

MARO SKORDI

Maro Skordi started piano lessons with Martino Tirimo and completed a Harmony Diploma from the Ethnikon Odeon with Yiangos Michaelidis. She studied at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, where she won prizes in History, Form and Analysis, in the Jordanhill College of Education, and the Institute of Education of the University of London, where she completed her MA under the tutorship of Professor Keith Swanwick. She has worked in schools as a music teacher and Assistant Head, and has also worked in the Pedagogical Institute and the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture. She has also worked at the Teacher Training Department of the University of Cyprus. She has been working as the Inspector of Music for Secondary Schools since the year 2000, and from September 2007 she will assume the position of Chief Education Officer at the Ministry. She has, with the support of the Ministry of Education and Culture, introduced such original educational concepts as the Educational Programmes of the Cyprus State Orchestra, (since October 1999), Artists in Schools, and Short Concerts as part of Classroom Lessons (both since 2002), Regional Orchestras and Choirs of Upper Secondary Schools (since 2003) and the Specialist Upper Secondary Music School (since 2006).

CHOIR "LEANDROS SITAROS" OF PNEVMATIKI STEGHI, NICOSIA

Leandros Sitaros founded the Choir in 1966. Maro Skordi became the conductor of the choir after the founder's death in 1984. The Choir has collaborated on many occasions with such educational foundations and institutions as the Cyprus Theatre Organization, the Cultural Services of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation and the Music and Fine Arts Fund. It has performed extensively with, amongst others, soloists from the Athens Opera (Lyriki Skini) as well as with many Cypriot soloists in concerts of Christmas, folk, classical, patriotic, religious and operatic music. Its repertoire includes complete performances of Faure's Requiem, Mozart's and Schubert's Masses, Bach's Passions, Lieder by Schumann, Haydn's Te Deum, Vivaldi's Gloria, religious music by Bruckner, Orff's "Carmina Burana", Beethoven's 9th Symphony, as well as works by local composers like Kouyioumtzi, Filippou, Meletiou and Christodoulidis. The Choir has participated on a number of occasions in concerts in Cyprus and also in Greece, Hungary, France, Spain, the Czech Republic, the United Kingdom, Malta and Italy, and has already recorded four compact discs.