

Academy of Rhythm and Time

A five-day masterclass for instrumentalists
and conductors led by percussion soloist

Dimitris Desyllas

IKC
KOUFONISIA
CLASSICAL
music festival

Are human beings rhythmical?

Is accuracy achievable?

Are conductors metronomes?

Is true synchronisation possible?

What about rhythmic subdivisions and complexities?

Do we possess the codes of time?

Do we need metronomes?

An intensive five-day programme
exploring the many dimensions of musical time.

TIME AND MUSIC • TIME IN MUSIC • TIME AS MUSIC

OPEN TO INSTRUMENTALISTS OF ALL DISCIPLINES & CONDUCTORS

An intensive five-day programme exploring rhythm as:
technical · artistic · intellectual · physical experience

17-21
JULY
2026

ANO KOUFONISI
CYCLADES

APPLICATION
DEADLINE
12.06.2026

FINAL CONCERT

ΤΥΠΑΝΑ Percussion Ensemble
Artistic Direction: **Dimitris Desyllas**

✉ academy@rhythmandtime.com

f Koufonisia Classical

📷 [koufonisiaclassical](https://www.instagram.com/koufonisiaclassical)

Additional information

Participants are advised to arrive on Koufonisi on 16 July and remain on the island until 22 July.

The Academy will begin with morning lessons on 17 July and will continue with daily sessions throughout the five-day programme. Participants will also have the opportunity to attend daily rehearsals of ΤΥΠΑΝΑ Percussion Ensemble, under the artistic direction of Dimitris Desyllas, as well as and the final concert taking place on the evening of 21 July.

Application Timeline:

Application deadline: **12 June 2026**

Notification of selected participants: **by 18 June 2026**

Payment deadline for selected participants: **30 June 2026**

Application materials:

Applicants are requested to submit the following documents and information by email at academy@rhythmandtime.com , in either English or Greek:

1. Full contact details
2. A short biography
3. A video link showing the applicant performing or conducting a work of their choice, in any style

Participation fee:

The participation fee is €150 in total per person.

The fee is payable only after the applicant has received confirmation of acceptance from the Koufonisia Classical Music Festival. Selected participants must complete the payment by 30 June 2026 in order to secure their place.

Payment should be made by bank transfer to the following account:

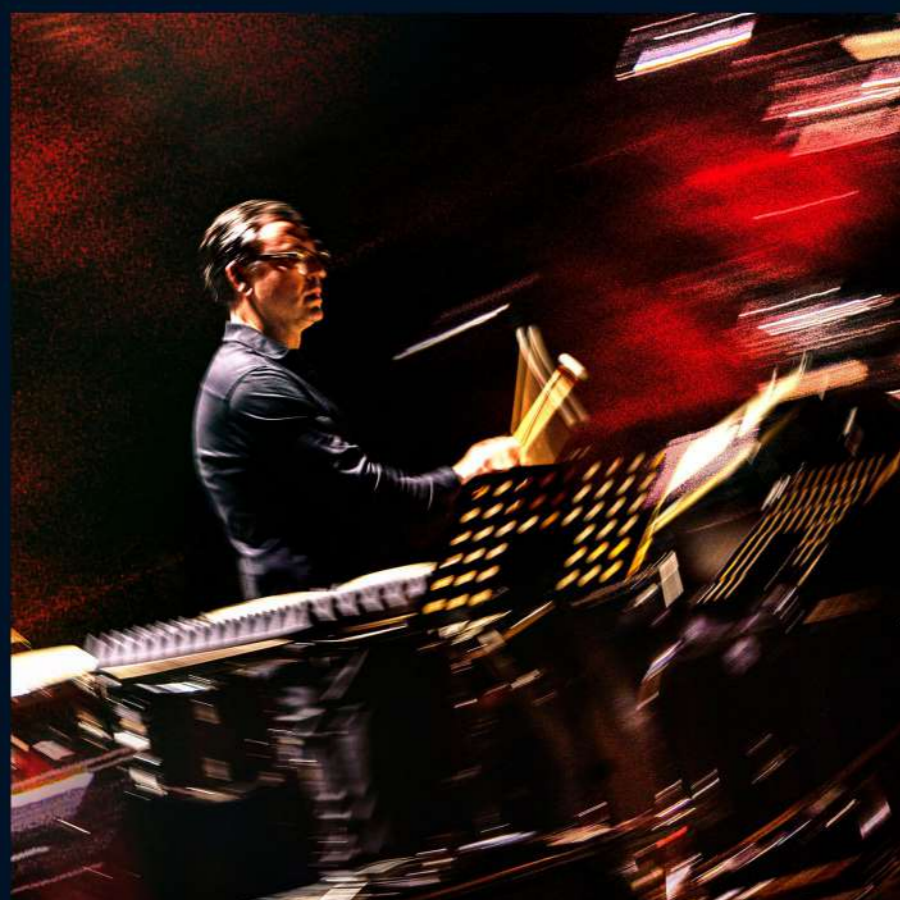
Beneficiary name: Synarmonia Non Profit Civil Law Company

IBAN: **GR51 0172 0450 0050 4511 3507 626**

BIC: **PIRBGRAA**

Accommodation, travel and all other personal expenses are not included in the fee and must be arranged separately by each participant. The Festival may provide general recommendations for accommodation and travel upon request.

Dimitris Desyllas



Born in Corfu, award-winning percussion soloist and composer Dimitris Desyllas has appeared in major venues worldwide, from New York and Chicago to London, Vienna, Salzburg, Helsinki and Beijing, as well as at the Odeon of Herodes Atticus and the Ancient Theatre of Epidauros.

He began his musical training at the Philharmonic Society of Corfu and continued at the Athens Conservatory with Nikolaos Koratzinos, in New York with Roland Kohloff and Raymond Des Roches, and in Berlin with Rainer Seegers. His early encounter with the pioneering percussion soloist Sylvio Gualda was a decisive influence on his artistic development.

Desyllas has collaborated with leading figures such as Martha Argerich, Robert Wilson, Gary Burton, Teodor Currentzis, Manos Hadjidakis, Thanos Mikroutsikos, George Kouroupos, George Petrou, Charles Dutoit, Yuja Wang and Daniele Gatti. His recordings include solo works for BIS, Blue Note, EMI Classics, Albany Records, Bavarian Radio, Mezzo and Hellenic Radio, as well as orchestral recordings for Decca, Deutsche Grammophon and Sony.

As a soloist, he has given numerous Greek and international premieres, including works by Iannis Xenakis. The Athens Concert Hall and Diazoma honoured him by inviting him to perform Xenakis' *Psappha* at the Theatre of Dionysus beneath the Acropolis, producing the first sound heard there in 2,500 years.

Committed to the future of percussion, he founded the Seistron and ΤΥΠΑΝΑ percussion ensembles, as well as the KYKLOS Chamber Music Ensemble. He has given masterclasses on rhythm, technique, timbre, timpani repertoire and major 20th-century works.

Dimitris Desyllas is Solo Timpanist of the Athens State Orchestra and Professor and Curator of the Percussion School at the Athens Conservatoire and the Athens Conservatoire College of Music. He has previously served as Solo Timpanist of musicAeterna and the Mahler Chamber Orchestra.

ΤΥΠΑΝΑ Percussion Ensemble

Dimitris Desyllas, Artistic Director

ΤΥΠΑΝΑ Percussion Ensemble was founded in 2004 by percussion soloist and professor Dimitris Desyllas. Since then, the ensemble has served as a platform for continuous learning, research, artistic development and the promotion of percussion instruments.

Its repertoire includes a wide range of works written exclusively for percussion, such as Iannis Xenakis' *Pléïades*, Steve Reich's *Drumming*, the complete percussion works of John Cage, and a substantial part of the Japanese percussion repertoire of the second half of the twentieth century, including works by Yoshihisa Taïra, Maki Ishii, Tōru Takemitsu and Minoru Miki, among many others.

The ensemble has collaborated on numerous occasions with major institutions and organisations, including the Athens Concert Hall, Camerata – The Friends of Music Orchestra, the Athens and Epidauros Festival, the Kalamata International Dance Festival, the National Chamber Orchestra of Armenia, the Zurich Ballet and others.

ΤΥΠΑΝΑ is based at the Athens Conservatoire, where it is ensemble-in-residence at the Athens Conservatoire College of Music.

