

**Cyprus – Asia Minor – Aegean**  
(*Kypraia Foni- St' agnarka ton tzeron...*)  
(*Kypraia Foni- Kalos irtan oi ksenoi mas*)

A number of Cypriot demotic songs are directly related to those of Asia Minor and the Aegean islands.

Asia Minor, and particularly the Propontis region (today's Sea of Marmara) used to have, prior to 1922, a large Greek population and a rich musical tradition.

Cypriots, both because of the island's geographical position and their common heritage, enjoyed close relations and had close contact with the population of Asia Minor and the Aegean in many sectors. These relations inevitably led to two-way influences in many fields, including that of music, given that the demotic music of the Greek-speaking population of the broader, Levantine region enjoyed common roots.

In this way, many of our demotic songs are directly related to Asia Minor, the Aegean Sea, and the Levant in general. In a number of these songs we see preserved the main body of the melody, albeit through the local musical idiom, with the words also adapted to the Cypriot dialect, with most instances involving a complete change of lyrics.

Given this idiosyncrasy, variations of a number of Cypriot demotic songs are encountered throughout the broader region, in both the Greek and the Turkish language.

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