



Breeze through the rosebush

songs from the Dodecanese

Produced by

Friends of the Melpo Merlier Music Folklore Archive,

with the support of The Instructive and Cultural Lerian Youth Society "Artemis"

Production, publishing and booklet editors:

Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Thanassis Moraitis

- Produced by Friends of the Melpo Merlier Music Folklore Archive, with the support of The Instructive and Cultural Lerian Youth Society "Artemis"
- Sponsors: the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of the Aegean, the I. Ph. Costópoulos Foundation
- Recordings took place: in Athens, 1930, Alhambra theatre, on the part of Melpo Merlier with the cooperation of Samuel Baud-Bovy; at Syme, 1990, by Leonidas Embiricos; at Leros, 1996 and 1998, by Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Kyriacos Srephanou and Thanassis Moraitis (recording master: Nicos Dionysópoulos)
- Texts by Markos Ph. Dragoumis, I. Ch. Yiakaras, Leonidas Embiricos
- Musicological analysis and commentary: Markos Ph. Dragoumis
- English language version: Demetrios E. Lekkas
- Sound processing, mastering: Christos Hatzistamou, *Athens Mastering*
- Production, publishing and booklet editors: Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Thanassis Moraitis
- Photographs courtesy of the MFA and the archives of Costas G. Megaloeconomou and of Nicos Dionysopoulos
- Cover photo: sponge-divers farewell ceremony, Calymnos 1956, Costas G. Megaloeconomou archive; Calymnian musicians pictured: Pavlos Kourounis, violin; Yiorgos Koulianiós, santouri; Mamma Picramenos, lute
- Typographical corrections: Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Demetrios E. Lekkas, Thanassis Moraitis
- Typesetting, layout, cover design: *Altsys*
- Printed by *Fabel Sound*
- Published in October 2000
- © Centre for Asia Minor Studies

Friends of the Melpo Merlier Music Folklore Archive wish to extend their thanks to:

- The Instructive and Cultural Lerian Youth Society "Artemis", and especially the Society's president, Mr Antonis Dallarís, for his enthusiastic support to this production;
- The Hon. Ms Elizabeth Papazoi for financially assisting us towards covering the production and publication costs for this double cd by grants from The Ministry of Culture and The Ministry of the Aegean;
- Mr Yiannis Costópoulos for his continued concern towards the MFA;
- Mr Vassilis Economou for his help towards finding photographic material;
- Hellenic Photographic News "Costas G. Megaloeconomou" and inheritors for their courteous and kind permission to reproduce 14 photographs from their archive;
- musicians Tassos Diacogeorgis and Constance Capetanopoulou and the head of the Calymnos

chapter of Lyceum of Greek Women, Ms Popi Mavrou, for helping us identify the musicians pictured in the Costas G. Megaloeconomou archive photos.



INTRODUCTION - CHRONOLOGY

by Markos Ph. Dragoumis

- 1929 Samuel Baud-Bovy comes to Athens to study our traditional musical culture.
- 1930 Melpo Merlier founds the Music Folklore Archive (MFA) in Athens. Among other activities, she organizes a recording of 74 Dodecanesian songs on 78-rpm's at the Alhambra theatre. The selection of musicians, singers, songs and dances is carried out in cooperation with Baud-Bovy.
- 1930-3 During these years, Baud-Bovy makes 3 trips to the then Italian-occupied Dodecanese; he completes his research on the islands' musical tradition.
- 1935-8 Baud-Bovy compiles his transcriptions of Dodecanesian songs collected in 1930-33, published in two volumes by MFA editions, titled *Songs of the Dodecanese*. Of 286 tunes published, 212 had been dictated to him while at the Dodecanese, and the 74 remaining ones were based on the 1930 MFA 78-rpm recordings.
- 1936 Baud-Bovy's dissertation *La Chanson Populaire Grecque du Dodecanèse. Les Textes*, dedicated to the Merliers, is published in French.
- 1942 Nicos Skalkottas composes a song for tenor and soprano and piano accompaniment, based on the melody of "Don't you beat me, mother", or "Old Bald Husband", as sung in Rhodes. He had come across this air in 1934, during his commission to make transcriptions from MFA records.
- 1943 Yiannis Constantinides, inspired by Baud-Bovy's Dodecanesian transcriptions, starts using several of the tunes in works of his, especially pianistic ones, such as *From the Dodecanese, 44 Pieces for Children* etc.
- 1976 "Archangelíticos" (cd 1, #28 of the present edition) is released by MFA on an LP (*Folk Songs from the Melpo Merlier Collection, Polydor 1976*).

- 1979 Part of the MFA 1930 Dodecanesian recordings is released in a commercial cassette of its own production, titled *Songs of Olympos Carpathos*.
- 1989 By permission of the MFA, two dances from Olympos Carpathos, two songs from Rhodes and another two from Calymnos from its early records are introduced in a cd release including recordings realized by Baud-Bovy on his own or in cooperation with the MFA (*Grèce. Chansons et Dances Populaires*, a publication of Swiss company VDE-GALLO).
- 1990 Leonidas Embiricos visits Syme and records 10 songs for the MFA collection.
- 1996-8 MFA (Markos Ph. Dragoumis, Kyriacos Srephanou and Thanassis Moraitis), with the kind support of Lerian Antonis Dallarís, organizes two visits to Leros, during which about 100 locally executed songs and dances are recorded (with the equipment and care of Nicos Dionysópoulos). Of these recordings, 37 are published in a double cd titled *The Songs of Leros*, in cooperation with The Instructive and Cultural Lerian Youth Society "Artemis".
- 1999 Friends of the Melpo Merlier MFA, in cooperation with the aforementioned Society again, decide to publish the present double cd titled *Breeze through the rosebush*, including 66 Dodecanesian songs, recorded in 1930 for the most part, but also in the years 1990, 1996 and 1997.