

In His Own Words – Mikis Theodorakis

One of Kostas Kartelias's most memorable recollections concerns his meeting with the composer Mikis Theodorakis after the completion of *Odysseia*. Reflecting on that moment, Kartelias said that when Theodorakis placed the musical scores in his hands, he felt that he was “seeing the light.” The remark conveys the profound emotional significance of witnessing his poetry transformed into music by one of Greece's greatest composers.

For a poet whose work is deeply rooted in memory and lived experience, the collaboration represented far more than a musical adaptation. The scores symbolized the completion of a creative journey in which the written word acquired a new artistic life through composition and performance. Kartelias's response reveals both admiration for Theodorakis and gratitude for the dialogue between poetry and music.

This recollection marks an important moment in Kartelias's artistic biography. It illustrates how collaboration can illuminate a poet's work, allowing it to reach audiences in new forms while remaining faithful to its literary origins. The encounter with Mikis Theodorakis thus became not only a personal milestone but also a defining chapter in the history of *Odysseia*.