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A composer's view

For many, Cavafy is a timeless poet. He may be characterized as idiosyncratic, with a spirit and skill that make the seeming awkwardness in some of his verses part of his unique voice. His poetry is strong and can survive (and even dominate) the always difficult art of translation. He has blown breath into ancient epigrams, made history vibrant and alive, and given the god of Eros a secret existence, an aura as well as a timid face.

As a composer, I've set 27 poems of Cavafy in Greek and English. It took almost 15 years of studying and selecting the poems in order to create a cycle, one where the beginning and the end meet at different points, both in musical terms and as a concept. I would claim that Cavafy's poetry offered me an aesthetic approach which can be applied to other aspects of music composition.

So, "what does Cavafy mean today" to composers is rather an invitation to respect the poem in its smallest detail in order to deliver the poet's unique voice, as I have been trying to do for years.