

S Y N O P S I S
of
MIKIS THEODORAKIS'
AUTOBIOGRAPHY

SYNOPSIS
COMPILED BY
AMY MIMS

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The early part of the book, dealing with Theodorakis' childhood and youthful experiences, is a fascinating document, among other things, of life in the Greek provinces. Because of his Father's administrative work, which obliged him to move at frequent intervals from provincial town to town, Theodorakis' early life has a variegated background, until he finally reaches Athens at the age of 18. From Chios to Mytileni; from Syros to Iannina (1930 - 32); from Argostoli in the Ionian Island of Cephallonia (1933 - 36); thence to Patras and Pyrgos; and finally, a 4-year interval in the heart of the Peloponnese; Tripolis. He views these places from an almost sociological point of view and is impressed by their extreme poverty and backwardness. (Only the more Italian-influenced Cephallonia and Patras offer a more "civilized" atmosphere.)

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Because of their frequent moves, Mikis never really took root anywhere and was treated hostilely -- as an outsider -- by the village children. As a result of the constant uprooting, the only form of stability for the young Theodorakis (besides his closely-knit Family) came from various forms of Byzantine ecclesiastical music, which were identical throughout Greece. The music of Easter Week (especially Easter Friday) and the so-called Byzantine "Hairetismói" to the Virgin Mary, offered him a kind of musical continuity, which assisted him to survive the Chaos of his belonging now here, either musically or geographically. Characteristically, the first time he sang a solo was on Holy Friday.

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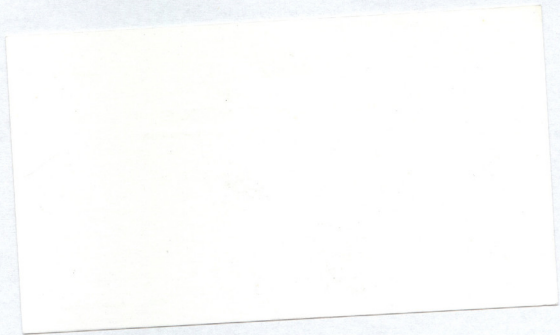


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