

International Conference “Building a Future on Peace and Justice” Nuremberg, 25-27 June 2007

Cultural Programme, 25 June 2007 – the artists:



Mikis Theodorakis, Composer

Mikis Theodorakis was born on July 29th 1925 on the Greek island of Chios.

He studied at the Athens Conservatory and at the Conservatoire of Paris, where he studied musical analysis. His first symphonic works, Concerto for Piano, First Suite, First Symphony, were internationally acclaimed. Theodorakis went back to Greece and to his roots, to genuine Greek music. With his song cycle "Epitaphios", he started a cultural revolution in his country. He founded the Little Orchestra of Athens and the Musical Society of Piraeus and gave many concerts. In 1963, he founded the Lambrakis Democratic Youth and was elected its president. In 1964, he became a member of the Greek Parliament. In 1967, a fascist Junta putsched its way to power. The Colonels published Army decree No.13, which banned playing, and even listening to his music. Theodorakis himself was arrested, jailed, and banished to Zatouna. Theodorakis was freed and his sentence converted to exile in 1970. After the fall of the Colonels, Theodorakis triumphantly returned to Greece. He was later elected several times to the Greek Parliament (1981-1986 and 1989-1993) and for two years, from 1990 to 1992, he was Minister in the Government of Konstantin Mitsotakis. After that, he was appointed for another two years General Musical Director of the Symphony Orchestra and Chorus of the Hellenic Radio and Television.

His oeuvre contains operas, symphonies and about 780 songs. The world premiere of his latest opera LYSISTRATI took place in Athens in 2002.



Isabelle Balot, Poet

Isabelle Balot is a member of the Belgian Royal Association of the French Language Writers. Her poetry was selected and has won prizes in most prestigious competitions (Société des Gens de Lettres; Société des Poètes Français; etc.). Her poems have been illustrated by famous painters (such as LeRoy Neiman) and set to music by a number of talented composers. Isabelle Balot has worked as a Humanitarian Affairs Officer at the United Nations-New York. She was also posted in the UN Missions in Eritrea and Sudan. In recent times she has begun to put her poetry at the service of certain humanitarian causes. Isabelle Balot currently works as a Political Affairs Officer at the United Nations in New York.



Sebastian Hess, Violoncellist

Sebastian Hess was born in 1971 in Munich. In 1986 he started studying at the conservatories in Wurzburg and Munich in the class of Julius Berger and Helmar Stiehler. From 1990 to 1994 Mr Hess studied in the class of William Pleeths in London and in 1997 he took part in the master class of Mstislav Rostropovich.

He is teaching in several international classes, at the Munich academy for music and theatre and at the Richard Strauss Conservatory in Munich.

