

Music in Everyday Greek Life

Directions: Read the following information and then click on the QR code below to listen to a few of 2-3 pieces of ancient Greek music. Then answer the questions on your handout.

In ancient Greece music was an integral part of people's everyday routine and due to the fact that music was a complicated form of art as well as a cultural expression, it was highly regarded and present in all private and public festivities. Music, Asma-the singing and lyrics - Orchisis – group of dancers as well as the song between the acts -were features of a highly civilized community as well as factors and indicators of a higher quality of life.



From the archaic period music gradually assumed a more complicated form and role, the result of this development was that special music competitions were organized in many parts of Ancient Greece. Some of the oldest music competitions ever registered are the "Karnea" in ancient Sparta which was a place where music was highly respected and connected with the training and education of the youth.

After the 6th century music played a significant role in two major festivities known as "Megala Panathinea" and "Megala Dionysia" and was a main reason for Athens to hold a prominent position in terms of cultural development. During those festivities, apart from the music competitions, some very significant kinds of lyric poetry and music emerged, the most significant kind of which was the Ancient Drama.

Except being an important element in both public and private celebrations, music played an important role on unpleasant occasions and it made daily hardships more

tolerable. Music was a main feature in celebrations such as weddings, banquets, social gatherings and moments of joy but also a valuable companion in everyday routine. A flute player for instance would accompany the women while they were kneading, the workers during harvest, the oarsmen as well as the soldiers on their way to battle. Music was closely connected with sports and athletic games not only because they included music competitions but because the music would encourage and motivate the athlete to achieve a better performance.



<http://www.lyravlios.gr/ancient-greek-music-en.asp>