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MICHAILIDIS - TWO SYMPHONIC PICTURES

Solon Michailidis, a Greek composer and musicologist, was born in Nicosia on Cyprus in 1905. His artistic education began at the London Trinity College of Music, but most of his knowledge was acquired in Paris with the famous teacher Nadja Boulanger who instructed several of the composer's well-known contemporaries. In 1934 Michailidis founded the Conservatory and Concert Society in Lemessos. He became the director of the State Conservatory in the Macedonian capital Thessaloniki (Saloniki) in 1957 and from 1959 to 1970 served as the general music manager of the Thessaloniki State Orchestra.

Today Michailidis is considered an important representative of the neo-Greek school of composers, the first typical expressions of which are found after 1930. His work is inspired by the culture of ancient Greece and Byzantine tradition as well as by the folksongs of his homeland. His use of musical skills such as form, harmony, development of themes and instrumentation is mostly influenced by the classical French school. Michailidis has written compositions for orchestras and chamber music, in addition to cantatas, musical dramas - including an opera - and piano pieces.

Sound and atmosphere of the "Two Symphonic Pictures" are drawn from the scenic beauty and folklore of Greece. In "Dawn at Parthenon" Michailidis paints a romantic and vivid picture of the sun rising over the Acropolis with successful means such as harp arpeggios and the woodwinds' idyllic tunes. The hallowed land of Greek history and culture is celebrated by choirs of the brasses and strings in glorifying crescendos. The description of "The People's Festival of Kakava" is inspired by a poem and offers a loose sequence of scenes from the lives of Greek gypsies.