

NOTES ON THE TRANSLITERATION OF THE GREEK LANGUAGE AND CYPRIOT DIALECT

All Greek and Greek Cypriot words, terms and phrases used in the manual have been transliterated or romanized in such a way as to allow readers to reconstruct pronunciation that is closer to the original¹

Original	Transliteration
Αα [a]	a
Ββ [v]	v
Γγ [x~ɣ]	y/gh (see below)
Δδ [ð]	d/dh
Εε [e]	e
Ζζ [z]	z
Ηη [i]	i
Θθ [θ]	th
Ιι [i], [j]	i
Κκ [k~ç]	k
Λλ [l]	l
Μμ [m]	m
Νν [n]	n
Ξξ [ks]	x
Οο [o]	o
Ππ [p]	p
Ρρ [r]	r
Σς [s]	s
Ττ [t]	t
Υυ [i]	i
Φφ [f]	f
Χχ [x~ç]	h/ch
Ψψ [ps]	ps
Ωω [o]	o

In each word, a diacritical mark indicates which part of the word should be accentuated, for example *ó* in *chorkó*, *é* in *défi*.

Vowels

Diphthongs are treated as follows:

ai designates the sound ‘e’ as in *elephant*

oi and ei designate the sound ‘i’ as in *sea*

For diphthongs that are read as one sound, the diacritical mark, if accentuation is to be applied here, is placed over the second letter (as in *áima* = blood). However, the two letters are read separately in two cases: (a) when the diacritical mark indicating accentuation appears over the first letter of the diphthong (as in *gháidharos* = donkey) and (b) when an umlaut appears over the second letter of the diphthong (as in *laikó*).

ou designates the sound ‘u’ as in *to*

This diphthong is only ever read as one sound, and hence the diacritical mark, if accentuation is to be applied here, will always appear on the second letter (as in *tragouúdi*).

The letter i, which is used to represent the three Greek vowels η (íta), ι (yióta) and υ (ípsilon), designates their sound ‘i’ as in the word *see*. The letter o, which is used to represent the two Greek vowels ο (ómicron) and ω (oméya), designates their sound ‘o’ as in the word *object*.

¹ The table is found in Pieridou Skoutella, A. (2015) *Small Musical Worlds in the Mediterranean; Ethnicity, Globalization and Greek Cypriot Children’s Musical Identities*, London: Routledge (Ashgate book) Press.

Consonants

- dh is pronounced as in *feather*
- th is pronounced as in *thanks*
- ch or h is pronounced as in *Bach*
- h sometimes indicates a very light ch as in Hellenic
- gh is a guttural version of y (e.g. ghatoúla)
- g is pronounced as in *gun*
- ps is pronounced as bs in *absence*
- tj is heavily pronounced, combining tz and sh
- y is pronounced as in the English word *yacht* (e.g. yíro yíro)

Consonant diphthongs are transliterated as follows:

Original	Transliteration
γγ [ng]	gg
γξ [nx]	gx
γκ [ng]	gk
γχ [nh]	gh
μπ [b/mb]	b/mp
ντ [d/nd]	nt

σ + χ appears as sch nd both consonant are pronounced as s+ch

All other consonants have their usual English pronunciation.

Reference:

Pieridou Skoutella, A. (2015) *Small Musical Worlds in the Mediterranean; Ethnicity, Globalization and Greek Cypriot Children's Musical Identities*, London: Routledge (Ashgate book) Press.