

Vassilis Gavvaris is a 25-year-old Greek pianist of Greek and Cypriot descent, distinguished for the energy, intensity, and expressiveness of his performances. He recently completed his Master of Music in Classical Piano at Conservatorium Maastricht. He previously graduated with top honours from The American College of Greece as a Frances Rich Scholar and Outstanding Graduate Awardee. He also holds the National Piano Soloist's Diploma from the Panarmonio Conservatory of Athens, awarded with "Excellent Unanimously" and First Prize. He studied with Dr. Katia Veekmans and Dr. Tatiana Papageorgiou, while his postgraduate studies were supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Greek Ship-Owners Union (Onassis Scholarship).

Originally from Sparta, Vassilis began studying piano at thirteen at the National Conservatory of Sparta under Maria Velmachou. He has participated in masterclasses with renowned pianists and pedagogues including Nikolai Lugansky, Jorge Luis Prats, Jean Saulnier, Tamás Ungár, Péter Nagy, Andrzej Jasiński, Jean-Louis Steuerman, Martino Tirimo, Elena Mouzala, and Dimitri Toufexis.

Vassilis has performed across Europe, including in Greece, the Netherlands, Belgium, Malta, Sweden, and Portugal, at venues such as Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall, Parnassos Literary Society, the Acropolis of Ancient Sparta, the House of Cyprus, the Ionic Center (GR), Theater aan het Vrijthof, PLT Theater Heerlen (NL), Academie Tongeren (BE), the Royal College of Music in Stockholm (SE), and Casa da Arquitectura (PT). His festival appearances include Porto PianoFest, Piano City Athens, the Gina Bachauer Festival, Akademifestivalen Stockholm, and Moving Music Festival Maastricht. In 2025, he appeared as a soloist with the Conservatorium Maastricht Orchestra.

His distinctions include the Audience Prize as one of four finalists of the Maastricht Music Award – Piano Edition 2025 and the 2024 Emerging Soloist Award from the Gina Bachauer International Music Association. He has also received First Prize at the Georgios Felouris Piano Competition, Second Prize at the Maria Chaerogiorgou-Sigara Competition, Second and Third Prizes at the Filonas Competitions, and distinctions at the Montecatini International Piano Competition and UNESCO TLEE Competition.

Alongside performing, Vassilis is active in teaching, chamber music, collaborative piano, and research. He has taught in Greece and the Netherlands, including at Junior Conservatorium Maastricht, and completed advanced studies in music pedagogy at Conservatorium Maastricht. His research interests encompass piano pedagogy, gender and music, performance practice, and Mediterranean musical traditions. He also holds a Bachelor's degree in Psychology from Panteion University in Athens. Vassilis crafts recital programmes that combine the standard repertoire with hidden gems, often reflecting his own cultural background and artistic identity.

Upcoming engagements include recitals in Greece, Cyprus, Malta, Portugal, and the Netherlands, as well as Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No. 1 with the Nefelibata Sinfonietta (NL). From the 2026–27 season, Vassilis teaches at the Malta Piano Academy and begins doctoral studies in Music Performance at the University of Malta.

Programme

Sergei Rachmaninoff
Étude-tableau in C minor, Op. 33, No. 3
Grave

Sergei Prokofiev
Piano Sonata No. 2 in D minor, Op. 14
I. Allegro, ma non troppo – Più mosso – Tempo primo
II. Scherzo. Allegro marcato
III. Andante
IV. Vivace – Moderato – Vivace

Franz Liszt
Après une lecture du Dante: Fantasia quasi sonata
from *Années de pèlerinage, Deuxième année: Italie*

Nikos Skalkottas
The Trawler
from the suite *The Land and the Sea of Greece*
(Manuscript score from the Polyxeni Matey archive)

Karol Szymanowski
Tantris le Bouffon
from *Masques*, Op. 34

Óscar da Silva
Páginas Portuguesas
III. Fado – Lento espressivo