



2019

# Our actions January-December 2019



Sistema Cyprus is an El Sistema inspired program which aims to provide all children and young people with free music education through orchestras and choirs. The second aim is to promote respect and recognition of vulnerable population groups from the society.

Furthermore, Sistema Cyprus intends to encourage the healthy development of children and young people through music, to build healthier communities by investing in the children's positive growth through music, and to promote the children, through their development, as music ambassadors of peace, hope, and the understanding of people of diverse cultures, backgrounds and beliefs.

Sistema Cyprus has been operating through small activities since January 2018. As of September 2018, it operates in three centres (Nucleos) involving children and young people from 15 different countries (Cyprus, Greece, India, countries of Africa, Syria, Romania, Poland, Russia, Georgia, Bulgaria, Albania, the Philippines, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Indonesia).

**Sistema Cyprus now consists of 200 children, significantly rising the number of children from only 75 since September 2018.**

1. **Faneromeni Nucleo**

- Description: There are 100 children and young people of a migrant background, Roma, refugees and Cypriots of an extremely low socio-economic background, participating at the Faneromeni Nucleo in Nicosia.
- Musical Ensemble: Symphony Orchestra and Choir
- Location: "Peace" Room on Ledra Street, which was provided by the Nicosia Municipality, and the Multipurpose Municipal Centre of Nicosia.
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2. **Larnaca Nucleo**

- Description: There are 25 children of a migrant background, refugees and Cypriots of an extremely low socio-economic and educational background, participating at the Larnaca Nucleo.
- Musical Ensemble: Percussion Group, under the guidance of 19-year-old Eva Nicolaidou.
- Location: Foundation of Cultural Creation for Children and the Youth

3. **Shelters for Unaccompanied Refugee Minors**

- Description: Sistema Cyprus operates on 3 shelters in Nicosia and Larnaca with 80 Unaccompanied Minor Refugees 14-17 years old from Syria and Africa participating.
- Musical Ensemble: Community Music workshops
- Location: Nicosia and Larnaca

In this report we are presenting the actions and activities of Sistema Cyprus during 2019, the concerts of the organization, the events that we participated in, the seminars that were organized and our cooperation with other institutions and organizations.

## Our news

### Collaboration with the University of Nicosia

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) and Sistema Cyprus formally announce the beginning of their collaboration which seeks to advance their common goal of promoting social justice through music education. The partnership was made official through the signing of a Protocol of Collaboration that is based on a memorandum of understanding outlining the two organisations' similar missions and their plans to cooperate in areas of mutual concern to enhance the effectiveness of their development efforts.

Through this collaboration, UNIC students will have access to internship opportunities in music education, communications, marketing, media, administration and project management in Sistema Cyprus. UNIC students will also be able to research and complete coursework assignments and practicum placements in areas such as psychology and social work. **The University of Nicosia will invite Sistema students to apply to its academic programs and provide merit and/or financial need scholarships.** This has already become a reality as this year the University of Nicosia awarded a scholarship to a Sistema Cyprus student who had never thought she would have been able to afford a tertiary education program.

This partnership foresees towards a dynamic collaboration leading to the design and implementation of programs that will offer professional development opportunities including educational seminars, interactive workshops and research projects that will benefit each organization's students.

The Protocol of Collaboration was signed on Monday, October 21st 2019 by the University of Nicosia's Rector, Professor Philippos Pouyioutas and Sistema Cyprus Executive Director Dr Nikoletta Polydorou in the presence of Sistema Cyprus co-founding member Dr Myria Kkali as well as Mr Petros Stylianou and Dr Vasilis Kallis, Associate Professor and Head of UNIC's Department of Music and Dance.

Both Sistema Cyprus and the University of Nicosia are excited for this partnership and anticipate the progression and growth of the collaboration and the formation of further common actions and initiatives.



## **SANTIAGO OSSA ALZATE, NEW ARTISTIC DIRECTOR OF SISTEMA CYPRUS**



Santiago Ossa Alzate is a young conductor born in Colombia with conducting studies at EAFIT University under the chair of the conductor Cecilia Espinosa. At the age of 12 he joined the "La Red de Escuelas de Música de Medellín", an El Sistema inspired programme in his hometown, where he

received trumpet, choir and conducting classes. As a trumpeter he joined the Amadeus Youth Symphony Orchestra. Later, Santiago had the opportunity to travel to Venezuela and to receive classes at the Barquisimeto Conservatory of "El Sistema".

During 2017-2018 he acted as an Assistant Conductor in the same institution. During this time, he has conducted different national orchestras in Colombia, such as the State of Caldas Symphony Orchestra and EAFIT Symphony Orchestra. Santiago has represented Colombia's First IBERORQUESTAS Symphony Orchestral Conducting Workshop in Montevideo Uruguay. He was also the assistant director of the 2018 version of "La semana de Las cuerdas". In 2019, Santiago moved to Madrid, Spain, where he joined the "Fundación Acción Social por la Música" by teaching, conducting and volunteering.

### **Creation of Sistema Cyprus Choir**

Sistema Cyprus created its own Choir in October 2019. The newly formed choir includes 40 children from the area of Faneromeni and other schools in Nicosia under the direction of the choir conductor Loukia Lazarou. The repertoire includes a variety of gypsy, arabic and folk songs from countries like Zambia and Cuba, as well as jazz-influenced tunes.



## CONCERT

### March 9, 2019 - Join the rhythm - Cyprus Symphony Orchestra Family Concerts

The Cyprus Symphony Orchestra and the children of Sistema Cyprus brought the crowd together, joining forces with a double concert at the Strovolos Municipal Theater on Saturday, March 9th. The guest conductor of the event was Gerardo Estrada Martinez who drew audiences and musicians at his own musical pace.

The children of Sistema Cyprus received the warmest applause of the audience, making their special appearance on stage. At the end of the performances, they also received a standing ovation from the audience, who gave them a loud applause.



## June 12th 2019 – World Refugee Day - Sistema in Concert

Sistema Cyprus' orchestra drew everyone into its rhythm at its concert which was dedicated to the World Refugee Day. Seventy five children from Nicosia and Larnaca were joined by Windcraft Junior Band and showcased their talent and achievements through a musical program that offered the audience some beautiful music and great inspiration. The concert took place at the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation's Open Air Theatre in Faneromeni, Nicosia.

The concert was organized under the auspices of the United Nation's High Commissioner for Refugees in Cyprus as part of its activities on the occasion of this World Refugee Day. With the slogan "Join us and take a step #WithRefugees" the concert sent a 'loud musical' message calling for the respect, acceptance and integration of refugees into the new societies. Across the world, institutions and individual people from all different socio-economic levels, take small or big steps in solidarity with refugees. Inspired by the actions of so many others, Sistema invited the audience to take a step and support refugees in any way they can on this World Refugee Day.

The orchestra, under the artistic and musical direction of Petros Stylianou, took the audience on a musical journey through rhythms and melodies from around the world and especially from Latin America.



### **8th of December 2019 – A concert to remember**

Sistema Cyprus returned to the stage, with its first concert of the new academic year, titled "A Concert to Remember", as part of the Nicosia Municipality's series of Christmas events.

With the aim of getting the audience into the holiday spirit, the orchestra and the choir, offered a concert no one will forget. The concert took place in the courtyard of the Nicosia Town Hall (Eleftheria Square).

The concert was conducted by the new Sistema Cyprus Artistic Director and Conductor Santiago Ossa Alzate. The maestro comes from Colombia and it is worth noting that he grew up participating in the El Sistema program of his country. The Choir performed under the Direction of Loukia Lazarou.



## Larnaka Nucleo

In Larnaca, the Sistema Cyprus percussion ensemble operates in collaboration with the Larnaka Cultural Foundation for Children and Youth with the percussion teachers Maria Kramvi and Eva Nikolaidou under the supervision of Salomi Paraskeva. The children's actions varied and started in an open percussion workshop. The workshop took place on October 6th, where new students from elementary schools in the area were invited to participate.



On January 3rd, 2019, the children gave a small concert at the Larnaca Children's Home and on June 3rd they took part in the Children's Festival organized by the Municipality of Larnaca for the International Children's Day where they left the best impressions to the audience.



For the International Refugee Day, Sistema's Nucleo in Larnaca took part in the World Refugee Day 2019 on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019. At the Central Stage in Finikoudes, the children presented their musical pieces and sent their own messages of support and solidarity to the refugees.



On December 29<sup>th</sup>, as part of the Larnaca Municipality Christmas celebration at Ermou Square, the Larnaca Nucleo Musical Ensemble performed a small, festive musical performance where the children presented their work to the audience. The children who attended, were given the opportunity to become conductors for a while and direct the Sistema team.



## **SEMINAR**

### **11<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup> November 2019 - 'Young Music Leaders Skills Development' Seminar**

The seminar occurred with great success and resonance under the expert guidance of Juan Carlos Maggiorani, a Venezuelan violinist and artistic director of Orquestra Geração, a program inspired by El Sistema in Portugal.



## **PARTICIPATION IN FESTIVALS AND OTHER PROGRAMMS**

### **Choir Parade 2019**



### **International Children's Day Festival**

The children of Sistema Cyprus took on the role of teachers and shared their knowledge with dozens of other children, who had the opportunity to get acquainted with symphony orchestra instruments at the 2019 Nicosia Environmental & Recycling Festival and at the bi-communal festival for the International Children's Day organized by UNFICYP.





**14<sup>th</sup> of June 2019 – World Refugee Day**



## Bridge47

Sistema Cyprus in partnership with the Larnaka Cultural Foundation for Children and the Youth has participated in the European Bridge 47 project. Bridge 47 seeks to bring people together to share and learn from each other. This project seeks to mobilize civil society around the world in the process of social transformation towards global justice and the eradication of poverty through Global Citizenship Education.



## INTEGRATION SOUNDS (COURAGEOUS CITIZENS – EUROPEAN CULTURAL FOUNDATION)

Since July 2018, Sistema Cyprus has been selected as one of the 31 projects funded by the European Cultural Foundation's Courageous Citizens project. The Integration Sounds project, trains unaccompanied refugee children aged 15-18 to conduct music workshops for marginalized migrant children and refugees in Nicosia aged 10-15. The workshops are held once a week and the program is held in collaboration with the Hope for Children CRC Policy Center.



## **PARTNERS AND SPONSORS**

None of this would be possible without the support of various organizations, partners and sponsors.

### **Nicosia Municipality and Nicosia Municipal Multipurpose Center**

Since the very beginning of the programme, the Nicosia Municipality and the Nicosia Multipurpose Community Center have supported our efforts by providing us with the Peace Room at Ledra street as well as aiding with financial assistance in many cases by integrating us into the programs implemented by the Nicosia Municipality Multifunctional Foundation.



### Yiannis Christodoulou Foundation

It is with great pleasure that 'Yianis Christodoulou Foundation' contributed to the creation of Sistema Cyprus by subsidizing the purchase of musical instruments to be used for the children's orchestra. Specifically, the Foundation purchased 18 string instruments (8 violas, 5 cellos and 5 bass).

Through this collaboration, the charitable institution 'Yianis Christodoulou Foundation' aims to ensure equal opportunities for access to music education for all children. The Foundation is particularly proud to contribute to the integration of a vulnerable group of children into the community-society using music as a mean of socializing them. Music has no borders and it opens new horizons and creates new opportunities for young people.

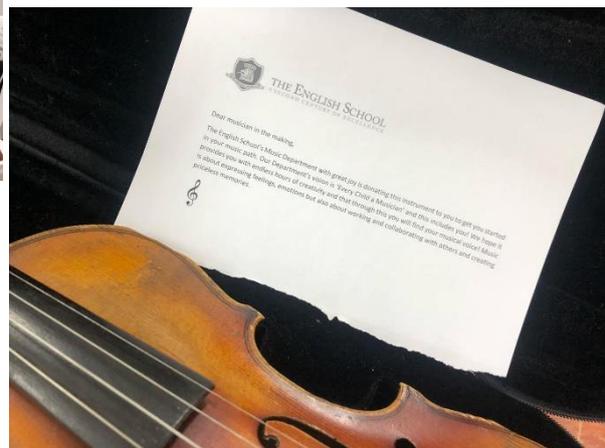


## Musical Instrument Donations

The Association Femmes d'Europe - Women of Europe supported the program with the purchase of percussion instruments in September 2019, specifically: Adams Concert Bass Drum, Zildjian 18" Suspended Cymbal and Sabian Concert Band Cymbals. Their offer supports the 10-member percussion band of the Sistema Cyprus Orchestra by offering them quality and professional musical instruments.



The English School in Nicosia donated 11 violins to Sistema Cyprus and helped 11 young children to join the Sistema Cyprus Orchestra.



## Collaboration with the UNHCR in Cyprus



Cyprus

With the support of UNHCR, 60 refugees joined all Sistema Cyprus programs in Nicosia and Larnaca.

## Cooperation with the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation

From March 2019 until November 2019 the Bank of Cyprus Cultural Foundation hosted Sistema Cyprus until the Peace Room was repaired.



### Healthy rehearsal snacks in Nicosia and Larnaca

Grant Thornton and Get Fresh provide free healthy food and fruits every Wednesday to children attending the Sistema Cyprus orchestra rehearsal in Nicosia. “We are very pleased to support the admirable work done by Sistema Cyprus. A work of social character and vision that not only provides free music but brings together children and young people, regardless of ethnicity, language and religion. We took this initiative, which was embraced from the very first moment by John and Dimitris of Get Fresh. We paid particular attention to the quality of the materials used in preparing the meal and we excluded the use of processed sausages and sugar. We are very grateful to Sistema Cyprus for their community work and Get Fresh for supporting our initiative”, said Stavros Ioannou, CEO, Grant Thornton Cyprus.



In Larnaca, the MAS Tremetousiotis Supermarket offers lunch to the children of the Larnaca Nucleo. With this contribution, the supermarket supports in a great way the social work of the program.



**COMPANIES AND ORGANISATIONS THAT SUPPORTED US DURING 2019**

**COLLABORATIONS:**



Cyprus



Ίδρυμα  
Πολιτιστικής  
Δημιουργίας  
*για παιδιά και νέους*  
επαρχίας Λάρνακας



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For  
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European Cultural  
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**SUPPORTERS:**



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