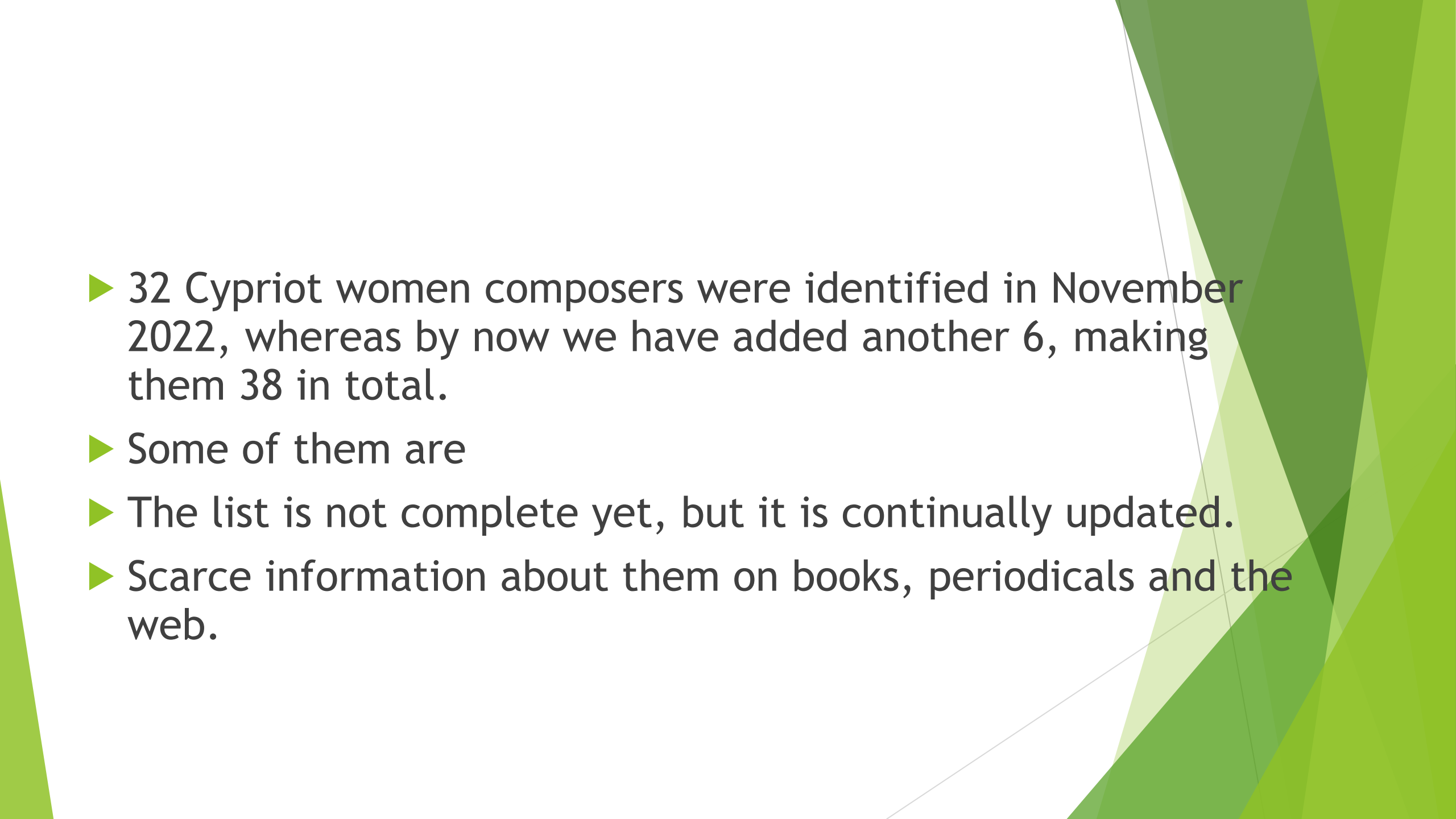


Cypriot women composers: Mapping the field

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Women in the music scene in Cyprus

- ▶ In the 20th century it was highly expected that the girls of good middle-class families will learn, piano, ballet and French. This will make them more appealing to get married.
- ▶ As in Greece, music was regarded as an accepted field of professional engagement for women, primarily, though, as private music teachers of piano or voice.
- ▶ Gradually, women studied music in academies and universities and then became music teachers in public schools. This was considered as a highly-respected profession, since they had a secured and well-paid job and worked until 1.30pm, in order to be able to devote their time in the afternoon to their children and family.
- ▶ Few instances of women who broke this expectation and learned another instrument or focused on performing instead of teaching.

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- The background of the slide features abstract, overlapping green geometric shapes, primarily triangles and polygons, in various shades of green, creating a modern and dynamic visual effect.
- ▶ 32 Cypriot women composers were identified in November 2022, whereas by now we have added another 6, making them 38 in total.
 - ▶ Some of them are
 - ▶ The list is not complete yet, but it is continually updated.
 - ▶ Scarce information about them on books, periodicals and the web.

Kamran Aziz (1922-2017)

- ▶ The oldest female composer found so far. She was Turkish-Cypriot, the daughter of a well-known TC doctor who was credited of eliminating malaria from the island. She was the first female composer and pharmacist in Cyprus.
- ▶ She studied piano and started translating classical pieces into Turkish, popularizing them to the lay public, before this was done in Turkey.
- ▶ She founded an ensemble which performed TC popular music and operatic music for the radio and TV.
- ▶ As a composer she composed tangos, waltzes and marches, as well as folkloric music.

Celia Petridou (1945)

- ▶ Studied at Vienna and the Royal Academy of Music in London.
- ▶ She left Cyprus in 1963 to study in Vienna and since then she leaves abroad.
- ▶ Active pianist, turned to composition after 2002, due to a major surgery.
- ▶ She describes her compositional style as classical with unique harmonic language.
- ▶ She wrote music mainly for piano and voice, also a string quartet, piano trio and duo.
- ▶ <http://www.ciliapetridou.com/>

Tasoulla Christou

- ▶ Pianist and composer. Studied at the National Conservatory in Greece and then at the Royal College of Music and Royal Academy of Music in London.
- ▶ Worked as a pianist and teacher, studied English literature as well.
- ▶ One of the first to get a university degree in composition.
- ▶ Now she works professionally as a composer and lives in Portugal.
- ▶ Has written for various genres: string orchestra, string quartet, brass quintet, voice and piano, solo violin, soprano-flute-piano, wind quintet, brass quintet, choir-organ-trumpet, etc
- ▶ www.tasoullachristoucomposer.com

Argyro Christodoulidou

- ▶ She studied at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama in London.
- ▶ Has been working as a freelance musician since 2005, writing music for films, documentaries, animations, commercials, video games and TV series.
- ▶ Some of her music has been published by Billaudot, Paris.
- ▶ www.argymusic.com/

Briar Prastiti

- ▶ New Zealand composer with Cypriot origins.
- ▶ Has a graduate degree in music composition from the New Zealand School of Music in Wellington.
- ▶ Composer and producer, wrote songs and music for films, as well as electronic and contemporary music.
- ▶ Interested in world musics (Balkan, flamenco, gypsy, Latin, jazz, Javanese and Balinese, Greek and Cypriot folk music). “Her music often touches on folkloric themes and is driven by rhythm and harmony.”
- ▶ She is also a visual artist, creating her own illustrations and music videos, as well as poet and lyric writer.
- ▶ www.briarprastiti.com/

Dr. Christina Georgiou

- ▶ Studied music at King's College, Royal Academy of Music and City University in London.
- ▶ Has received more than 30 awards for her work in featured films, documentaries, TV series, dance performances and commercials.
- ▶ She is a member of the European Film Academy since 2012.
- ▶ www.christinageorgioumusic.com & www.blunatic.com

Dimitra Christofidou (1991)

- ▶ Studied music at the Royal Holloway and University of Bristol, where she received a master's degree in Music Composition for Film and Television.
- ▶ She works as a freelance composer and sound designer based in Paris.
- ▶ Since 2020 she has been assisting Oscar winning composer Gabriel Yared.
- ▶ <http://dimitrachristofidou.com/>
- ▶ <https://soundcloud.com/dimitra-christofidou/sets/concert-pieces>

Georgia Nicolaou (1990)

- ▶ Pianist, composer and dancer.
- ▶ Studied at Ionian University, Utrecht Conservatory (BM) and Codarts University (MM). She is currently pursuing a PhD at the Royal Conservatoire of Antwerp.
- ▶ She wrote for chamber ensembles, electronic music, music for contemporary dance and experimental music for theatre performances.
- ▶ She often performs as a vocalist and dancer.
- ▶ <https://georgianicolaou.com>

Maria Kaoutzani

- ▶ Studied music theory and composition at the University of York and New York University, currently completing her PhD at the University of Chicago.
- ▶ www.mariakaoutzani.com/about