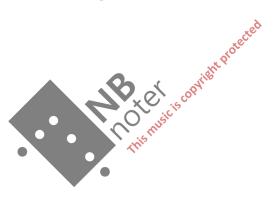
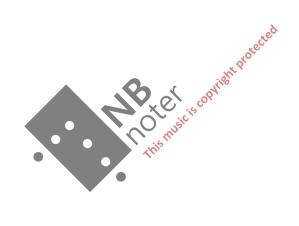
MARILENA ZLATANOU

Five Kavafis' Poems







ΜΑΡΙΛΕΝΑ ΖΛΑΤΑΝΟΥ <u>Πέντε ποιήματα του Καβάφη</u>

MARILENA ZLATANOU <u>Five Kavafis' Poems</u>

- Το έργο αυτό υπάρχει σε τέσσερις μορφές:
- 1. Ελληνικά, για μεικτή χορωδία a cappella

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- 2. <u>σε αγγλική μετάφραση, για μεικτή χορωδία</u> <u>a cappella</u>
- Ελληνικά, για μεικτή χορωδία με συνοδεία εγχόρδων
- σε αγγλική μετάφραση, για μεικτή χορωδία με συνοδεία εγχόρδων

This work exists in four versions:

- 1. In the original Greek language, for mixed choir a cappela
- 2. In English translation, for mixed choir a cappela
- 3. In the original Greek language, for mixed choir and string accompagnement
- 4. In English translation for mixed choir and string accompagnement

Σεπτέμβριος 2006 September 2006

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Μικρό σημείωμα

Όταν μετά από πολλά χρόνια εντατικής επαγγελματικής δραστηριότητας σαν κλασσική τραγουδίστρια και μαέστρος χορωδιών επιτέλους τόλμησα να γράψω χορωδιακή μουσική και η ίδια, η επιλογή του ποιητή ήρθε αυτόματα και φυσικά: Όπως και για τους περισσότερους λάτρες της ποίησης, και όχι βέβαια μόνο τους συμπατριώτες μου, ο Καβάφης υπήρξε πάντα μια ανεξάντλητη πηγή στοχασμού και έμπνευσης, θα έλεγα μάλιστα ότι σε χρόνια αποφασιστικά για την πνευματική μου εξέλιξη, έπαιξαν τα ποιήματα της συλλογής αυτής, ρόλο καθοριστικό.

Στο γράψιμο προσπάθησα να ακολουθήσω τον λόγο του πιστά.

Επειδή η ποίηση του Καβάφη είναι τόσο αγαπητή διεθνώς, έκανα προσαρμογή της σύνθεσης και στην αγγλική γλώσσα.

Τα κομμάτια αυτά μπορούν να εκτελεσθούν και μεμονωμένα, αλλά η σκέψη μου υπήρξε εξ αρχής ότι αποτελούν μια ενότητα.

Μαριλένα Ζλατάνου http://home.no.net/zlatanou



Short note

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When after many years of intense professional activity as a singer and as a choral conductor I finally dared to write choral music myself, the choice of poet came automatically and naturally: Like for most poetry lovers, and obviously not just my compatriots, Kavafis has always been an infinite source of reflexion and inspiration - I would go so far as to say that during the years that were formative for my spiritual developement, the poems in this collection have played a defining role.

In my writing, I have tried to follow the texts as closely as I could.

Since Kavafis' poetry is deeply appreciated internationally, I have adapted the composition to the english language as well.

The pieces can be performed individually, but my intention has been from the start that they comprise a unity.

Marilena Zlatanou http://home.no.net/zlatanou



FIVE KAVAFIS POEMS

Adaptation of composition FIVE KAVAFIS' POEMS into english language by M. Zlatanou

1. ITHACA

When you set out on your journey to Ithaca, pray that the road is long, full of adventure, full of knowledge. The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops, the angry Poseidon -- do not fear them: You will never find such as these on your path, if your thoughts remain lofty, if a fine emotion touches your spirit and your body. The Lestrygonians and the Cyclops, the fierce Poseidon you will never encounter, if you do not carry them within your soul, if your soul does not set them up before you.

Pray that the road is long. That the summer mornings are many, when, with such pleasure, with such joy you will enter ports seen for the first time; stop at Phoenician markets, and purchase fine merchandise, mother-of-pearl and coral, amber and ebony, and sensual perfumes of all kinds, as many sensual perfumes as you can; visit many Egyptian cities, to learn and learn from scholars.

Always keep Ithaca in your mind. To arrive there is your ultimate goal. But do not hurry the voyage at all. It is better to let it last formany years; and to anchor at the island when you are old, rich with all you have gained on the way, not expecting that Ithaca will offer you riches.

Ithaca has given you the beautiful voyage. Without her you would have never set out on the road. She has nothing more to give you.



And if you find her poor, Ithaca has not deceived you. Wise as you have become, with so much experience, you must already have understood what Ithacas mean. *(1911)*

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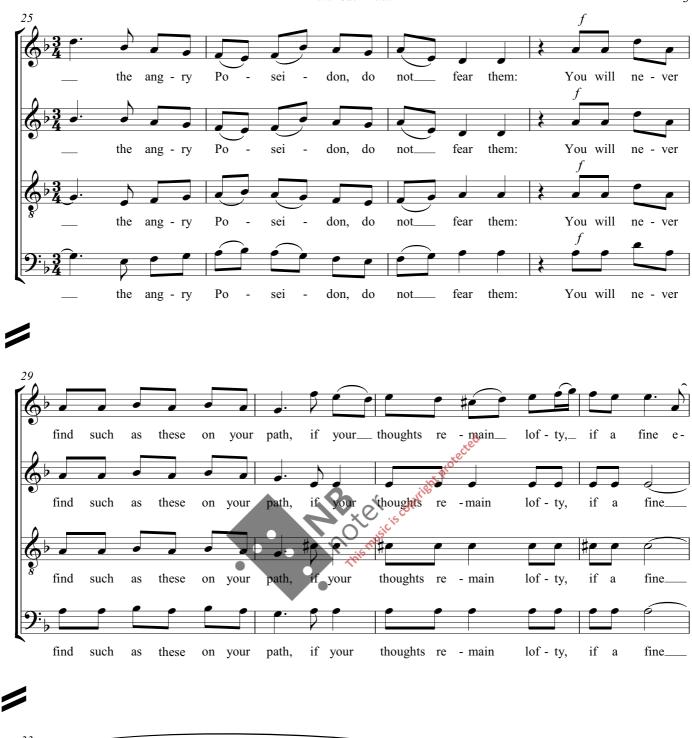


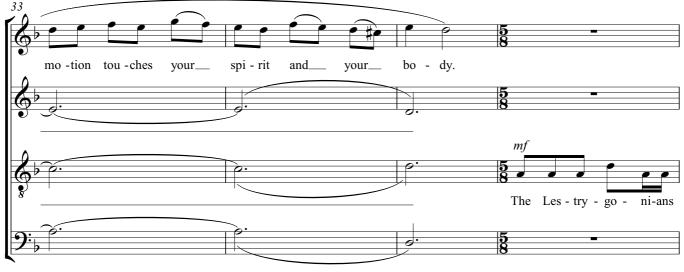


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Zlatanou: Ithaca



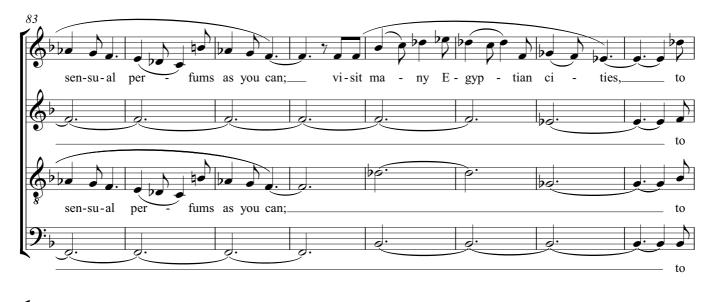


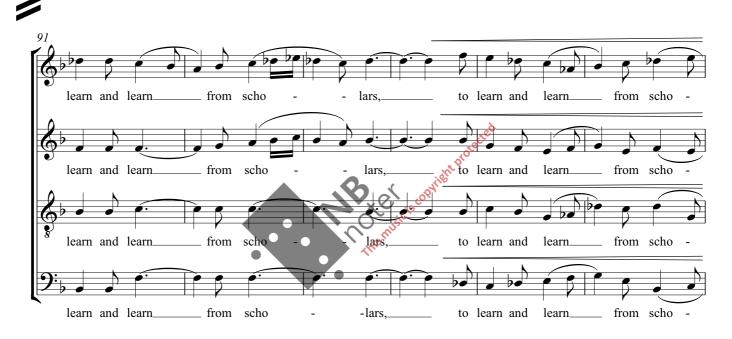


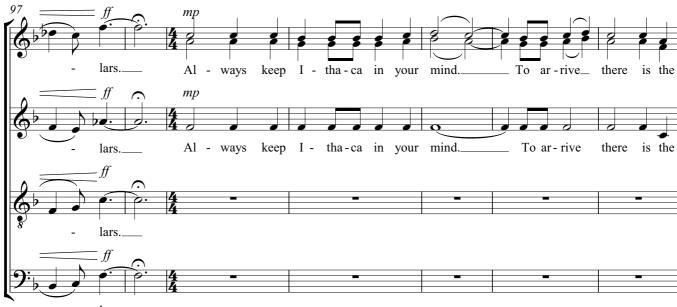


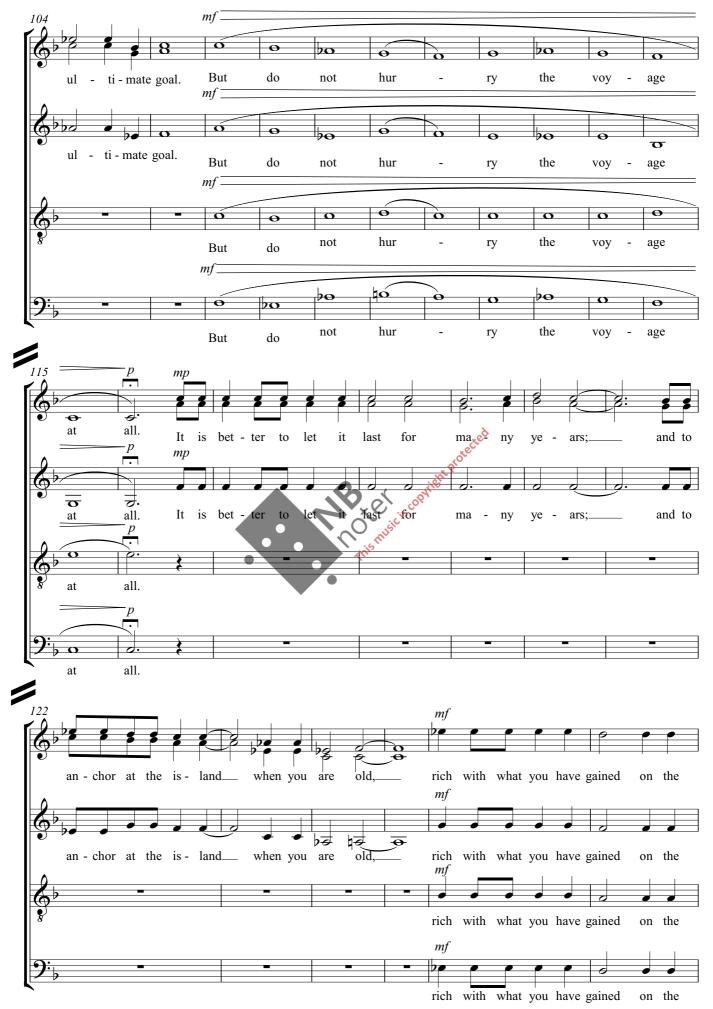
Zlatanou: Ithaca











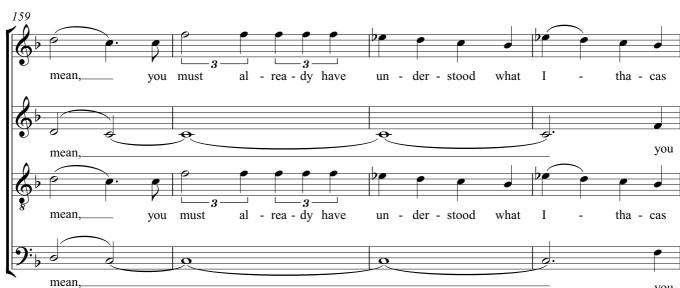
Zlatanou: Ithaca



Zlatanou: Ithaca



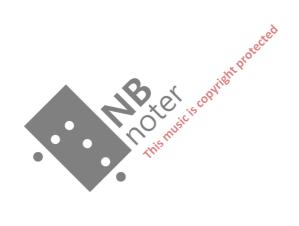




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Zlatanou: Ithaca





2. THE CITY

You said, "I will go to another land, I will go to another sea. Another city will be found, better than this. Every effort of mine is condemned by fate; and my heart is -- like a corpse -- buried. How long in this wasteland will my mind remain. Wherever I turn my eyes, wherever I may look I see the black ruins of my life here, where I spent so many years, and ruined and wasted."

New lands you will not find, you will not find other seas. The city will follow you. You will roam the same streets. And you will age in the same neighborhoods; in these same houses you will grow gray. Always you will arrive in this city. To another land -- do not hope -there is no ship for you, there is no road. As you have ruined your life here in this little corner, you have destroyed it in the whole world. (1910)



Zlatanou: The City

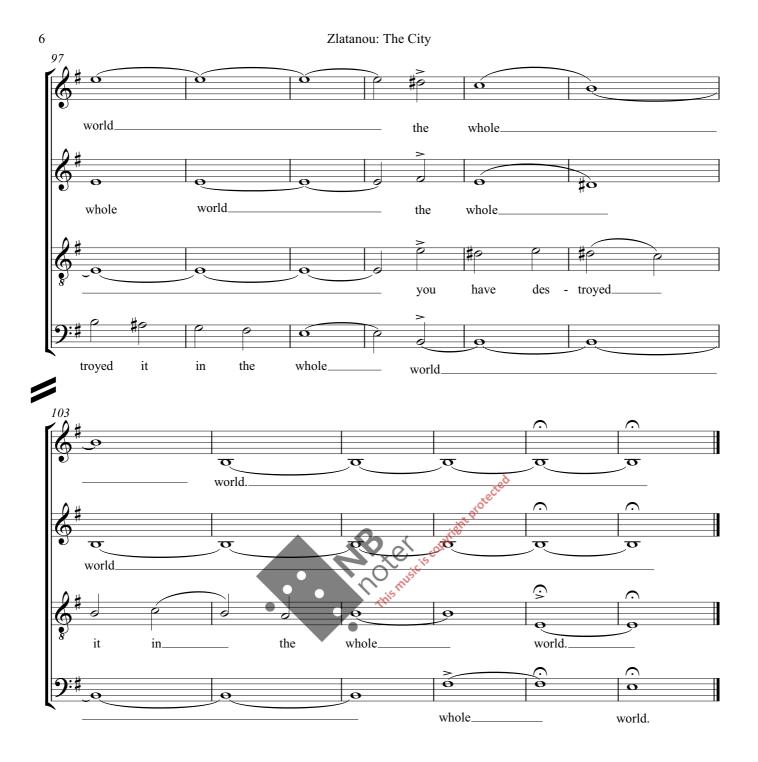




The ci - ty will fol - low







3. WALLS

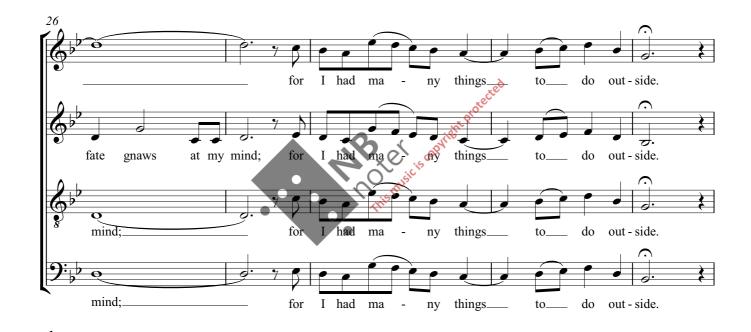
Without consideration, without pity, without shame they have built great and high walls around me.

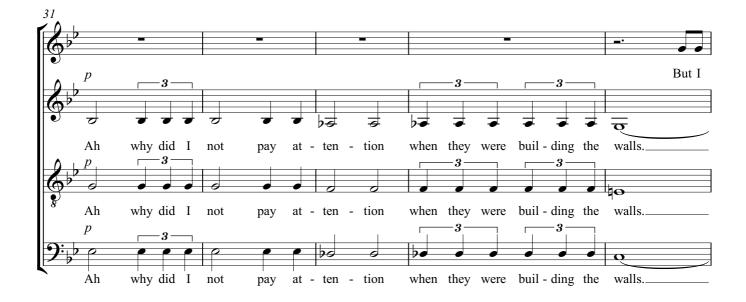
And now I sit here and despair. I think of nothing else: this fate gnaws at my mind;

for I had many things to do outside. Ah why did I not pay attention when they were building the walls.



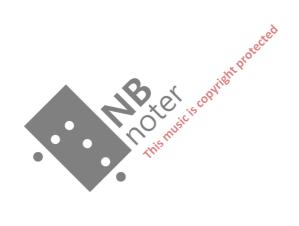






Zlatanou: Walls





4. THE WINDOWS

In these darkened rooms, where I spend oppresive days, I pace to and fro to find the windows. -- When a window opens, it will be a consolation. --But the windows cannot be found, or I cannot find them. And maybe it is best that I do not find them. Maybe the light will be a new tyranny. Who knows what new things it will reveal. (1903)



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5. AS MUCH AS YOU CAN

Even if you cannot shape your life as you want it, at least try this as much as you can; do not debase it in excessive contact with the world, in the excessive movements and talk.





Zlatanou: As much as you can





