



The teaching of Greek traditional music in formal learning environments

Two landmark years

1988 Founding of the first Music Secondary School in Greece. For the first time, traditional Greek instruments are taught in a state educational institution.



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2000 Two university schools of music start offering bachelor's degrees in traditional instruments.

Department of Music Studies, University of Ioannina (Arta, Greece)

- Previously known as “Department of Traditional and Folk Music” of the Technological Educational Institute of Epirus.
- It was established in Arta in 1999 and accepted its first students in the academic year 2000-01.
- The first university music department in Greece to have ever specialized in traditional music exclusively.
- Teaching staff enthusiastically experimented on teaching methods that could ‘solve the problem’ of the inclusion of oral traditions into a literate context (Raptis, 2009).



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Indicative is the school's decision to hire 70-year-old Christos Zotos, a famous traditional musician, to teach laouto (Greek lute).

Interaction between students and folk musicians (teachers, 'culture bearers', informants, object of research and observation).

Students attended a series of courses such as Anthropology of Music and Dance, Ethnomusicology, etc. which would help them to better understand elements of folk culture, but also to reflect on their own experiences (Zoubouli & Kokkonis, 2014).



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Oral transmission is a key feature of learning traditional instruments at the University of Ioannina, while at the same time students acquire knowledge of music theory and reading.

In its first twenty years, a significant number of graduates are professionally active today either as performers or as teachers.

With special regards to the teaching of oral music traditions, the external evaluators in 2014 characterized the curriculum of the school as exemplary for the teaching of traditional music internationally.

