

Labyrinth Musical Workshop was founded in 1982 by Ross Daly, with the goal of initiating young people, primarily, into a creative approach to traditional musical idioms from various parts of the world.

Since 2002 it is located in the village of Houdetsi/Crete where seminars and “master-classes” featuring some of the foremost master-musicians of traditional music from all over the world are regularly organised.

It serves, thus, as a meeting point for musicians and students and it is widely recognized as the leading force in Greece with respect to education in the field of modal & traditional music in general.

MUSEUM

Today Musical Workshop Labyrinth in cooperation with the municipality of Archanes - Asterousia has concentrated all of its activities in a tastefully restored old manor in the village of Houdetsi (20 km due south of Heraklion / Crete / Greece), where one can visit a permanent exhibition of rare musical instruments from many parts of the world.

SEMINARS

The core of Labyrinth is unquestionably its educational activities. We regularly organize seminars and master-classes featuring some of the greatest master musicians from all over the world. Crete has been a crossroad and a meeting place for cultures from all over the Mediterranean and other far away civilizations for centuries.

Crete is not of course the only territory where such cultural exchanges took place. Without any doubt, all great musical traditions of the world due their richness to this interchange between all historic civilizations.

For us, the continuity of this process is essential for a healthy future for musical creation.

On the other hand we can see a model of imposition of cultural forms from the economically powerful states through the industry of entertainment. Many of the world’s most remarkable and important traditions today are either in danger of extinction due to the political and commercial interests of the western world, or in a state of deterioration producing bizarre imitations that lack whatsoever dynamic creativity. We strongly believe that all local traditions of the world deserve a deep respect and that each and one of them can have a unique role to play in the universal dialogue and interplay of cultures. This dialogue should not be aimed at the creation of a unique and homogenous culture,; quite the contrary, it must give uttermost importance to sustaining and refining the uniqueness and integrity of even the most unnoticed local idiom, while at the same time it should urge us to be open and receptive towards all cultures of the world.

Every musical tradition should be approached according to its own terms and its own values.

Qualitative comparisons between different musical idioms, based exclusively on one’s or the other’s terms, have proven meaningless as they lead us to false conclusions that hinder inter-cultural understanding instead of helping and promoting it.

Having that in mind the seminars and master-classes in Labyrinth do not only aim to help the students learn the necessary technical and theoretical skills in each music but most importantly they urge the students to come closer to the spirit of the tradition they are studying, and eventually enter in this world where musical language is just one of many other intertwining elements.

During the seminars, teachers and students are part of one big “parea”, company in Greek. Apart from the time spend in the classes teachers and students play music together, eat together, discuss common interest matters, share stories etc.

All this experience leads not only in acquiring technical and repertory skills, but also approaching some -very often inaccessible- traditions, which the teachers represent, in a very pleasant atmosphere and with a very personal dimension