



Annual review 2020

Let music bring change

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About Sistema Cyprus

Sistema Cyprus is a social-music orchestra and choir programme established in 2018. Sistema Cyprus offers music education to the children and young people of Cyprus, including migrants, refugees and children and young people with less opportunities, and ensures that these groups are respected, recognised, and included in the society.

Sistema Cyprus is inspired by the El Sistema social action music programme that was first founded in Venezuela in 1975. Through the formation of orchestras and choirs, El Sistema acts as a superb model, reaching children and young people to many of the world's challenging neighborhoods. El Sistema and other El Sistema inspired programs, like ours, offer free classical

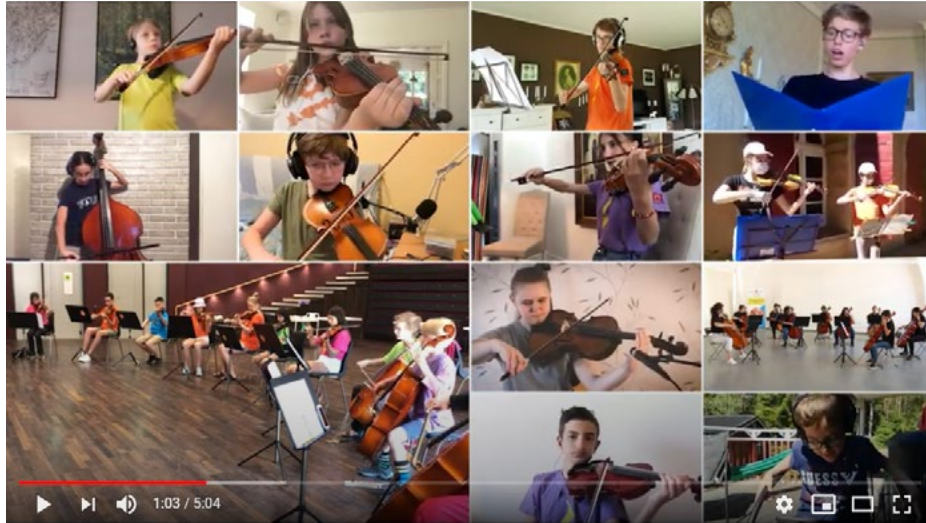
music education that gives children and youth with less opportunities all over the world the opportunity for personal development. Sistema Cyprus is focused on the personal development of its participants focusing primarily on empowerment and helping them in reaching their full potential.

In this report we are presenting the actions and activities of Sistema Cyprus during 2020, the concerts of the organization, the events that we participated in, the seminars that were organized and our cooperation with other institutions and organizations.

“Let us reveal to our children the beauty of music, and music shall reveal to our children the beauty of life”

— José Antonio Abreu, Founder of El Sistema.

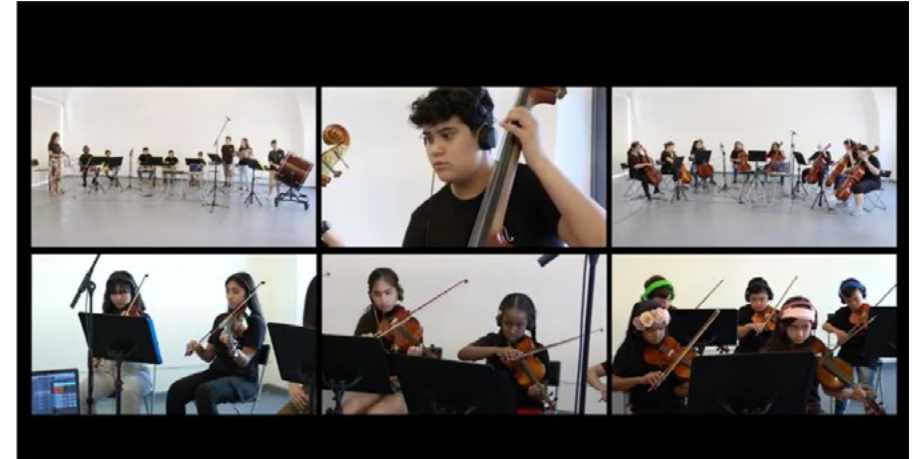
Concerts



Side-by-Side: Digital An International Concert

In Side-by-Side by El Sistema Sweden, children and young people from all over the world gather in Gothenburg to play in orchestra, sing in choir, create and develop together.

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 camp was transformed to Side by Side: Digital, with online participants from 30 countries. The Final Festival Concert was a live streamed meeting point for both participants and audience. Sistema Cyprus proudly represented Cyprus in this unique event.



Virtual Concert Sistema Cyprus – Together Again

This year has been difficult for everyone. Nevertheless, we worked very hard to adapt to the circumstances and managed to give the power and feel of the orchestral performance to our young musicians. Therefore, we virtually came together again in an online concert in July, 2020.



Hope Lives On

With the hopeful message 'Hope Lives on', Sistema Cyprus returned with another concert which was held on Saturday 19th September at Skali Amphitheatre in Aglantzia. The amphitheatre of Skali Aglantzias echoed in rhythms of love hope and solidarity!

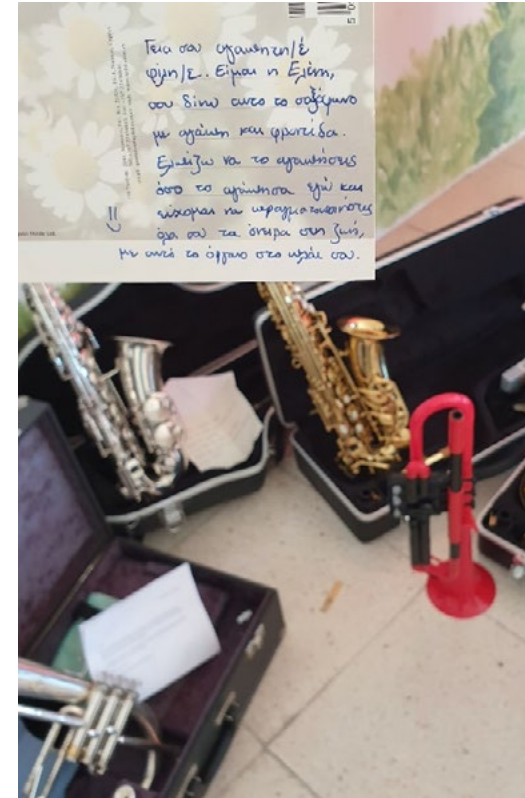
The amphitheatre echoed with the most delightful music played by the incredible skills of the young musicians of Sistema Cyprus, the whole experience conveyed messages of love, joy, hope and solidarity to the audience. Something much needed for the difficult times we live in!

Surprises were not missing from the unique concert of Sistema Cyprus 'Hope Lives on', as young Louis with his baton took the chance to direct the string orchestra of Sistema Cyprus and fired the enthusiasm of the audience with his talent and sauciness!

Our Programmes' Development

Launching a Wind Ensemble in Larnaca

The Wind Ensemble of Sistema Cyprus made its first steps in October 2020 in Larnaca. For this purpose, a campaign was organized to collect wind musical instruments in collaboration with the Youth Board of Cyprus. At the same time, Sistema Cyprus was awarded **by the United States Embassy in Cyprus, with the Julia Taft Refugee Fund Award** for the purchase of wind instruments. The Wind Ensemble's operation costs are sponsored by **XM Cyprus**.



Yianis Christodoulou Foundation purchases new Percussion instruments for Sistema Cyprus



Yianis Christodoulou Foundation was one of our first sponsors back in 2018 in our first steps, with the purchase of 18 string instruments. Back then, the Foundation believed in a dream and in us a team and has been next to us ever since.

Now the Yianis Christodoulou Foundation once again supports our work with the purchase of a set of timpani, a marimba, a xylophone, a glockenspiel and two violoncellos which contribute to the general development of our orchestra.

Important Collaborations and International Recognition

Year 2020 has brought important achievements both in local and international level for our organization that were a result of hard work and commitment.



International

Honorary Recognition by Queen Elizabeth for the Executive Director of Sistema Cyprus

On Friday the 21st of August, 2020, the Executive Director and co-founder of Sistema Cyprus, Nikoletta Polydorou was honoured by Her Majesty Queen of the United Kingdom Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty the Queen, as head of the Commonwealth, has recognized Nikoletta, representing Cyprus, as the 153rd Commonwealth Points of Light recipient in honour of her exceptional voluntary service supporting marginalized children and young people through music education and the work of Sistema Cyprus.

Her Majesty The Queen joined a video call with three winners of the Commonwealth Points of Light award, to celebrate their achievements and the importance of volunteers across the Commonwealth. The call included The Queen's first ever virtual musical performance and virtual tour.



SISTEMA CYPRUS PARTICIPATES IN CARNEGIE HALL'S LULLABY PROJECT

This season, Sistema Cyprus serves as an international partner for the Lullaby Project, a program of Carnegie Hall's Weill Music Institute (WMI), that pairs pregnant women and new mothers and fathers with professional artists with the purpose to write personal lullabies for their babies. The participants are offered the creative opportunity to communicate feelings, hopes, and dreams, through the intimate medium of lullabies, as they look to the future with their children. The Lullaby Project supports maternal health, aids childhood development, and strengthens the bond between parent and child.

This is the first time that the Lullaby Project collaborates with a Cypriot

organization, and, in its Cypriot manifestation, the project embraces

parents who are active in Sistema Cyprus, as well as parents who are newcomers to Cyprus, including beneficiaries of Caritas Cyprus. range of musical styles, reflecting the diverse backgrounds of participating families.

As their companions for this creative journey, the established and upcoming artists Yiorgos Christofi, Georgia Christoforou, Andreas Michalopoulos, Mostafa Ismail, Annita Constantinou and Marios Kolonias, work closely with the families for the composition of their personalized lullabies.



The Global Leaders Program

The Global Leaders Program empowers a rising generation of change-makers in music to transform lives and communities through an innovative nine-month Executive Graduate Certificate in Social Entrepreneurship, Cultural Agency, Teaching Artistry, and Civic Leadership. Led in partnership with nine top universities and think tanks including **Harvard, Georgetown, McGill, Johns Hopkins, and Duke Universities**, and a world-class faculty that includes two Nobel Laureates, the Program is offered annually to a select Cohort of 40 of the most promising emerging talents from around the globe.



Music Unites through Social Equity - M.U.S.E. Creative Europe – Music Moves Europe

Sistema Cyprus's proposal was among the ten projects selected under the call "Music Education and Learning" in the framework of the Preparatory Action "Music Moves Europe".

Our project is a comprehensive approach to creatively merge formal music education and non-formal music education methodologies to attract and benefit students who would otherwise not have the opportunity to learn and create music. Within this project a series of workshops will be offered to a minimum of 300 students with less opportunities to engage with Community Music, Upcycling Music Band, Songwriting, Creative Music Technology and World Music Choir Participation.

CARNEGIE HALL
Weill Music Institute





A Celebration of Child's Rights – Alliance for Childhood European Network Group and MEP Helmut Geuking

On the 31st anniversary of the signing of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), we joined the Alliance for Childhood European Network Group and MEP Helmut Geuking for a celebration of children's rights.

Throughout November, Sistema Europe, Sistema Europe members and the Alliance for Childhood worked intensively to put together an online programme celebrating those particular child rights which best relate to our current circumstances and to the work that Sistema and Sistema-influenced programmes carry out on a day-to-day basis: namely, the right to health, the right to education and the right to play.

Sistema Cyprus Signs Interinstitutional Agreement Of Cooperation With El Sistema – Alliance for Childhood European Network Group and MEP Helmut Geuking



We are proud to announce the signing of an Interinstitutional Agreement of Cooperation between Sistema Cyprus and El Sistema. José Antonio Abreu founded El Sistema in 1975 to help Venezuelan kids learn to play musical instruments and be part of an orchestra. Because of his vision, programmes have been established around the world, following the principles of El Sistema, engaging millions of children.

As Sistema Cyprus, we are so honoured to be given the opportunity to learn from the organisation which has brought about a global social music revolution. This collaboration will include actions such as an exchange programme between artistic directors and teaching artists, academic training, workshops and masterclasses. During an online meeting, the agreement was signed by Nikoletta Polydorou, Executive Director of Sistema Cyprus, Eduardo Méndez, Executive Director of El Sistema and Eduardo Marturet, Artistic Director of MISO.

Local

Strategic Collaboration with Frederick University

Frederick University and Sistema Cyprus signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the aim of developing relations between them on issues of common interest. The Memorandum was signed by Ms. Natassa Frederick, President of the Frederick University Council and Dr. Nicoletta Polydorou, Executive Director of Sistema Cyprus.





The continuous support of Nicosia Municipality and the Nicosia Municipal Multifunctional Foundation

Since the very beginning of the program, the Nicosia Municipality and the Nicosia Municipal Multifunctional Foundation have supported our efforts by providing us with the Peace Room at Ledra street as well as aiding with financial assistance in many cases by integrating us into the programs implemented by the Nicosia Municipal Multifunctional Foundation.



UNHCR Cyprus - MUSIC EDUCATION FOR REFUGEE CHILDREN

The support of UNHCR Cyprus made possible the involvement of 15 refugee children and young people, who live in shelters or with their families in local communities in Larnaca. They participated in the Percussion Group of the Larnaca Nucleo.

Seminars for Musicians

This year we were able to respond to the need from the music community to be trained by Sistema Cyprus with the aim of using music as a tool for the integration of minorities in the society. We were able to organize:

3 seminars for music teachers and musicians



1 online seminar for music teachers and musicians

1 seminar for music students including participants from University of Nicosia, European University Cyprus, Music Lyceum in Nicosia and English School.



SISTEMA CYPRUS **GLOBAL LEADERS PROGRAM**

Sistema Cyprus
in collaboration with the Global Leaders Program
presents
a Community Workshop Series for

THE DYNAMISM OF AFRICAN MUSICAL ARTS EDUCATION AMID GLOBALIZATION:

A PEEK INTO THE ISUKUTI MUSIC OF THE ISUKHA IN KENYA

WITH DOROTHY MUCHERE BULINDA

Founder of Amba na Marimba, which inspires social change using the marimba, educating the community, and preserving the music & cultures of Africa. She is pursuing graduate studies at The Technical University of Kenya.

HOSTED BY MARIA KRAMVI

Program Coordinator in Larnaca Nucleo
Sistema Cyprus

THURSDAY DECEMBER 10TH 2020, 18:00-19:30 EET
JOIN THE WORKSHOP ON ZOOM
TO REGISTER, EMAIL INFO@SISTEMACYPRUS.COM

Finally, Sistema Cyprus in collaboration with The Global Leaders Program organized a **Community Workshop** for “The Dynamism of African Musical Arts Education Amid Globalization: A Peek into the Isukuti Music of the Isukha in Kenya” with Dorothy Muchere Bulinda Emmanuel.

Extracurricular Activities

On January 30, the children of Sistema Cyprus participated in a cooking class offered free of charge by the Lidl Food Academy, where they learned about healthy eating and cooking.



The students of the Music Studies Program of the University of Nicosia presented an interactive musical narration of the well-known fairy tale 'Elmer, the Pied Elephant' for children and grownups, which took place in 2 performances at the Cine Studio of the University of Nicosia on January 31, 2020. 1945 euros were gathered by the audience in support of Sistema Cyprus.



We participated at the Aglantzia Carnival on February 23rd and had a wonderful time!



Visual Voices and Sistema Cyprus created a beautiful Kids Guernica Mural that was sent to Japan for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Day 2020.

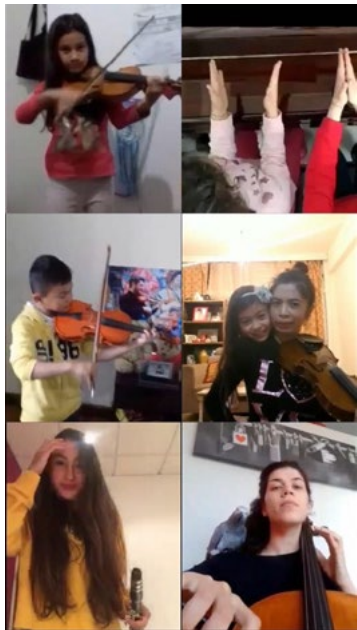


Music in Lockdown: Sistema Challenge

During the first lockdown in Cyprus in March 2020 which lasted 3 months, all musicians old and young participated in the #sistemachallenge through Sistema Cyprus' social media platforms.

Each day, a musician shared a musical challenge, which everyone had to replicate and share their own clips using the hashtag #sistemachallenge to participate.

You can tell from the pictures we had a blast! What a way to keep active and connected during a lockdown.



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Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/sistemacyprus>
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