

EUROPEAN
CULTURAL HERITAGE
SUMMIT 2026

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

28 MAY | NICOSIA

EEST CEST

20:00 / 19:00 | Nicosia Municipal Theatre
livestream via → europeanostra.org

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Heritage
Hub

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

ORGANISED BY

[Europa Nostra](#)

[Europa Nostra Heritage Hub in Nicosia](#)

IN THE FRAME OF THE

[European Cultural Heritage Summit 2026 in Nicosia](#) held under the patronage of the [Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union](#)

WITH THE COOPERATION AND SUPPORT OF

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EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Thursday, 28 May 2026

20:00–22:00 EEST

📍 **Nicosia Municipal Theatre, Mikis Theodorakis str. No 6, Nicosia**

For all registered participants and invited guests. Dress code: festive.

Doors will open at 19:15. All attendees must arrive as early as possible and not later than 19:30.

All attendees will be asked to show their ticket at the entrance.

The [winners of the 2026 European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) will be celebrated during a high-profile event on the evening of 28 May at the Nicosia Municipal Theatre. The European Heritage Awards Ceremony is jointly organised by [Europa Nostra](#) and the [European Commission](#) with the support of the [Creative Europe](#) Programme of the European Union.

Costas Kadis, European Commissioner for Fisheries and Oceans, will take part in the Awards Ceremony, and Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport, will convey a congratulatory video message to the winners. The Ceremony will be attended by H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides, the Deputy Minister of Culture of Cyprus, Vasiliki Kassianidou, the Executive President of Europa Nostra, Hermann Parzinger, and other distinguished guests.



Municipal Theatre of Nicosia © DyziO / Shutterstock.com

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

This year's edition of the Awards features a diverse range of winners across its five categories, including the DumBO project, which has reactivated a former railway yard in Bologna through reversible interventions, creating a flexible cultural hub with strong community impact (Italy); The Cypriot Fiddler research project, which has documented the life stories of traditional Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot musicians (Cyprus); the "Pacijenca" programme, which has revived, through hands-on training, the nearly extinct Dobrota lace tradition in Montenegro; the Gardens of Peace Project, which has created contemporary public gardens along the First World War front line in France and Belgium; and the volunteer-driven organisation Din l-Art Ħelwa, which has protected Malta's heritage for over 60 years.



Winners of the Awards 2026. © Europa Nostra

During the Ceremony, the Grand Prix laureates and the Public Choice Award winner will be announced, chosen from among this year's winners and entitled to receive €10,000 each.

The European Heritage Awards Ceremony will be live streamed on the [Europa Nostra website](#).

The Ceremony will be followed by a festive reception co-hosted by the European Commission, Europa Nostra and the Deputy Ministry of Culture.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

PROGRAMME

Master of Ceremonies

Sneška Quaedvlieg-Mihailović, Secretary General of Europa Nostra

European and Cypriot Anthems

Performed by soprano Mariza Anastasiadou with five members of the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra

OPENING ADDRESSES

- Charalambos Prountzos, Mayor of Nicosia
- Glenn Micallef, European Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness, Youth, Culture and Sport (*video message*)
- H.E. The President of the Republic of Cyprus, Nikos Christodoulides

Musical Intermezzo

Performed by Cypriot singer and songwriter Vakia Stavrou and pianist Manolis Neophytou

Édith Piaf, *Padam, padam...*

Amália Rodrigues, *Água e Mel*

PRESENTATIONS OF THE AWARDS FOR CATEGORY

- Conservation and Adaptive Reuse
- Research
- Education, Training & Skills
- Citizens' Engagement & Awareness-Raising
- Heritage Champions

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Musical Intermezzo

Performed by Cypriot singer and songwriter Vakia Stavrou and pianist Manolis Neophytou

Carlos Eleta Almarán, *Historia de un Amor*

Fred Buscaglione, *Guarda che Luna*

Mikis Theodorakis, *Make Your Bed for Two* from the movie *Zorba the Greek* (1964)

ADDRESS

- Hermann Parzinger, Executive President of Europa Nostra
- Presentation of the Europa Nostra Medals of Honour

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE FIVE GRAND PRIX WINNERS 2026

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC CHOICE AWARD WINNER 2026

Musical Finale

Performed by Cypriot singer and songwriter Vakia Stavrou and pianist Manolis Neophytou

To Yasemi (Το γιασεμί)

Come young girl, show us your beautiful eyes (Έλα κορού να δούμε τα μαύρα σου τα μάτια)

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards 2026 Winners

Category Conservation and Adaptive Reuse

- Hungarian State Opera House, Budapest, HUNGARY
- Polirone Monastic Complex, San Benedetto Po, ITALY
- Multifunctional Urban District of Bologna - DumBO, ITALY
- Garden of Nikolai Astrup - Astruptunet, Jølster, NORWAY
- Bánffy Castle, Răscruți, ROMANIA
- Dome of the Church of Escuelas Pias of Valencia, SPAIN
- Salinas de La Concepción, Menorca, SPAIN

Category Research

- The Cypriot Fiddler, CYPRUS
- National Historical Archive of Italian Restorers - ASRI, ITALY
- FENIX Project, Seville, SPAIN

Category Education, Training & Skills

- Heritage Craft School, ICELAND
- Improving the Energy Performance of Heritage Properties in State Care Initiative, IRELAND
- International Summer School on Historic Masonry Structures - HIMASS, ITALY / SPAIN
- Cita Rīga's Initiative 'Co-creating Urban Heritage with Children', LATVIA
- Safeguarding the Dobrota Lace Tradition - Pacijenca Project, Kotor, MONTENEGRO
- School of Renovation, Skofja Loka, SLOVENIA

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Category Citizens' Engagement & Awareness-Raising

- Croatian Coral Center Zlarin, CROATIA
- Sector 2: Nicosia - The Green Line Project, CYPRUS
- Gardens of Peace Project, FRANCE
- 14 Henrietta Street - Social History Museum of Dublin Life, IRELAND
- Intorno a Minerva Project, Breno, Brescia, ITALY
- Gothic Route Initiative, SLOVAKIA
- Preserving the Art and Memory of Polina Raiko, Kherson, UKRAINE

Category Heritage Champions

- Din l-Art Helwa - The National Trust for Malta, Valletta, MALTA
- Factum Foundation for Digital Technology in Preservation, Madrid, SPAIN
- Museum Open for Renovation NGO, Kyiv, UKRAINE
- Maryna Hrytsenko †, Chernihiv, UKRAINE (*Posthumous Award*)

Three of this year's winners come from third countries which do not take part in the Creative Europe Programme of the EU, namely the United Kingdom and Türkiye. These winners receive the Europa Nostra Awards - which are not funded by the EU - reflecting the organisation's commitment to recognising heritage excellence in all countries of the Council of Europe.

Category Conservation and Adaptive Reuse

- Elizabeth Tower - Big Ben, London, UNITED KINGDOM
- Rochdale Town Hall, UNITED KINGDOM

Category Citizens' Engagement and Awareness-Raising

- Assessing Earthquake Damage to Cultural Heritage Sites, TÜRKIYE

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Mariza Anastasiades



Mariza Anastasiades is a distinguished Cypriot soprano with a rich and versatile repertoire ranging from early music to contemporary creation. Her artistic career is marked by important collaborations with renowned orchestras, conductors, and artists across Europe and North America. She has appeared with the Prague State Opera under Richard Hein, the Pilsen Philharmonic Orchestra at Opernfest Prague, the Danube Symphony Orchestra under Andreas Déak at the Palace of Arts on the Danube, and the Savaria Baroque Orchestra in Budapest under Pál Németh.

Her operatic repertoire includes leading roles such as the Countess in Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, Lauretta in Puccini's *Gianni Schicchi* with the Varna International Orchestra under Gregory Buchalter, *Dido* in Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* in a Kyrenia Opera production in Vienna, and the Mother in Menotti's *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. She has also performed leading roles in contemporary operas by Cypriot composers, including *Argos Sideros* by Andis Skordis, in collaboration with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra, actively contributing to the promotion of contemporary Cypriot music. Her distinctions include First Prize at the *Concours de musique du Canada (Section Mauricie et Centre du Québec)* and the *Grand Prix* at the *Stojan Stojanov-Ganchev International Singing Competition* in Zagreb.

Recent highlights include her participation in the Opening Ceremony of the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the European Union, performing before European Heads of State alongside the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra. In January 2026, she presented a highly demanding Voice and Piano Recital at the sold-out *Temppliaukio Church* in Helsinki, marking the opening of the Cyprus Presidency cultural programme.

Upcoming engagements include Mozart's *Exsultate, Jubilate* with the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra in April 2026 and a concert in Athens in June 2026 as part of the Presidency's cultural events. In autumn 2026, she will perform works by Theophrastos Sakellaridis.

Alongside her international career, Mariza Anastasiades maintains an active pedagogical role. She is a member of the teaching staff of ARTE Higher Music Academy, the University of Nicosia, and the Nicosia Music School, contributing significantly to the development of the next generation of performers.

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Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra



The [Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra](#), now ranked among the top European youth orchestras, is the country's leading music youth ensemble. Founded in 1987, it brings together young people with talent and enthusiasm for music. The CyYSO carries an educational character that plays an important role in the cultural activities of the country, aiming at the highest artistic level, promoting quality music and preparing young musicians for their professional careers. Graduates of the CyYSO programs are admitted to conservatories and major music schools around the world, represent Cyprus in international orchestral institutions and in international competitions, while the CyYSO forms the main provider of musicians for the Cyprus Symphony Orchestra.

As a symphonic ensemble, the orchestra interprets a wide range of repertoire, both in Cyprus and abroad. At the same time, its members take part in a variety of state, private and charity events each year. The CyYSO aims to provide quality music education, so that the children in Cyprus enjoy equal opportunities, both in ensemble and individual music production, as well as to expand and develop their knowledge and skills.

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The range of the CyYSO activities, consists of a scientifically designed music-educational complex: the Orchestra Academy ensures the primary and individual technical and musical development of the young musician. The innovative ΣymphoIIedia programme provides the initial musical socialization of the young musicians through an integrated cycle of music performance practice in music ensembles, choir and rhythmic education while the Symphony Orchestra welcomes all talented children of Cyprus, from any music-educational institution, in interpreting symphonic and operatic masterpieces.

Since 2016, the Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra performs annually at the Wiener Musikverein. As from January 2013, Dr. Yiorgos Kountouris is the Artistic Director of the CyYSO.

Musicians on stage:

Elli Despotis (Trumpet)

Joseph Griffiths (Trombone)

Ioannis Zeniou (French Horn)

Loucas Giannakas (Trombone)

Nicol Christodoulou (Toumba)

Teacher: Mr. Savvas Athanasiou (Trombone)



Cyprus Youth Symphony Orchestra:

www.instagram.com/cyprusyouthsymphonyorchestra

www.facebook.com/CyprusYouthSymphonyOrchestra

Cyprus Symphony Orchestra:

www.instagram.com/cyprussymphony

www.facebook.com/cyprussymphony

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Vakia Stavrou



Vakia Stavrou is an internationally renowned Cypriot singer and songwriter, born in Nicosia. Her voice has been described by the German *Die Welt* as " a voice without borders and of limitless potential" while Bertrand Dicale of Radio France has noted that she is an artist " with unique finesse who immediately captivates the listeners with the great beauty of her voice"

Her studies at the Prague Conservatory and at the Jazz Studio in Belgium were the start of her music career which was followed by record contracts with international labels (Sony Music and Accords Croises)

Her portuguese song "Sozinha", written and composed by herself, achieved major success on both Greek and international radio stations, marking a pivotal moment in her artistic career and development, leading to numerous invitations to international music festivals and concert halls.

Her performances in Paris, Lisbon, London, Geneva, Athens, Barcelona, Valencia, Stockholm, Munich, Berlin, Moscow, Buenos Aires and so on, as well in her native Cyprus, have established her as a true citizen of the world.

Her interpretations are considered passionate, soulful and very personal with a one of a kind charisma: carrying away the audience, no matter in which language she performs.

Her ability in performing in 7 languages and communicating with the international audiences is unique.

Nevertheless, she never fails to highlight her Cypriot origin and to promote the musical culture of her homeland through her art.

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Manolis Neophytou



Manolis Neophytou performed his first solo recital at the age of eleven, just before he entered the Moscow's Central Special State Music School of the Soviet Union, where he studied with Professor Rudolf Kehrler.

Manolis, during the period 1996-2002 studied at the Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatoire, with scholarship from Nicolas Economou Foundation. He also studied in Ecole Normale in Paris -2002-2003, with a scholarship from the Albert Roussel Foundation. In 2004, he has obtained the Masters in Piano Performance

from the University of London with scholarship from the State Scholarships Foundation of Greece.

Manolis represented Cyprus at the Eurovision Classical Contests in Brussels (1992), Warsaw (1994) and Lisbon (1996), after winning the Cyprus National Competitions . He received several prizes in international piano competitions: 4th Prize at Senigallia International Piano Competition (Italy, 1994), 1st Prize at the Inter-Mediterranean Music Festival (Palermo, Italy, 1995), and 2nd Prize at the Thimis Piano Competition (Megaron Mousikis, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2002).

His performance activities include solo recitals and concerts in Germany, U.S.A.,Greece, Switzerland, Russia, Poland, Italy, Hungary, France, Ireland, U.K., Korea, South Africa and Cyprus.

He performed, as a soloist, with many orchestras, as the State Orchestra of Cyprus, the State Orchestra of Thessaloniki, the Symphonic State Orchestra of Rostov (Russia) and other. He taught in master classes in Cyprus, at the University of South Africa (UNISA) and university of Maine (USA).

Homage to Greek Music is the title of his first CD and received a very good review from Mikis Theodorakis.

He is teaching piano in Arte Academy of Music, European University of Cyprus and in the state music school in Limassol.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

ABOUT

European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards

The [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#) were launched by the European Commission in 2002 and have been run by Europa Nostra ever since. For 24 years, the Awards have been a key instrument to recognise and promote the multiple values of heritage for Europe's culture, society, economy, and environment.

Supported under the European Union's [Creative Europe](#) programme, the Awards have highlighted and disseminated heritage excellence and best practices in Europe, encouraged the cross-border exchange of knowledge, and connected heritage stakeholders in wider networks. The Awards have brought major benefits to the winners, such as greater (inter)national exposure, additional funding and increased visitor numbers. In addition, the Awards have championed a greater care for our shared heritage among Europe's citizens. For additional facts and figures about the Awards, please visit the [Awards website](#).

The Call for Entries for the 2027 Awards is open. Visit www.europeanheritageawards.eu for more information and submit your application online by 7 September 2026.

Creative Europe

[Creative Europe](#) is the European Union's flagship programme to support the cultural and creative sectors, including cultural heritage, enabling them to increase their contribution to Europe's society, economy and living environment. With a budget of over €2.4 billion for 2021-2027, it supports organisations from various cultural and creative sectors such as heritage, performing arts, fine arts, interdisciplinary arts, publishing, film, TV, music and video games as well as tens of thousands of artists, and cultural and audiovisual professionals.

EUROPEAN HERITAGE AWARDS CEREMONY 2026

Europa Nostra

[Europa Nostra](#) is the European voice of civil society committed to safeguarding and promoting cultural and natural heritage. It is a pan-European federation of heritage NGOs, supported by a wide network of public bodies, private companies and individuals, covering over 40 countries. It is the most representative heritage network in Europe, maintaining close relations with the European Union, the Council of Europe, UNESCO and other international bodies. Europa Nostra celebrated its 60th anniversary in 2023.

Europa Nostra campaigns to save Europe's endangered monuments, sites and landscapes, in particular through the [7 Most Endangered Programme](#). It celebrates and disseminates excellence through the [European Heritage Awards / Europa Nostra Awards](#). Europa Nostra contributes to the definition and implementation of European strategies and policies related to heritage, through a participatory dialogue with European Institutions and the coordination of the European Heritage Alliance. It is also a partner of the New European Bauhaus initiative developed by the European Commission, and a European member and supporter of the Climate Heritage Network.

Since 2023, Europa Nostra has led the European consortium selected by the European Commission to run the [European Heritage Hub](#) project.

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BOOKLET

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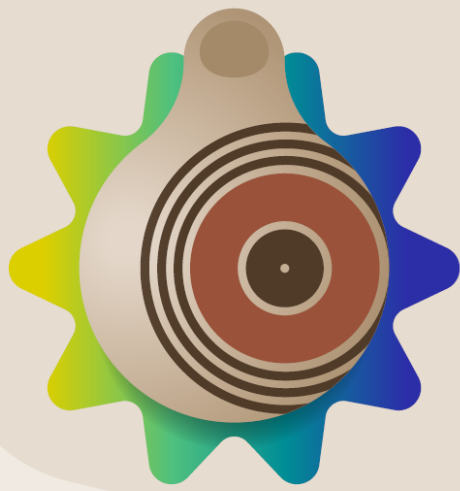
As part of Europa Nostra's mission to safeguard our built and natural heritage, this booklet was produced exclusively in digital format.

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EUROPEAN CULTURAL HERITAGE SUMMIT 2026 NICOSIA 26–30 MAY

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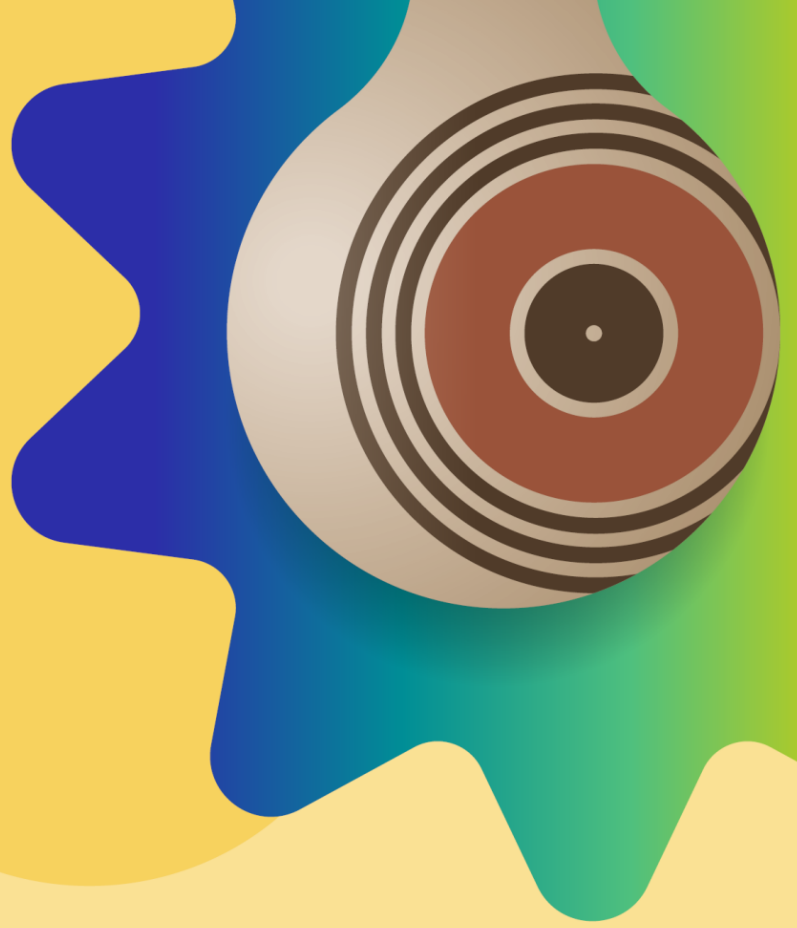


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