

The world premiere of *Elegy Melos* was on March 12, 2001 in Athens, Greece.

Athanasios Zervas is a composer, theorist, saxophonist, and conductor. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in music from Chicago State University and both a Master of Music in saxophone performance and a Doctor of Music in composition from Northwestern University. He studied composition with Frank Garcia, M. William Karlins, William Russo, Stephen Syverud, Alan Stout, and Jay Alan Yim; saxophone with Frederick Hemke, and Wayne Richards; jazz saxophone and improvisation with V. "Bunky" Green, Joe Daley, and Paul Berliner. He is a specialist on pitch class set theory, music since 1945, composition, orchestration, improvisation, Greek traditional music, and contemporary works and techniques for saxophone.

Zervas is considered an eclectic composer. His musical language often fuses elements of Byzantine chant, microtonal sonorities, polyrhythm, and lyric fragments of traditional Greek tunes. He has had frequent performances of his music in Europe, Africa, and the United States. He is the recipient of numerous academic and composition awards including the W.T. Faricy Award for Creative Music.

Between 1993 and 1997, Zervas was conductor of the choir at St. Andrews Greek Orthodox Church in Chicago. From 1999 until 2006, he was the music director/conductor of the Athens Big Band (Athens Municipality, Greece). Additionally, he has conducted at Carnegie Hall (New York), the Schubert Theater (Boston), the Pick Staiger Concert Hall (Evanston), Mandel Hall (University of Chicago), and in Greece at Herodion Odeion (Athens), the 'Megaron' Music Halls (Athens and Thessaloniki), the Epidaurus Ancient Theater, and in the Opening and Closing Ceremonies of the Olympics 2004. There are more than one hundred compositions written for and premiered by him by American, European, and African composers, and he has recorded contemporary, classical, and traditional music with BMG, EMI, FM records, Libra Music Ltd, Mercury/Universal Co., Magni Records, and Centaur Records.

He is a founding member and soprano saxophonist of the Athens Saxophone Quartet and was president of the Hellenic Saxophone Association between 1999 and 2008. He has had solo performances with the Louisiana Sinfonietta, the Chicago Jazz Ensemble, and in Greece with the State Orchestra of Hellenic Music, the Athens Symphony Orchestra, the National Symphony Orchestra, the State Orchestra of Athens, the Athens Contemporary Ensemble, and the State Orchestra of Thessalonica.

Zervas has taught composition, theory, saxophone, and improvisation at Chicago State University, Columbia College (Chicago), Northwestern University, the University of Indianapolis-Athens, Greece, the Contemporary Music Conservatory of Athens, and the University of Crete-Rethymno, Greece. Presently, he is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory at the University of Macedonia in Thessalonica, Greece. He also serves as chief editor of the electronic music theory/composition journal *mus-e-journal* at [www.muse.gr](http://www.muse.gr). His professional affiliations are the Greek Composers Union, the Composers Music Society, National Association of Composers/USA, North American Saxophone Alliance, and Music Theory Midwest.