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mauthausen_Trilogy" \o "Mauthausen Trilogy)", also known as "The Ballad of Mauthausen", which has been described as the "most beautiful musical work ever written about [the Holocaust](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Holocaust_in_the_arts_and_popular_culture)" and possibly his best work. Up until his death, he was viewed as Greece's best-known living composer. He was awarded the [Lenin Peace Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenin_Peace_Prize).

Politically, he was associated with the left because of his long-standing ties to the [Communist Party of Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Greece) (KKE). He was an MP for the KKE from 1981 to 1990.

 He was a key voice against the 1967–1974 [Greek junta](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_junta), which imprisoned him and banned his songs.

Early life

Theodorakis was born on the Greek island of [Chios](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chios) and spent his childhood years in provincial Greek cities including [Mytilene](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mytilene), [Cephallonia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cephallonia),[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-%CE%91%CF%81%CE%A7%CE%B9%CE%BC%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B4%CF%81%CE%B9%CF%84%CE%B7%CF%822007-17) [Patras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patras), [Pyrgos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pyrgos_(Ilia)), and [Tripoli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tripoli,_Greece). His father, a lawyer and a civil servant, was from the small village of [Galatas](https://el.wikipedia.org/wiki/%CE%93%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%AC%CF%82_%CE%A7%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%AF%CF%89%CE%BD" \o "el:Γαλατάς Χανίων) on [Crete](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crete)[[]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-Giannaris1972-23) and his mother, Aspasia Poulakis, was from an ethnically Greek family in [Çeşme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%87e%C5%9Fme" \o "Çeşme), in what is now Turkey. He was raised with Greek folk music and was influenced by [Byzantine](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Byzantine) [liturgy](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Liturgy); as a child he had already talked about becoming a composer.[[28]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-28)[[29]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-Theodorakis1973-29)

His fascination with music began in early childhood; he taught himself to write his first songs without access to musical instruments. He took his first music lessons in Patras[[18]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis" \l "cite_note-%CE%9F%CE%B9_%CE%B4%CF%81%CF%8C%CE%BC%CE%BF%CE%B9_%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85_%CE%B1%CF%81%CF%87%CE%AC%CE%B3%CE%B3%CE%B5%CE%BB%CE%BF%CF%85-18) and Pyrgos,[[20]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-Theodorakis-20) where he was a childhood friend of [George Pavlopoulos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Pavlopoulos),[[30]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-30) and in Tripoli, [Peloponnese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peloponnese),[[22]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-Theodorakis2-22) he gave his first concert at the age of seventeen. He went to Athens in 1943, and became a member of a Reserve Unit of [ELAS](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_People%27s_Liberation_Army). He led a troop in the fight against the British and the Greek right in the [Dekemvriana](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dekemvriana" \o "Dekemvriana).[[31]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-31) During the [Greek Civil War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greek_Civil_War) he was arrested, sent into exile on the island of [Icaria](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Icaria)[[32]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-32) and then deported to the island of [Makronisos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Makronisos" \o "Makronisos), where he was tortured and twice buried alive.[[33]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-33)

During the periods when he was not obliged to hide, not exiled or jailed, he studied from 1943 to 1950 at the [Athens Conservatoire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Athens_Conservatoire) under Filoktitis Economidis.[[34]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-34) In 1950, he finished his studies and took his last two exams "with flying colours".[[35]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-35) He went to Crete, where he became the "head of the Chania Music School" and founded his first orchestra.[[36]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-36)

Studies in Paris

[Εικόνα που περιέχει άτομο, ρουχισμός, ανθρώπινο πρόσωπο, γραβάτα

Περιγραφή που δημιουργήθηκε αυτόματα](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mikis_Theodorakis_in_Paris.jpg)In Paris, 1957

In 1953, Theodorakis married Myrto Altinoglou.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-:0-37) The following year, they travelled to Paris, where he entered the Conservatory and studied musical analysis under [Olivier Messiaen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivier_Messiaen)[[38]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-38) and conducting under [Eugene Bigot](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_Bigot).[[39]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-39)

Back to Greek roots

[Εικόνα που περιέχει κείμενο, ανθρώπινο πρόσωπο, ρουχισμός, άτομο

Περιγραφή που δημιουργήθηκε αυτόματα](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Mikis_Theodorakis.jpg)Mikis Theodorakis shortly after his return to Greece in 1961

In 1960, Theodorakis returned to Greece and his roots in Greek music: With his song cycle [Epitaphios](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epitaphios_(Ritsos)" \l "Musical_setting" \o "Epitaphios (Ritsos)) and contributed to a cultural revolution in his country.[[43]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-43) His most significant and influential works are based on Greek and world poetry – Epiphania ([Giorgos Seferis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giorgos_Seferis" \o "Giorgos Seferis)), Little Kyklades ([Odysseas Elytis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Odysseas_Elytis" \o "Odysseas Elytis)), Axion Esti (Elytis), Mauthausen ([Iakovos Kambanellis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iakovos_Kambanellis" \o "Iakovos Kambanellis)), Romiossini ([Yannis Ritsos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yannis_Ritsos" \o "Yannis Ritsos)), and Romancero Gitano ([Federico García Lorca](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federico_Garc%C3%ADa_Lorca)) – he attempted to give back to Greek music a dignity which in his perception it had lost. He developed his concept of "metasymphonic music" (symphonic compositions that go beyond the "classical" status and mix symphonic elements with popular songs, Western symphonic orchestra and Greek popular instruments).[[44]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-GNA_2019-44)

He founded the Athens Little Symphony Orchestra and gave many concerts in the country, trying to familiarize people with symphonic music.[[45]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-45)

After the assassination of [Gregoris Lambrakis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gregoris_Lambrakis" \o "Gregoris Lambrakis) in May 1963 he founded the Lambrakis Democratic Youth ("Lambrákides") and was elected its president.[[46]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-46) Under Theodorakis's impetus, it started a vast cultural renaissance movement and became the greatest political organisation in Greece with more than 50,000 members.[[47]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-47) Following the 1964 elections, Theodorakis became a member of the Greek Parliament, associated with the left-wing party [EDA](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Democratic_Left). Because of his political ideas, the composer was black-listed by the cultural establishment; at the time of his biggest artistic glory, a large number of his songs were censored-before-studio or were not allowed on the radio stations.[[48]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-48)

During 1964, he wrote the music for the Michael Cacoyiannis film Zorba the Greek, whose main theme, since then, exists as a trademark for Greece. It is also known as "Syrtaki dance", inspired by old Cretan traditional dances.[[49]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-49)

During the dictatorship

[](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Griekse_componinst_Mikis_Theodorakis_in_Nederland,_Theodorakis_in_televisiestudi,_Bestanddeelnr_925-3321.jpg)Mikis Theodorakis in 1972

On 21 April 1967 the [Regime of the Colonels](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Regime_of_the_Colonels) [took power in a putsch](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_Modern_Greece#Postwar_Greece). Theodorakis was a symbol of resistance to the military regime. He went into hiding, issued the first call for resistance against the dictatorship on 23 April. and founded the "Patriotic Front" (PAM).[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-:0-37)[[50]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-50) On 1 June, the Colonels published "Army decree No 13", which banned playing, and even listening to his music. Theodorakis was arrested on 21 August,[[51]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis" \l "cite_note-51) and jailed for five months. Following his release end of January 1968, he was deported in August to [Zatouna](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zatouna" \o "Zatouna) with his wife, Myrto, and their two children, Margarita and Yorgos.[[52]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-52) Later he was interned in the [concentration camp](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concentration_camp) of [Oropos](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oropos" \o "Oropos).[[53]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-53)

An international solidarity movement, headed by such personalities as [Dmitri Shostakovich](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dmitri_Shostakovich), [Leonard Bernstein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leonard_Bernstein), [Arthur Miller](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Miller), and [Harry Belafonte](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Belafonte) demanded to get Theodorakis freed. On request of the French politician [Jean-Jacques Servan-Schreiber](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jean-Jacques_Servan-Schreiber), Theodorakis was allowed to go into exile to Paris on 13 April 1970. Theodorakis's flight left secretly from an [Onassis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aristotle_Onassis)-owned private airport outside Athens. He arrived at [Le Bourget Airport](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Le_Bourget_Airport) where he met [Costa Gavras](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Costa_Gavras), [Melina Mercouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melina_Mercouri) and [Jules Dassin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Dassin). Theodorakis was immediately hospitalized, as he suffered from [tuberculosis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tuberculosis).[[54]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-54) His wife and children joined him a week later in France, having travelled from Greece via Italy on a boat.[[55]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-55)

He would compose, alongside [Pagani](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Herbert_Pagani" \o "Herbert Pagani), the anthem of the [French Socialist Party](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socialist_Party_(France)), in 1977.[[56]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-56)[[57]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-57)

Resistance in exile[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mikis_Theodorakis&action=edit&section=5" \o "Edit section: Resistance in exile)]

In 1971, Mikis Theodorakis was invited to Chile by then-[president](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/President_of_Chile) [Salvador Allende](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Salvador_Allende). In [Valparaíso](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Valpara%C3%ADso), he listened to a group of young people who introduced him to part of the work of the poet [Pablo Neruda](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pablo_Neruda). Theodorakis loved it and promised to give Chile his musical opinion on the [Canto General](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canto_General). Back to Paris, in 1972 Theodorakis met Pablo Neruda when the Greek composer was rehearsing the musicalization of Canto General. Neruda was impressed and asked him to include poems such as "Lautaro" and "A Emiliano Zapata".[[58]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-58)

[Εικόνα που περιέχει συναυλία, ρουχισμός, άτομο, μουσικό όργανο

Περιγραφή που δημιουργήθηκε αυτόματα](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Theodorakis_Kaisaria_70s_Mordo_Avrahmov.jpg)Mikis Theodorakis at a concert in Caesarea, Israel, in the 1970s.

He was received by [Gamal Abdel Nasser](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gamal_Abdel_Nasser" \o "Gamal Abdel Nasser) and [Tito](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Josip_Broz_Tito), [Yigal Allon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yigal_Allon" \o "Yigal Allon) and [Yasser Arafat](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasser_Arafat), while [François Mitterrand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fran%C3%A7ois_Mitterrand), [Olof Palme](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olof_Palme" \o "Olof Palme) and [Willy Brandt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Willy_Brandt) became his friends. For millions of people, Theodorakis was the symbol of resistance against the Greek dictatorship together with [Melina Mercouri](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Melina_Mercouri).[[59]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-59)[[60]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-60)[[61]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-TNYT-61)

Return to Greece[[edit](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Mikis_Theodorakis&action=edit&section=6" \o "Edit section: Return to Greece)]

[Εικόνα που περιέχει ρουχισμός, άτομο, ανθρώπινο πρόσωπο, κύριος

Περιγραφή που δημιουργήθηκε αυτόματα](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Bundesarchiv_Bild_183-1989-0115-030,_Pfingsttreffen_der_FDJ.jpg)Theodorakis on a visit in [East Germany](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Germany), May 1989

After the fall of the Colonels, Mikis Theodorakis returned to Greece on 24 July 1974 to continue his work and his concert tours, both in Greece and abroad.[[62]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-62) His return was in triumph, with huge crowds and his music playing on the radio.[[63]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-63) At the same time he participated in public affairs. In 1978, through his article For a United Left Wing, he had "stirred up the Greek political life. His proposal for the unification of the three parties of the former United Left – which had grown out of the National Liberation Front (N.L.F.) – had been accepted by the Greek Communist Party which later proposed him as the candidate for mayor of Athens during the 1978 elections." (Andreas Brandes)[[64]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-64) He was later elected several times to the Greek Parliament (1981–1986 and 1989–1993) and for two years, from 1990 to 1992, he was a minister in the government of [Constantine Mitsotakis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constantine_Mitsotakis). After his resignation as a member of Greek parliament, he was appointed General Musical Director of the Choir and the two Orchestras of the Hellenic State Radio ([ERT](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hellenic_Broadcasting_Corporation)), which he reorganised and with which he undertook successful concert tours abroad.[[65]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-65)

He was committed to raise international awareness of human rights, of environmental issues and of the need for peace and, for this reason, he initiated, along with the Turkish author, musician, singer, and filmmaker [Zülfü Livaneli](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Z%C3%BClf%C3%BC_Livaneli" \o "Zülfü Livaneli) the Greek–Turkish Friendship Society.[[66]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-66)

From 1981, Theodorakis had started the fourth period of his musical writing, during which he returned to the symphonic music, while still going on to compose song-cycles. His most significant works written in these years are his Second, Third, Fourth and Seventh Symphony, most of them being first performed in the former [German Democratic Republic](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/German_Democratic_Republic) between 1982 and 1989. It was during this period that he received the [Lenin Peace Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lenin_Peace_Prize). He composed his first opera [Kostas Kariotakis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kostas_Kariotakis) (The Metamorphoses of Dionysus) and the ballet [Zorba the Greek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zorba_the_Greek" \o "Zorba the Greek), premièred in the [Arena of Verona](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arena_of_Verona) during the Festival Verona 1988. During this period, he also wrote the five volumes of his autobiography: The Ways of the Archangel (Οι δρόμοι του αρχάγγελου).[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-:0-37)

In 1989, he started the fifth period, the last, of his musical writing: He composed three operas (lyric tragedies) [Medea](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Medea_(Theodorakis)" \o "Medea (Theodorakis)), first performed in [Bilbao](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bilbao) (1 October 1991), [Elektra](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Elektra_(Theodorakis_opera)&action=edit&redlink=1), first performed in [Luxembourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg) (2 May 1995) and [Antigone](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Antigone_(Theodorakis_opera)&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Antigone (Theodorakis opera) (page does not exist)), first performed in Athens' [Megaron Moussikis](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Megaron_Moussikis&action=edit&redlink=1" \o "Megaron Moussikis (page does not exist)) (7 October 1999). This trilogy was complemented by his last opera [Lysistrata](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lysistrata" \o "Lysistrata), first performed in Athens (14 April 2002): a call for peace... With his operas, and with his song cycles from 1974 to 2006, Theodorakis ushered in the period of his Lyrical Life.[[67]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-67)

In March 1997, gave a concert at the Berlin [Haus der Kulturen der Welt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Haus_der_Kulturen_der_Welt" \o "Haus der Kulturen der Welt). Afterwards he was hospitalized due to respiratory difficulties and it was when he declared that this was his last concert.[[68]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-68)

Theodorakis was [Doctor honoris causa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Doctor_honoris_causa) of several universities.[[69]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-69)

Theodorakis holding hands with [Turkish Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkish_Prime_Minister) [Recep Tayyip Erdoğan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Recep_Tayyip_Erdo%C4%9Fan" \o "Recep Tayyip Erdoğan) and [Greek Prime Minister](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prime_Minister_of_Greece) [George Papandreou](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Papandreou)

Later life and death

He later lived in retirement, reading, writing, publishing arrangements of his scores, texts about culture and politics. On occasions he took position: in 1999, opposing [NATO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO)'s [Kosovo war](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kosovo_war) and in 2003 against the [Iraq War](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Iraq_War). In 2005, he was awarded the Sorano Friendship and Peace Award, the Russian International St.-Andrew-the-First-Called Prize, the insignia of Grand Officer of the Order of Merit of [Luxembourg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Luxembourg), and the IMC UNESCO International Music Prize, while already in 2002 he was honoured in Bonn with the [Erich Wolfgang Korngold](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Erich_Wolfgang_Korngold) Prize for film music at the International Film Music Biennial in Bonn[[70]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-auto-70) (cf also: Homepage of the Art and Exhibition Hall Bonn).[[71]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-71) In 2007, he received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the distribution of the World Soundtrack Awards in Ghent.[[72]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-72)

A final set of songs titled: Odysseia was composed by utilizing [poetry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poetry) written by [Costas Kartelias](https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Costas_Kartelias&action=edit&redlink=1) for lyrics. In 2009 he composed a Rhapsody for Strings (Mezzo-Soprano or Baryton ad lib.). Created on 30 January 2013, Theodorakis achieved the distinction of producing one of the largest works by any composer of any time.[[73]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-73)

On 26 February 2019, Theodorakis was hospitalized due to heart problems, and on 8 March, underwent surgery to place a [pacemaker](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pacemaker).[[74]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-74)[[75]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-75) He died from cardiopulmonary arrest at his home in Athens on 2 September 2021, at the age of 96.[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-:0-37)[[1]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-BBC-1) The Greek Prime Minister declared three days of national mourning to honour him,[[37]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-:0-37)[[76]](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mikis_Theodorakis#cite_note-76) and his body was lain in state in the chapel of the Metropolitan Cathedral of Athens, with many thousands of people, artists and political leaders from all Greek parties paying their final respects. Epitaphs were delivered by the President of the Hellenic Republic, Aikaterini Sakellaropoulou, and the General Secretary of the [Communist Party of Greece](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Communist_Party_of_Greece), [Dimitrios Koutsoumbas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dimitrios_Koutsoumbas" \o "Dimitrios Koutsoumbas). Afterwards, according to his will, his body was transferred by boat overnight to be buried at his town of origin, Galatas, near Chania, Crete, where his parents' and brother's graves also are.

Source: The internet

A project by George Lambrinidis.