

OPEN CALL



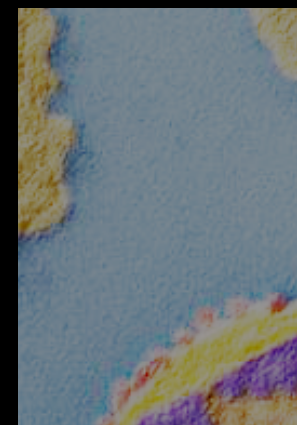
International Composition Workshop

BUILDING PERFORMANCE PRACTICES *vol.3*

2026

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2027



ATHENS, GREECE

23-27 OCTOBER & 2-6 MARCH

APPLY BEFORE: JULY 15

workshop-lessons-lectures

competition-commission



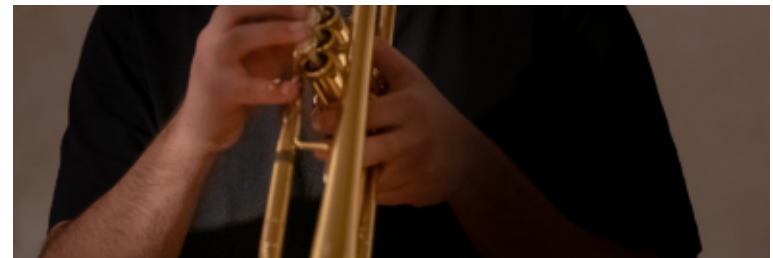
+ Stylianos Dimou

BUILDING PERFORMANCE PRACTICES *vol.3*

Building on the momentum of the previous editions, the 3rd volume of our International Composition Workshop "Building Performance Practices" continues to bring together composers from around the world, fostering meaningful artistic exchange across diverse aesthetics, backgrounds, and creative approaches.

This year in Building Performance Practices we invite the composer Stylianos Dimou to act as the mentor for the participants and help us towards our goal of creating an ever-growing international community of artists.

*This year, the call is open to **8 COMPOSERS** who will work closely with àktapha ensemble and the invited mentor in creating a new piece.*



Stylianos Dimou

Stylianos Dimou is a composer of contemporary music with an extensive international presence, whose work investigates gesture, sonic materiality, and technological mediation as dramaturgical forces. At the core of his compositional language lies a sustained engagement with the hybrid space between acoustic and electronic dimensions, where spectral structures, interactive systems, and embodied performance practice converge into a cohesive and distinctive aesthetic.

His work has been recognized through numerous prestigious awards and distinctions, including the First Prize at the International Composition Award «Luigi Nono», First Prize at the Amici della Musica di Cagliari International Composition Competition, and both the First Prize and Audience Award at the Weimarer Frühjahrstage für zeitgenössische Musik. He is also the recipient of the Wayne Brewster Barlow Prize (Eastman School of Music), the Charles S. Miller Prize (Columbia University), and the Second Prize at the 24th Annual Martirano Award (USA). He has been a finalist at the Gaudeamus Award, the Rolex Mentor and Protégé Arts Initiative, and the Lucerne Festival Academy – Roche Young Commissions (jury chaired by Pierre Boulez). In 2018–2019, he was selected as a Promising Young

Composer by the Ulysses Network in partnership with IRCAM, in a pan-European selection process.

His compositions have been performed at major international festivals and venues, including the Warsaw Autumn Festival, IRCAM MANIFESTE, Ultima Oslo Contemporary Music Festival, Gaudeamus Music Week, Royaumont – Voix Nouvelles, June in Buffalo, ICMC, Symposium iX (SAT & IRCAM), CAST – Contemporary Art & Sound Technologies Festival, and the Weimarer Frühjahrstage für zeitgenössische Musik, among many others. He has collaborated with internationally renowned ensembles and orchestras, including Ensemble InterContemporain, Arditti Quartet, Alarm Will Sound, ICE Ensemble, Talea Ensemble, EXAUDI Vocal Ensemble, Brussels Philharmonic, Gulbenkian Orchestra, Mivos Quartet, and Ensemble Nikel. Dimou holds a Bachelor's degree from the Department of Music Studies at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, a Master's degree from the Eastman School of Music as a Fulbright Scholar, and a doctorate from Columbia University, where he was a Dean's Fellow. He is also a graduate of the Cursus program at IRCAM, Paris. He has held teaching positions at institutions in Greece, the United States, and Hong Kong, and currently serves as Associate Professor of Composition at the Grieg Academy – University of Bergen, where he continues to develop a body of work situated at the intersection of composition, technology, and performance thought.

www.stylianosdimou.com

The Ensemble

Ensemble àktapha, founded in January 2024, has already an active presence in the Greek contemporary music scene. It has presented musical productions in collaboration with both emerging and established composers such as Charlotte Seither, Maurizio Pisati, Dilay Doganay, Rubens Askenar, Zesses Seglias, and Ioannis Angelakis.

At the same time, it has given the first Greek performances of works by some of the most important composers of the 20th and 21st centuries, such as Kaija Saariaho, Giacinto Scelsi, György Kurtág, Hugues Dufourt, Horatiu Radulescu, Yann Robin, and others.

In 2024, àktapha were selected for the Ensemble Modern's "Young Ensemble Academy," while in April 2025, they presented music by

Anthony Braxton at the pactaSOUNDzone festival in Milan.

In May of the same year, they staged their first music theater production, "Iphigenia" - a performance for four performers, composed by Iason Maroulis.

In addition to their artistic activities, the group is organizing the International Composition Workshop "Building Performance Practices" every year since 2024, in which 17 young composers from around the world have participated to date. Zesses Seglias and Ioannis Angelakis have joined the seminar as guest composition mentors.

www.aktapha.com



Iason Maroulis
Composition



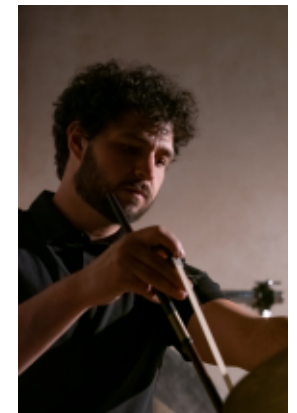
Orestis Tsekouras
Guitar



Giorgos Kokkinaris
Double Bass



Daphne Mengou
Clarinet



Yannis Psarakis
Percussion

PREVIOUS EDITIONS (2024 & 2025)

Participants's Comments

"This is an extraordinary opportunity for composers, not because their work is simply performed by a talented group of musicians, but mostly because, for a short period of time they feel that they belong to a committed community."

Ioannis Angelakis (Mentor 2025-26)

"àktapha ensemble truly cares about what is written in the score and why. They work on multiple levels of understanding and detail, therefore creating a productive and helpful rehearsal and concert atmosphere."

Veronika Reutz Drobnić

"It has been one of the most inspiring and profound collaborations I have had in my compositional career. Working with àktapha has been always easy because they have always been eager to help us reach the piece to the best point of excellence, not only with their performance but also contributing with very interesting suggestions and ideas. Apart from that, the atmosphere between the ensemble and the participants of the course has been unbeatable. I have always felt like I was part of a family and that is something difficult to find in these kind of events."

Román González Escalera

"àktapha have been one of the most forward-thinking, collaborative, and open-minded ensembles I've had the pleasure of working with. Our time together in Athens was jam-packed with eye-opening seminars, fruitful discussions, and radically new approaches to composition, improvisation, and creative music-making. I unreservedly believe their presence, this seminar, and the community being built around it are contributing hugely to Athens' vibrant contemporary music circuit - and I wholeheartedly recommend this workshop to anyone interested in radical compositional process, and novel methods of composer-performer collaboration."

Zygmund de Somogyi

Watch our mini-documentary about BPP 2025 -26 featuring rehearsal footage, interviews and concert highlights - available in the link below:

[**BPP - International Composition Workshop 2025-26 miniDOC**](#)



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BPP 2025-26 Concert - PLYFA



© Michalis Konstantas
Rehearsals - NGallery Space



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BPP 2025-26 Concert PLYFA

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The workshop takes place in person, in **Athens, Greece** and is organized into **two one-week periods** during 2026-27.

The first period will be held from **23 - 27 OCTOBER 2026** and the second one from **2 - 6 MARCH 2027**.

New Individual Composition

Each composer will create an **individual work of 10 - 15 minutes**.

Six possible instrumentations are available:

1) clarinet, guitar, percussion, double bass

2) clarinet, guitar, percussion

3) clarinet, guitar, double bass

4) clarinet, percussion

5) guitar, percussion

6) percussion & electronics

- **Percussion:** Participants will be provided a list of Unpitched Percussion (i.e. Tom-toms, cymbals, bell plate etc). Smaller & portable setups will be preferred. Keyboards are non-available. Request on further equipment, original instruments, junk-percussion can be discussed further upon acceptance.
- **Guitar / Clarinet / Double Bass:** Composers can write for both acoustic and e-guitar, as well as for Bb Clarinet and Bass Clarinet (effects for the e-guitar include BOSS GT-100). The Double Bass is 5 stringed.
- **Electronics:** Open to proposals that may also include electronics for every instrumentation. For instrumentation 6, electronics are mandatory. The ensemble's equipment consists of microphones, amplifiers, interfaces, transducers, midi-controllers etc.

COMPONENTS OF THE WORKSHOP

Individual Lessons

Each composer will receive a total of **three (3) hours of individual composition lessons** from the invited mentor, Stylianos Dimou, focused on the work to be written for the workshop.

Two hours are scheduled during the first meeting (October) and one hour during the second meeting (March).

Rehearsals

Each composer will have **three (3) rehearsals** with the ensemble, totalling **six (6) hours**.

One rehearsal (2 hours) is scheduled during the first meeting (October), and the remaining two rehearsals during the second meeting (March).

Rehearsals will be guided either by the mentor, Stylianos Dimou, or by the ensemble composer, Iason Maroulis.

Lectures

Lectures by the invited mentor, Stylianos Dimou, presenting the principles of his work and his approach towards art-making.

There will be two (2) lectures, lasting two hours each (90' presentation, 30' discussion).

Presentation

A presentation by the ensemble on their working methods, focusing on their artistic approach, rehearsal practices, and collaborative processes in developing musical material, drawing from their recent productions.

Experimentation Space

Experimentation Space is the individual time reserved for each composer. During this session, composers work closely with one instrumentalist from the ensemble, allowing for focused exploration and the development of more elaborate, idiomatic writing. Each session lasts 45 minutes.

All activities of the workshop (lessons, rehearsals, lectures etc) are open to all participants

Competition

This year, in addition to its regular activities, **Building Performance Practices** will introduce a **Competition** for the first time.

Following the completion of the Workshop, the ensemble will select one piece and its composer will receive:

- **€1500 commission** for the development of the selected work into a 25-minute composition.
- **Premiere** of the work during the **artistic season 2027-28**, presented in a production by àktapha.

Important Information

The final-commissioned work should be a 25-minute piece for full ensemble (clarinet, guitar, percussion, double bass) regardless of the initial choice of instrumentation during the workshop.

Example: A participant may attend the workshop with a piece for Instrumentation No.5: Guitar, Percussion. If their work is selected to be commissioned, they should extend their instrumentation for full ensemble.

Concerts

Building Performance Practices features 2 Concerts with ensemble àktapha

October 2027

The first concert of the Workshop takes place during the first meeting in Athens and features pieces written in the previous editions combined with ensemble's repertoire pieces.

March 2027

This is the closing concert of "Building Performance Practices", featuring the pieces written during the Workshop. A concert consisting of 8 premiers will take place in Athens.

The closing concert of the workshop will be professionally video-recorded.

WORKSHOP PLAN - TIME SCHEDULE

Pre-Workshop Activities

15 July 2026

DEADLINE for applications.

1 August 2026

Announcement of the results of the call.

August - September 2026

Open communication (online) between participants and ensemble. **First Online Meeting** with the ensemble.

30 September 2026

Delivery of the **first draft of the work**.

Workshop Activities

23 - 27 October 2026

FIRST MEETING (5 DAYS). Participants meet with the ensemble and mentor. This is where the first lessons, rehearsals and lectures take place. **CONCERT** with pieces of previous editions.

November - December 2026

Communication (online) between participants and ensemble about finalizing the piece. **Second Online Meeting** with the ensemble.

6 February 2027

Delivery of the **final score**.

2-6 March 2027

FINAL MEETING (5 DAYS). Final rehearsals with the possibility for composers to make minor changes. Second set of lessons by the mentor. **CONCERT** with the new works.

Competition Activities

March 2027

Announcement of the selected Composer for the Competition.

April - August 2027

Open communication between Selected Composer and ensemble about the evolution of the commissioned piece. Delivery of the **final score**.

Season 2027-28

CONCERT featuring the commissioned piece in a production by ensemble àktapha.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

Each applicant needs to fill and submit the following **Google Form** by **Friday, June 15 2026**:

[International Composition Workshop 2026-27 - Application Form](#)

Required Material

- 1.** Three (3) representative pieces, with at least two of them notated in a score. Compositions for ensemble are preferred.
- 2.** At least two recordings of the submitted pieces.
(MIDI recordings are not accepted).
- 3.** Curriculum Vitae (CV).
- 4.** Ranking of available instrumentations (see p. 5) in order of preference. (Ranking 1-6, with 1 being the most preferred and 6 the least preferred).
- 5.** Receipt of the €20 application fee.

All links sent for the material of the applications, should be permanent (Google Drive, YouTube etc).

Fees

Workshop Fee: **€600**

Application Fee: **€20**.

Payment Method

A deposit of **€250** will be required upon acceptance.
The remaining balance is due in **September 2025**, upon delivery of the first draft.

Both the **application fee** and the **workshop fee** should be paid to the following bank account:

IBAN: GR0601715610006561169694617

Company Name: AKTAFI POLYTECHNIS KALLITECHNIKIS
OMADAS NON

BIC: PIRBGRAA

VAT: 802841578

CONTACT - INFO

All activities of workshop (lessons, rehearsals, lectures) will take place at **NGallery Space** (Nikis 30, Athens, 10557).
Concerts venues will be announced in the summer of 2026.



You can contact us for more information and questions at: aktaphaensemble@gmail.com

You can find the Terms & Conditions for participating in BPP Vol.3 [here](#)



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International Composition Workshop

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