

Athens, 21 March 2022

Press Release

BLEAT

Yorgos Lanthimos

World Premiere

The Artist on the Composer

A GNO and NEON co-production

6, 7, 8 May 2022

Starts at: 18.00, 20.00, 22.00

Stavros Niarchos Hall of the Greek National Opera – SNFCC

Producer, scriptwriter, director: **Yorgos Lanthimos**

Starring **Emma Stone** and **Damien Bonnard**

The Artist on the Composer programme curators: **Giorgos Koumendakis** (GNO Artistic Director) – **Elina Kountouri** (NEON Director)

Yorgos Lanthimos' highly anticipated new film, *Bleat* –the second work to be commissioned as part of the GNO and NEON programme *The Artist on the Composer*– is to have its world-first premieres accompanied by live music ensembles on 6, 7 and 8 May 2022 inside the Stavros Niarchos Hall at the SNFCC. The [Greek National Opera's](https://www.gno.gr/en) participation in the co-production is made possible by a grant from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation (SNF) [[www.SNF.org](https://www.snf.org)] to enhance the GNO's artistic outreach.

The award-winning Greek filmmaker accepted the invitation extended by GNO Artistic Director Giorgos Koumendakis and NEON Director Elina Kountouri to produce, write, and direct the short film *Bleat*, shot on the Greek island of Tinos in February 2020, and starring Oscar-winning American actor Emma Stone and acclaimed French actor Damien Bonnard.

The Artist on the Composer programme –run by the Greek National Opera and NEON [www.neon.org.gr/en]- connects pioneering contemporary artists and filmmakers/producers with orchestral music performed live. Through works that spring from the programme's new commissions, each artist responds to, and enters into dialogue with pieces by classical composers, free from every standard operatic convention, trope and storyline, in the hope of reaching audiences who may never have connected with opera before.

Following on from *The Artist on the Composer's* first commission –a 2019 installation by Nikos Navridis– the gifted and internationally renowned Greek film director Yorgos Lanthimos takes on the programme's second commission to create a new cinematic work that will always be presented with the live accompaniment of music ensembles. The work's music script consists of pieces by J. S. Bach / Knut Nystedt and Toshio Hosokawa, performed live inside the Stavros Niarchos Hall by the soloists Angelina Tkatcheva (cimbalom) and Wu

Wei (sheng), the “Maria Callas” quartet, and the Chorus of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation.

Today, shortly before the premiere of *Bleat*, we are releasing the first photographs shot by Yorgos Lanthimos during filming on Tinos, as well as the film’s evocative trailer. Watch the trailer here: https://youtu.be/4VrMvg-m_PE

Visual Arts Programme • New production • World premiere
Music and Visual Arts Cycle • **A GNO and NEON co-production**

The Artist on the Composer

The Artist on the Composer programme curators: **Giorgos Koumendakis** (GNO Artistic Director) – **Elina Kountouri** (NEON Director)

Second Commission **Yorgos Lanthimos: *Bleat***

6, 7, 8 May 2022

Start times: 18.00, 20.00, 22.00

Stavros Niarchos Hall of the Greek National Opera – SNFCC

Producer, scriptwriter, director: **Yorgos Lanthimos**

Starring: **Emma Stone, Damien Bonnard**

Music: **Johann Sebastian Bach / Knut Nystedt, Toshio Hosokawa**

Cimbalom: **Angelina Tkatcheva**

Sheng: **Wu Wei**

Chorus master: **Agathangelos Georgakatos**

With the participation of the “**Maria Callas**” quartet and the **Chorus of the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation**

Set designer: **Anna Georgiadou**

Costume designer: **Angelos Mentis**

Choreographer: **Christos Papadopoulos**

Director of photography: **Thodoros Mihopoulos**

Film editor: **Yorgos Mavropsaridis**

Executive producer: **Rebecca Skinner**

Producer: **Eleni Kossyfidou**

Tickets: 10 euros (*ticket revenues support the work of the Greek National Opera*)

Advance bookings: ticketservices.gr/en, GNO Box Office – SNFCC (+30 2130885700, 09.00-21.00 daily)

nationalopera.gr/en

www.neon.org.gr/en

Lead Donor of the GNO / GNO’s participation supported by SNF



ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ ΝΙΑΡΧΟΣ
STAVROS NIARCHOS FOUNDATION

Information

Greek National Opera Press Office
Vasilis Louras
T: +30 2130885740, +30 6936197889
E: pressoffice@nationalopera.gr

NEON
Melissa Emery, SUTTON
T: +44 (0)20 7183 3577
E: melissa@suttoncomms.com