Texas Early Music Project Presents
Night Music!
Episode 6: May 23, 2021
with hosts
Gitanjali Mathur & Daniel Johnson

Nanourisma Ródos ~ “Lullaby from Rhodes”
Anonymous/Traditional
Performed by Tsambika Bakiris

Κοιμήσου αγγελούδι μου
Sleep my angel
Και εγώ είμαι κοντά σου
And I’m here with you.
Παιχνίδια και όλο χαρά
With play and joys
Γεμάτα τα άνειρα σου
May your dreams be filled.

Να βλέπω τα χειλάκια σου
So I can see your sweet lips
Να μου χαμογελάνε
Smile at me,
Γιατί οι άγγελοι τ’ ουρανού
Because the Angels in the sky
Μαζί σου θα μιλάνε
Will be conversing with you.

Κοιμήσου και παράγγειλα
Sleep well and I have ordered
Στα Γιάννενα τα ρούχα σου
Your clothing from Ioannina
Και στην Κωνσταντινούπολη
And from Istanbul,
Και τα χρυσαφικά σου
Your wedding jewelry

Υπεν που παίρνεις τα παιδιά
Sleep, who comes for children,
Έλα πάρε και τούτο
Please come take this one.
Μικρό μικρό σου τ’ εδώσα
I present him/her very small,
Μεγάλο φέρε μου το
Return him/her all grown up.

Υπεν Υπεν πάρε το
Sleep, sleep come take him/her
Και πάλι φέρε μου το
And bring him/her back to me.
Να μου το φέρεις της υγείας
Bring him/her back healthy
Και του αρραβωνιάσματα του
And ready for his/her wedding engagement.

Να μεγαλώσει να γίνει
So he/she will grow
Ψηλό σαν κυπαρίσσι
Tall like a cypress tree,
Κοινωνία κλώνοι του να απλωθούν
And may his/her branches spread
Σ’ Ανατολή και Δύση
From east to west.

Tsambika Bakiris’ suggestions for Greek music listening
Manos Hatzidakis, a composer who has written hundreds of popular Greek songs.
If you want to listen to rebetiko music, try selections by Markos Vamvakaris and Vasilis Tsitsanis.
Nanourisma Kastellorizo ~ “Lullaby from Kastellorizo”
Anonymous/Traditional
Performed by Rachel Toprac Miller & Anthony Toprac

Nανι νανι να κοιμηθει,
εμενα το παιδι μου,
Να μεγαλωσει,
Να γενει οσαν το κυπαριση,
Για να το λενε οπου παει να καλοσωρισει.
Sleepy, sleepy, go to sleep
For me, my child,
So that you may grow,
So that you become like a Cypress tree,
So that everyone welcomes you wherever you go.

Nανι νανι να κοιμηθει,
να εχει καλη μοιρα,
και ως προστατη το Χριστο και οδηγο την Παναγια.
Sleepy, sleepy, go to sleep,
So that you may have a good fate,
With Christ as your protector
And the Virgin Mary as your guide.

Anthony Toprac’s suggestions for Greek music listening

For raw, unrefined authenticity there is rebetiko, the music of the working class circa 1920-1980: Fragosyriani, by Markos Vamvakaris: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vHHQdE56PS0

Then there is Misirlou aka Misirlu or Miserlou, which made it into American popular music by Dick Dale and the Deltones, famously used in Pulp Fiction.
Here’s a nice Greek version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_r.lt:iTvzc0

Then there is the 1960’s Greek Invasion, in which a scruffy band of Greek musicians took the United States by storm, and movies like Never on Sunday and Zorba the Greek were the rage of Hollywood. During this special time, Nana Mouskouri was a beloved singer, and a favorite of my mother. Here is a recording of the soundtrack of Never on Sunday by Mouskouri, with acting by Melina Mercouri: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GhgEGcXgZwI
Meri Ladli Ri ~ My Dear Girl
From the movie Andaz (1949)
Composed by Naushad Ali, Lyrics by Majrooh Sultanpuri
Performed by Gitanjali Mathur & Daniel Johnson

Daa deer dara dir
Dara daa deer dara
Daa deer dara dir
Dara daa deer dara
Meri laadali ri, meri
Laadali ri bani hai
Taaro ki tu raani,
Taaro ki tu raani.

(Musical Sounds)

My dear girl, oh, my dear girl,
You have become
The Queen of stars,
The Queen of stars.

In the blue sky, the clouds
Are dancing, and dancing is each star.
(Musical Sounds)

In the moon,
The old woman dances
Gracefully.
My dear girl, oh, my dear girl,
You have become
The Queen of stars,
The Queen of stars.

Kamala gaaye, Bimala gaaye,
Gaaye kunabaa sara!
Daar Deer dara dir
Dara daa deer dara
Ghunghat kaadh ke
Gudiya naache
Jhoome re guddaa pyara.

Kamala sings, Bimala sings,
The whole family sings!
(Musical Sounds)

Adorning a scarf,
The girl doll dances,
The sweet boy doll swings to and fro.

My dear girl, oh, my dear girl,
You have become
The Queen of stars,
The Queen of stars.