

From Poem to Song

The transformation of a poem into a song is more than the addition of music to words. It is a creative dialogue in which the composer discovers the musical qualities already present within the text. The rhythm, imagery, and emotional movement of the poem become the foundation for a new artistic expression while preserving the integrity of the original work.

A successful musical setting does not replace the poem or reinterpret it beyond recognition. Instead, it reveals dimensions that may remain silent on the printed page. Melody, harmony, and vocal expression deepen the emotional experience, allowing listeners to encounter the poem through sound while remaining faithful to its language, meaning, and spirit.

In the work of Kostas Kartelias, poetry and music complement one another. The songs extend the life of the poems without altering their emotional core, demonstrating how literature and music can enrich each other while remaining distinct artistic forms.