

# Antoniou baton to make musical history at BU

By ARTHUR S. KANARACUS

Musical history will be made this weekend when Theodore Antoniou conducts Alea III, Boston University's ensemble in residence in two concerts devoted to the works of eight finalists in the Politis Composition Prize competition and one in which three compositions commissioned by Alea III in memory of three Greek musicians will be performed.

Antoniou, professor of music at BU, will be conducting at BU Concert Hall, and the concerts are free to the public.

The judges of the Politis Composition Prize were Leonard Bernstein, Joseph Castaldo, Ernst Krenek, Mario di Bonaventura, Gunther Schuller, Donald Martino, George Crumb and Robert di Domenico. Out of the 350 compositions submitted by composers from all over the world, the judges selected eight for performance by Alea III.

Five of these will be played Friday evening, and the three prize winners, on Saturday evening.

On Sunday evening, Alea III will perform the three compositions it commissioned in memory of three distinguished Greek musicians. George Kouropos of Greece has composed a work for Yiannis Christou, who died at the age of 44 in an automobile accident near Athens. Christou was a composer of great talent. He left behind works of a highly original style, dynamic and lyric essence with a superstructure of assymetric rhythmic patterns. The American Roger Bourlon has written "Sweet Alchemy," a work in memory of Loris Margaritis, pianist and teacher at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. The Englishman Oliver Knussen's work is in memory of Manolis Kalomiris, who died in 1963. In the 1940s and 50s, he was the reigning composer, conductor and teacher in Athens. Each of the three concerts will be rounded off with a selection of 20th century masterpieces.

After the concert Saturday night, a reception in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Politis will be held at the BU Art Gallery.

The Politis Composition Prize was established in 1979 by the Greek-American industrialist Charles Politis to promote and encourage new music. Politis has cultural attachments with both Greece and America. He is a graduate of both the New York School of Music and the Athens Conservatory in piano.

The competition which is administered by the Boston University School of Music is open to all nationalities and all ages and offers a cash award of \$3,000 to the winner. Politis will come here from Greece to hear the eight finalists.

In an interview, Antoniou explained the purposes and objectives of the composition competition.

"Through the competition and our performances," he said, "we are hoping to select the very best of today's music and introduce it to new audiences."

"The composition contest and the performance of the works of the finalists unify Americans, Greeks and composers around the world. Americans and Greeks are making significant contributions in the composition of new music, and it is exciting to be able to have such an event in which their work can be compared to works of composers internationally."

"We hope and expect that this competition will soon become one of the most important composers' competitions in the world. There are a number of reasons why this should happen. Firstly, the prize money we offer is substantial in comparison to other competitions. Also, our advisors are many of the most exciting people in international music. Most importantly, a major feature of our competition is

that we perform the compositions which are chosen as finalists. Most competitions don't offer that opportunity. And because the Politis competition is open to a composer of all ages, nationalities and aesthetic directions, we're offering a forum for composers around the world to have their artistic vision realized."

Alea III, the performing arts ensemble in residence at Boston University, which will be augmented for this occasion, was organized in 1978 by Theodore Antoniou. The members of the ensemble are expert interpreters of all music from the traditional to the most avant garde, including chance, open-form, serial, sound-in-action and instrumental theatre. Their programming is both selective and adventurous, and while emphasis is on contemporary music, performances frequently include works from the more standard repertory. Alea III annually commissions new works as part of its commitment to serve contemporary artists worldwide. The group participates in several music festivals internationally. This month (21-28), for example, Alea III will participate at the Greek Festival of Contemporary

Music organized by the National Radio Broadcasting of Greece Third Program. Then, from June 8 to 28, Alea III will give ten concerts in different cities of Greece, including Athens, Thessaloniki and

Iraklion. Their programs will include works of the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Contemporary periods.

For those music lovers who have had enough of the classical-romantic schools of music, and for those who dare to be adventurous and want to hear what kinds of classical music is being composed today, the Alea III concerts provide valuable opportunities that

should not be missed. Despite the sneers of close-eared critics who prefer to hear the same works over and over again and thus become experts in their interpretation, today's music is vigorous, refreshing in its ideas

and melodic structure and innovative in its harmonies, design and development and instrumentation. It has something new to say and it says it very well to those, that is, that want to hear it.