

Miquel Pardo

## **Abstract**

### **Title of the lecture: “Oh, Socrates! Make and cultivate music”**

“For ancient Greeks, the term *mousiké* encompassed different arts: poetry, dance, song, instrumental music... Socrates’ recurrent dream, which gives name to the title of this lecture and which he recounts in the dialogue *Phaedo*, is at first interpreted by him as an invitation to continue practising philosophy, which Socrates understood in the beginning as the greatest music. But the philosopher finally realises that this dream is actually exhorting him to develop his artistic creativity. Interestingly enough, though, this musical activity does not appear in *Phaedo* as something independent of his philosophical activity – as we are led to understand by Socrates’ initial confusion. Instead, it is seen as a pathway towards personal transformation that the very philosophy reveals. *Mousiké* becomes the horizon for an “examined life”, the final goal which will usher us to wisdom. *Sophia* and *Mousiké* merge in a final embrace in the last stage: **the greater beauty is, the wiser it is; the more sublime wisdom is, the more beautiful it is”**.

### **Contents:**

- 1) To learn hearing.
- 2) Musical discourse and philosophical discourse
- 3) The climax: the “click” of transformation, purifying katharsis, emptiness, “to cast off the ropes”.
- 4) The conflict: dissonance/consonance.
- 5) Style, grace and personality.
- 6) Philosophical subjects seen according to *mousiké* perspective: death, love, nature,...

**It is necessary to include a CD player for the musical examples.**

**Time: 45 minutes**