



CYPRUS #Limassol #Music #Festival

## Limassol was flooded with singers over the weekend (pictures)



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In the heart of the old port and with the illuminated "Lampousa", the traditional boat of the Limassol Municipality, as a backdrop, the central stage of the Cantada Festival was set up on June 21 and 22, offering two enchanting melodic nights to the hundreds of spectators who rushed to watch it.

The festival was dedicated to the memory of the well-known singer and sailor **Kostas Grigoriou**, father of the conductor of the Epilogi Cultural Movement, **Michalis Grigoriou**, who established the institution.

An institution that was missing from Limassol, a city with a great tradition in cantada and the operation of many cantador groups. The embrace of the festival by Limassol residents, and not only, proved in practice that cantada does not belong to the past, but still has a voice and a reason for existence.



Many groups of singers and choirs of the city eagerly responded to the call for participation: The Limassol Singers, the "Giorgalletti" Singers, the EDON Limassol Singers, the Cypriot Singers, the Ilantron Male Vocal Ensemble, the "Modern Times" Choir, the "Arions" Choir, as well as the Children's Choir of P. K. Epilogi and the Children's Choir and Mandolin "Melodies and Colors".

Special appearances in the festival program were the *Singers of Zakynthos* and

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the *Belcanto Group of Athens* with Antonis Koronaio and Eleni Davou, under the direction of conductor Panayis Barbatis. Two very important Greek groups that gave a broader Mediterranean dimension to the event. Also participating were the singer **Spyros Charalambous** and the soprano **Mariza Anastasiadi**, who sang from the balcony of "Lambousa".



After the end of the program, a party followed with Alejos, a young artist who elaborates traditional musical themes through modern sounds. Alejos was assigned to create a composition, which, based on the rich program of the festival he attended, would render a new musical piece through the language of today's youth, in a dubstep rhythm.

The **2nd Cantada Festival**, however, was not limited to the main event at the Old Port of the City. It spread with the parade of cantada groups throughout the historical center of Limassol, pleasantly surprising passersby. However, the event also extended beyond the geographical boundaries of Limassol, with a parade on the coastal promenade in front of the Four Seasons Hotel, spreading excitement among the visitors who attended.



The festival included a series of pre-festival activities, such as the parade in the Municipality of Amathus, but also in the bride's neighborhood before her wedding, reviving the institution of singing under the window of her beloved.

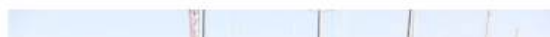
The event was also accompanied by a series of workshops and lectures with relevant presentations such as: " *The Ionian Cantada*" with speaker **Pavlos Konitopoulos**, " *History of the cantada in Limassol - personalities of the city*" by **Mimis Sofokleous**.



Maestro Panagis Barbatis led an open rehearsal of all the singers, who closed the program with two joint songs on Sunday evening.

The event did not miss the traditional folk feast in a pleasant meeting of the Limassol singers with the Zakynthos Singers, who did not fail to pay tribute to **Dimitris Lagios**, both during their program and with a visit to the monument of the great artist in the Limassol Public Garden.

The organizers' goal is to create an online platform dedicated to cantada, where rich archival and educational material will be gathered, setting up a network of cultural exchange in which cantada will be recognized as a vibrant, polyphonic musical phenomenon with a European and Mediterranean identity.





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