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Title: SMARO GREGORIADOU: Reinventing Guitar! (Delos International)

The guitar soloist and composer Smaro Gregoriadou, with her present novel interpretations, gives to the listener the opportunity to come in contact with a universally acclaimed Greek invention that concerns classical guitar. It is about Kertsopoulos Aesthetics, a pioneer musical proposition of the guitarist, constructor and researcher George Kertsopoulos, concerning the revival of different historic types of guitar, as well as the expansion of its acoustic potential. It aims to connect the interpreter of today as closely as possible with the authentic sound of the original works. Smaro Gregoriadou, participating in the effort of this revival interprets works by Bach, Scarlatti, José, Kertsopoulos and herself, playing three instruments of Kertsopoulos' invention and construction. A triple-double-single stringed guitar in re-entrant tuning (first world recording), a high-tuned guitar in scalloped frets and a classical guitar in ordinary and low tunings...

Listening carefully to Scarlatti's *Harpsichord Sonata L23* on a high-pitched scalloped guitar with movable back, I concede that the reliable representation of the timbre and punctuation of the original composition immediately gained my enthusiasm... The revival of the authentic sound of Bach's *Lute Suite BWV995* by a triple-double-single stringed guitar in re-entrant tuning, consisting of a very ambitious and difficult attempt, yields to a result that will definitely fascinate the listener. This innovative approach made a passionate follower of the great cantor's sound like me, to listening to the album again and again. The title of the cd is entirely justified. What Smaro Gregoriadou is hereby presenting is exactly the essence of the word "reinventing": a redefinition of the sound and technique of the classical guitar.

In the collection we also hear the *Sonata para guitarra* by Antonio José, a short but quite characteristic work by George Kertsopoulos entitled *Some Colour's Rhythms*, and *Two Balkan Dances* by Smaro Gregoriadou, a composition with many virtues, that exhibit the sound qualities and possibilities of the guitar at their very best.

This album definitely consists of a pioneering aesthetic suggestion and I wish it enjoys the universal acceptance that it deserves.

Liana Malandrenioti, writer/critic

