

# Nereides / Νηρηΐδες

for Solo Piano



Vasilis Manaris

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# Nereides / Νηρηΐδες

for Solo Piano

## *What*

This piano miniature piece captures the ever-unfolding interplay between sky and sea, also known as the cycle of water, or the evaporation/condensation/rain cycle. It is named after the female spirits of sea waters of Ancient Greece, Nereides / Νηρηΐδες, that personify it.

## *Why*

This piece was composed to commemorate the 70 years from the creation of The Friends of Music Society of Greece, as well as the transcontinental centenary celebration / 100 years from the birth of Iannis Xenakis.

## *How*

This one-minute-long piece is written in a Tintinnabuli style, utilizing techniques Arvo Pärt used in *Für Alina*, among others. It also combines techniques Iannis Xenakis used in his *Evryali* for Solo Piano piece. Based on Xenakis's UPIC approach, and following an idea by Arvo Pärt, the compositional process traces trajectories of white light (or luminosity) in the sky (see Fig. 1).

Nereides / Νηρηΐδες is then, both figuratively and literally, a stochastic study of a cloudy sky. A total of six trajectories (or traces) were selected, namely: *Autonoe* (Αὐτόνοη), *Ianassa* (Ἰάνασσα), *Melita* (Μελίτη), *Eione* (Ἠιόνη), *Galene* (Γαλήνη), and *Evarne* (Εὐάρνη). Of these, only the first three are submitted here, given the solo piano requirement.<sup>1, 2</sup>



*Fig 1.* Source of thematic material.

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<sup>1</sup> An audio rendition of this submission is available at <https://soundcloud.com/manaris/nereides/s-9TXIQDT0e7R>.

<sup>2</sup> Funded in part by the US National Science Foundation and the US National Endowment for the Arts.

# Nereides / Νηρηίδες

Autonoe + Ianassa + Melita (Αὐτονόη, Ἰάνασσα, Μελίτη)

Vasilis Manaris

1  $\text{♩} = 60$  Stochastically (στοχαστικά)

Piano

Lead. \*

Detailed description: This system shows the beginning of the piece. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The instruction 'Stochastically (στοχαστικά)' is written above the staff. The music consists of a series of eighth and sixteenth notes in the treble clef, with a more sparse bass line. A first ending bracket is present at the end of the system, marked with an asterisk (\*).

Lead. \*

Detailed description: This system continues the musical piece. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The music includes a prominent five-fingered scale in the treble clef. A first ending bracket is present at the end of the system, marked with an asterisk (\*).

Lead. *mp* *f* \*

Detailed description: This system continues the musical piece. It features a grand staff with a treble and bass clef. The key signature has three flats, and the time signature is 4/4. The music includes a prominent five-fingered scale in the treble clef. A first ending bracket is present at the end of the system, marked with an asterisk (\*). Dynamic markings include *mp* (mezzo-piano) and *f* (forte) with a crescendo hairpin.

9

Musical score for measures 9-12. The piece is in 3/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The right hand features a complex melodic line with many slurs and accents. The left hand provides a steady accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. A dynamic marking of *f* (forte) is placed at the end of the system with a hairpin indicating a crescendo.

13

Musical score for measures 13-15. The right hand continues with intricate melodic patterns, including some grace notes. The left hand has a more active role with eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking of *mp* (mezzo-piano) is placed below the first measure of this system. The word *Red.* (ritardando) is written below the first measure.

Musical score for measures 16-17. The right hand has a few notes in the first measure followed by rests. The left hand has a single note in the first measure followed by rests. An asterisk (\*) is placed at the end of the system.

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