

RECORDED IN ATHENS



'CAPITOL' OF THE WORLD

NIKOS GOUNARIS' GREECE

ΣΥΛΛΟΓΗ ΟΙ ΦΙΛΟΙ ΤΗΣ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗΣ
ΜΕΤΑΛΗ ΜΟΥΣΙΚΗ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΘΗΚΗ ΤΗΣ ΕΛΛΑΔΟΣ
ΑΙΛΙΑΝ ΒΟΥΛΟΥΡΗ

ΔΩΡΕΑ
Alexis T. Zabbian

HIGH FIDELITY

NIKOS GOUNARIS' GREECE



Photo: Sehir

1 Ένα Βράδυ Πούβρεχε

(Χρ. Γιαννακόπουλου & Άλ. Σακελλαρίου - Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Μ. Σουγιούλ

2 Ό Καπετάνιος

(Ν. Γούναρη)
ΝΙΚΟΣ ΓΟΥΝΑΡΗΣ & Τ. ΜΩΡΑΚΗΣ

3 Για Τίς Γυναίκες Ζούμε

(Κ. Μάνεση - Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Κ. Πρέντα

4 Μεγάλη Μου Άρρω- στεια Είσαι Σύ

(Έμ. Σαββίδη & Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Α. Σμυρνιάου

5 Μαντινάδες

(Διασκευή Ν. Γούναρη & Μ. Σουγιούλ)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Μ. Σουγιούλ

6 Ή Σουσουράδα

(Ν. Φατσεά & Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Μ. Σουγιούλ

7 Πάμε Στά

Μπουζούκια

(Ν. Φατσεά & Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Α. Σμυρνιάου

8 Ή Κόττα Ή

Στρουμπουλή

(Γ. Οικονομίδη & Κ. Πρετεντέρη - Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Α. Σμυρνιάου

9 Τώρα Πού Σέ

Γνώρισα

(Ν. Φατσεά & Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Γ. Παππά

10 Καί Ρωτάω Τά

Κύματα

(Τ. Λεβανιτίτη - Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Μ. Πλάσα

11 Σέ Είδα Να

Κλαδεύεις

(Θ. Σοφού & Γιαννίδη - Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Α. Σμυρνιάου

12 Αútός ό Άλλος

(Κ. Κοφιγιώτη & Ν. Γούναρη)
Συνοδ. ορχήστρας Τ. Μωράκη

Nikos Gounaris is today an institution in Greece and among Greece's overseas. Although a huge man and in his forties, he reminds one of the carefree 16th century troubadour, who armed with a guitar and a repertoire of catch songs set out in search of a living and romantic adventure. With a twinkle in his roving eye, a warm, humorous smile on his lips and a soft, caressing but virile voice, Gounaris can charm anybody and stir the heart of most women.

He has sung for over 33 years, composing most of his songs and often writing his own lyrics. Gounaris first began to attract attention in the 1930's with his singing of romantic ditties and with his own lively interpretation of Greek ballads and folk songs. By 1937 Gounaris was in great demand at fashionable places and his gramophone records were selling well. He began to travel abroad and to give recitals and his fame rapidly spread to all the Greek communities in Africa and Europe and Asia. In 1948 he went to the United States where he spent, off and on, four years, singing to the Greeks of America. During his last visit to New York he had the distinction of giving a recital at the Carnegie Hall.

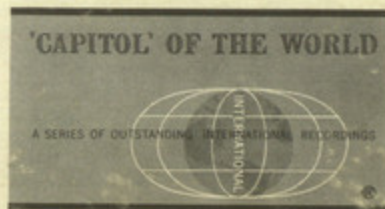
People often think of Nikos Gounaris as the unfortunate, unhappy husband who was deserted by a selfish and fickle wife. This conjecture, of course, is purely fictional. Gounaris has been happily married for 20 years and his wife has never left him. The fable of Gounaris' unhappy conjugal life began in 1952, when the two great lyric writers, Christos Yiannakopoulos and Alekos Sakellarios, wrote the lyrics of "One Rainy Night". In this song Gounaris bewailed his fate as the deserted husband who in a fit of jealousy threatened to kill the seducer of his wife. For months Gounaris sang "One Rainy Night" and he was so convincing in his interpretation that the people began to suspect that he himself was the victim. He was commiserated and showered with letters of sympathy in which some of his women admirers not only gave him down-to-earth advice, but offered to help him mend his broken heart. Gounaris smiled cryptically and went on singing "One Rainy Night".

During the next four years Gounaris composed and sang many other songs, but he always returned to the extremely popular theme of the deserted husband. There were, altogether, four songs on this theme. Then, in 1956, Gounaris and his lyric writers decided to turn the tables on the worthless, fickle wife. In the composition called "That Other Man" Gounaris, with cynical fortitude, declared that far from wishing to kill his rival, he wanted to shake him warmly by the hand and to thank him for delivering him from this wanton woman. No one listening to "That Other Man" can help being amused by the clever lyrics and by Gounaris' extremely humorous rendering of the song.

The twelve songs chosen for this record are examples of the range, technique and versatility of Nikos Gounaris. You will hear Gounaris at his best, as the romantic lover in the first bloom of love, the broken-hearted deserted husband, and the piquant singer of ballads and folk songs. But whatever the type of song, whatever the lyrics, the voice of Nikos Gounaris is always the same—full of warmth, affection, rhythm and at times, even of poetry.

The disc appropriately begins with "One Rainy Night", the song that Gounaris sang in September 1954 at the Athens Stadium in aid of the fund for the victims of the Ionian Islands earthquake. That was Gounaris' hour of triumph. Because on that night he was accompanied not only by the Athens Philharmonic Orchestra, but also by an audience of some 60,000 people who lustily sang "One Rainy Night" until they were almost hoarse.

Notes by GEORGE ANGELOGLU



1 ONE RAINY NIGHT

(Ch. Yiannakopoulos, Al. Sakellarios, N. Gounaris) with SOUYIOUL and his Orchestra

2 THE CAPTAIN

(N. Gounaris) (Nikos Gounaris and T. Morakis)

3 WE LIVE FOR WOMEN

(K. Manesis - N. Gounaris) with K. PRENDA and his Orchestra

4 YOU ARE MY ILLNESS—Tango

(Em. Savidis, N. Gounaris) with A. SMYRNEOS and his Orchestra

5 MANTINADES

(Arr. N. Gounaris and M. Souyioul) with SOUYIOUL and his Orchestra

6 THE WAGTAIL

(N. Fatseas, N. Gounaris) with M. SOUYIOUL and his Orchestra

7 LET'S GO TO THE BOUZOUKIA

(N. Fatseas, N. Gounaris) with A. SMYRNEOS and his Orchestra

8 THE LITTLE PLUMP HEN

(G. Economidis, K. Pretenderis, N. Gounaris) with A. SMYRNEOS and his Orchestra

9 NOW THAT I'VE GOT TO KNOW YOU

(N. Fatseas, N. Gounaris) with G. PANDRAS and his Orchestra

10 AND I ASK THE WAVES

(T. Levaditis - N. Gounaris) with M. PLEZSAS and his Orchestra

11 I SAW YOU PRUNING THE TREE

(Th. Sofos, J. Angeli, N. Gounaris) with A. SMYRNEOS and his Orchestra

12 THAT OTHER MAN

(K. Kofiniote, N. Gounaris) with T. MORAKIS and his Orchestra