

Dimitris Mitropanos: The voice that put Kythera on the map



Τα Κύθηρα πότε δεν θα τα βρούμε

*Κάτσε στην πέτρα του γιαλού
βάλε το χέρι αντήλιο
πάρε μια χούφτα θάλασσα
πάρε μια χούφτα ήλιο
και πλύνε μου το πρόσωπο
και πλύνε μου το πρόσωπο.*

*Τα Κύθηρα πότε δεν θα τα βρούμε
το χάσαμε το πλοίο της γραμμής
στα κύματα του Αιγαίου θα καθούμε
δυσ κύματα που σβήσανε κι εμείς....*

There would be hardly any Kytherian who has not heard or sung the immortal line *Τα Κύθηρα πότε δεν θα τα βρούμε* (“We will never find Kythera”). The melodic tune continues to constitute the soundtrack to many Youtube clips of the island and its lyrics are synonymous with the mythical utopia that is Kythera: an idyllic island that we aspire to get to but cannot find.

Sadly, the singer who first sung this enchanting melody back in 1973, Dimitris Mitropanos, recently passed away at the age of 64 years after suffering a heart attack.

Mitropanos was blessed with a beautiful “laiko” voice and experienced success and fame throughout Greece during his long musical career which spanned four decades. Discovered by another legendary singer (and Theodorakis favourite) Grigoris Bithikotsis, Mitropanos went on to become a very popular singer in the best traditions of Greek folk music and ballads.

His album, *The Road to Kythera*, that featured the homage to Aphrodite’s isle attracted critical acclaim. And yet Dimitris Mitropanos was always modest about this humble beginnings and subsequent commercial success as a singer.



He was always a gentleman and Greece is all the poorer for his passing.

George Vardas

Editor’s Note: The photo (right) is courtesy of the website, Greek Reporter.

