

ADONIS MITZELOS
Composer_Guitarist_Song writer_Singer
Biography

Adonis Mitzelos was born in Athens. His origins are from the island of Skiathos.

He plays acoustic and electric guitar from a very young age as a self-taught musician and writes his first songs at the age of 13. Later on he studies advanced theory and Jazz harmonization. Adonis Mitzelos is one of the greatest Greek composers - guitarists and many of the songs he has written are very dear to the world. Notable electric and acoustic guitar player, with recognizable sound and personal style, international presence and acceptance. Hundreds are his well-known solos in Greek and foreign discography. In the 1980s, in addition to his fast speed playing, he brought and developed in Greece for the first-time techniques such as Tapping, Floyd rose tremolo and Violinvolume gtr.

He is a founding member of the PLJ Band. The album Armageddon (Vertigo), a progressive rock masterpiece, was released in 1982 comprising verses from John's Revelation text. It has been worldwidely acclaimed. Today, it is extremely expensive as a collectible vinyl on the markets.

"The American and European musical guitar honors Armageddon as a masterpiece and one of the best Progressive rock records ever recorded.

" The album Armageddon is a dark flipped out druggy prog masterwork. "

"The stunning surrealistic cover art reminds one of Salvador Dali. Perhaps his mind reigns over this album? "

"The album Armageddon is one of the most original progressive rock album ever made. If you want a psychedelic experience without drugs, this one is yours!" (Erik Neuteboom, THE NETHERLANDS.)

In the next 10 years, PLJ Band is renamed to Termites and they write songs with Greek lyrics for 7 albums. Termites left Polygram Records in 1986 and signed with Richard Branson's record label Virgin. They hold the rock sound of Greece in their hands for a decade. They give concerts in clubs and big stages. By integrating the two opposite aesthetic poles of song writing in the country, they collaborate with Giorgos Dalaras, Flery Dandonaki, Pavlos Sidiropoulos, Haris Alexiou, Vassilis Papakonstantinou and others.

Adonis Mitzelos collaborates as a musician from 1988 to 1991 with the famous singer Haris Alexiou. During these years, he has been acquainted and collaborated with many great musicians and artists, including Nikos Mamagakis, Titos Patrikios and Manos Hadjidakis. Together with Haris Alexiou and Nikos Papazoglou they make a great tour in America, Canada and Europe by playing in historical theaters such as L'Olympia in Paris, the Dominion Theater in London, etc.

In 1990, he meets the singer Eleftheria Arvanitaki and writes songs for the album "Meno Ektos", which is released in many European countries, USA and Australia. As a musician and guitarist, he makes the music arrangements of her performances, from 1991 to 1999. They play in big theaters, for a long period, on a daily basis. They give together over 1000 live performances in Greece and the rest of the world (Europe, USA, Australia), playing an idiom of Greek and ethnic world music. They collaborated for many years with Alkinoos Ioannides and Yiannis Kotsiras. They play abroad in great theaters such as Brooklyn, NY, Barbican Center USA - La Cigalle Paris France, Palau de la Musica Barcelona Spain, Cirque Royal in Belgium and more.

In October 1997, they participate in a big concert for the support of children with cancer, in Manhattan's Madison Square Garden (NY) with an audience of 25,000 Greeks. In the summer of the same year they tour with Eleftheria Arvanitaki in Greece, Europe, Australia and USA. In 1997, alongside his concerts, he records the album "Nafs ton Oneiros" with the singer Yannis Smoillis (Universal).

In 1998, in addition to daily performances and a great summer tour, they play with Eleftheria Arvanitaki at three WOMAD Festival, the largest ethnic festival organization in the world, inspired by Peter Gabriel, Redding, England, Lisbon, Portugal, and Las Palmas of the Canaries, at the International Jazz Festival of Jerusalem and at the Belgian ethnic festival Sfinks. Finally, in December of the same year, they give two concerts at Queen Elisabeth Hall, London. In May 1998, they give a concert at the "La Cigale" Theater in Paris and take part in another WOMAD festival in Caceres, Spain. In July, they participate in the International Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, the most important festival for world jazz and ethnic music, with John Mc Laughlin, Blondie, Gary Moore, Gianna Nannini and Mari Boine. He also participates in the Pirineos Sur Festival in the Pyrenees Mountains with José Antonio Labordeta, Tomatito and others. In October, they have two successful concerts in Madrid and Barcelona, and they perform at the New York City Hall and at the Berklee Performance Center in Boston, World Music Institute. In 1999, they play at the Festival Fin del Milenio de Barcelona, Sallent de Gállego and Festival de Salamanca en España.

Adonis Mitzelos, after returning to Greece, gives two concerts with his old band Termites, attended by 25,000 spectators, at the Peace and Friendship Stadium in Piraeus and at the Alexandrion Melathron in Thessaloniki. The concert is recorded and released in 2000 as Termites / The Concert (MINOS – EMI). The prestigious music magazine "Difono" ranked the concert at Peace & Friendship Stadium as one of the best concerts of all time presented in Greece. It was broadcasted twice on satellite by ERT around the world.

In 1999, during a special concert in a unique place in Ancient Olympia, Mikis Theodorakis chooses composers of his choice, among them Adonis Mitzelos, to arrange according to their individual style a composition of his and also rearrange one of theirs in the former's distinctive sound, with the Orchestra "Mikis Theodorakis".

The same year, Adonis Mitzelos composes, arranges and records the album "Fylakas Aggelos", with Giannis Kotsiras (B.M.G), an album which has become platinum many times. They perform together in the years 1999-2000 in Athens and Thessaloniki. There follows a great summer tour of 40 concerts

in stages all over the country, making a record of tickets almost everywhere. All songs of the album are successful.

He collaborates with the Japanese singer Akira Inaba, writing Japanese songs for him in two albums (Sony Asia). In the following years, his songs are released in Japan with Akira Inaba - Yasuko NaitouKaori -Tida-Ruca (Japan / Zetima records- Sony Asia). At the same time, the Japanese music composers Eiji Kawamura and Toshiro Imaizumi experiment with his music in organic forms and release Japan's album GLAROS (Zetima records).

From 1993 to 2001 he travels, in between his concert obligations, and he records in New York with Blues, Reggae musicians, with the help of Taki di Fatseli. He is acquainted with Steeve Gad and Eric Clapton at Unique Recording Studios where he is recording. He collaborates with Tony Smallios, David Kowalski (Grammy winning and Emmy) at Hillside Sound Studios and Bennett Studios in New Jersey. A top moment was his collaboration with the legendary jazz-fusion band Spyro Gyra, a collaboration that gave birth to his personal album Beyond the Light in 2000 (Universal). The album received a world-wide circulation, combining ancient and traditional Greek music with rock and jazz fusion.

He continues giving concerts in Europe and America, playing his music. One of the concerts in 2001 is recorded, at the legendary Palais des Beaux Arts in Bruxelles and was released under the title Live at Brussels (EMI) with performers Lavrentis Macheritsas and Margarita Zorbala. He gives countless performances all over Greece, while on a very special night, at the Theater of Lycabettus, Athens, he is celebrating 20 years of his career with 5,000 friends.

He writes music for television and theater in: "Orlando. A Biography_Virginia Woolf 2008 / 2012), "Pinakofriki" by Katerina Nikolopoulou, Dimitri Pietris. Also, he writes music for the film "Common Denominator" (2014-15), receiving international awards for his score (London film festival – Bridges festival -Cyprus International Film Festival etc). The soundtrack is released by 14music/ Kitharodia Label.

In 2006 he writes and releases a new album with music suitable for concentration and treatment, under the title DAN. On November 11th of the same year, alongside a very effective 2-month safe driving campaign, he gives a concert at Nicosia's Freedom Stadium, Cyprus, presenting almost all of his work, with performers such as Giorgos Dalaras, Lavrentis Macheritsas, Margarita Zorbala and others.

Together with the organization "Friends of Tibet" and activist Jetsun Pema, sister of the 14th Dalai Lama and for 42 years president of the school system of Tibet's children villages SOS, he gives a big concert in Athens with the aim to raise money for the children of Tibet.

In 2007 he collaborates with Lavrentis Machheritsas, Sakis Boulas and Eleonora Zouganeli and they take off to on a long summer tour. In the middle of this tour, he breaks his leg but continues to

travel and play. They give two great concerts in London, at the Astoria Theater and at the Athens Concert Hall.

In the same year he gives a very special concert, with his guitar only, in Delphi and he writes music for a special art event "Oi dromoi tou meta", organized by Delphi Center. The concert has been recorded and is about to be released alongside a book written by Antonis Mitzelos on the ancient Delphi.

In 2008 he experiments and records works by ancient Greek composers (Euripides, Pindaros and others) for electric guitar, with contemporary electronic aesthetics. The album has been featured occasionally later on at concerts by Kitharodia | The Music Project, but still remains unpublished. In 2009 he presents the Rock Oratorio "Jeanne d'Arc" by Belisario Capocci on the stage of Megaron, the Athens Concert Hall. The children's choir of Nikos Skalkotas Conservatory participate, together with the lyric performers Angeliki Kathariou, Margarita Syngenioutou and an orchestra.

On Saturday, August 18, 2012 he gives a special concert with natural sound, without sound systems support and lights, on the island of Zakynthos, on the hill of Strani, inaugurating his Kitharodia | The Music Project, at the actual location where the poet Dionysios Solomos was inspired and composed the national anthem of Greece. He continues his Kitharodia Project with a five-week performance program at the famous Half Note Jazz Club, with Anamacorda, a superb guitar duet of high technical standards.

Since 2012 he has been doing many concerts with the Kitharodia | The Music Project, presented in theaters and archeological sites such as: the Archaeological Museum of Athens, the Archaeological Museum of Delphi, The Pnyka Hill in Athens, St. Marcus Basilica in Heraklion Crete, the Bourtzi Theater in Skiathos, the Larnaca Medieval Castle in Cyprus, Half note jazz club in Athens, Manos & Anastasia Faltaitis Museum in Skyros. He organises guitar seminars in conservatories and other places and publishes his music from his own label (Kitharodia).

In 2013, he gives a concert in Skiathos, in the courtyard of the monastery of Evangelistria, dedicated to the memory of the university professor and one of the leading Greek constitutional Law experts, Dimitris Tsatsos, with international acclaimed speakers, being among others, the then President of the European Parliament Martin Schulz. He interpreted with classical guitar works by Johann Sebastian Bach and selected pieces from his own well-known compositions.

During the same year, he participates at the great Cyprus Aid Concert at the Constanta Tomb of Nicosia, with Alkinoos Ioannidis, Dimitra Galani, Christos Thiveos and others. He also participates at a protest concert against the closure of the Greek public television channel, in application of the then government's decision to temporarily close it down.

In 2014, the Termites Band reunites for a single concert in the ancient theater of the Acropolis – Herodion, based on the theme of their first album "Armageddon". Yiannis Kotsiras and the orchestra of traditional instruments "Estudiandina Volou" participate to this unique performance.

He releases four singles with 14music/Kitharodia label, singing in his own songs, as well as an adaptation of "Oloi oi rebetes to dounia" by the composer Markos Vamvakaris (rebetiko).

In 2016, he collaborates with the Accordes Guitar Ensemble (nine guitars and a double bass) in Cyprus, introducing the new performer Andronikos for whom he has written new songs. In addition, he plays his guitar at alternative clubs in Germany Berlin-Privatclub, Cyprus-Nicosia Downtown and Scotland-Edinburgh Henry's Cellar Bar. Back in Athens, he is performing regularly and with great success at BABEL Multiplace, where he plays his music but most importantly, he gives step to new artists, musicians and singers, to present their work.

In 2017, during the cultural event "Alexandros Papadiamantis - Nikos Kazantzakis: Two Leaders of Literature", taking place on Skiathos island, he composes and presents for the first time his sonata for classical guitar and violin in a minor, titled "The Master and the haunted arc", inspired by the texts of the Papadiamantis and Kazantzakis.

During the same year, his new double cd titled SKIATHOS is released. The music is recorded by simple means, in his native house on the island. While music is recorded, sounds of nature, speeches, people are also recorded, being a parallel acoustic action and forming "an inseparable ensemble", as he comments on it. The first presentation of this work is made at the home-museum of the leading Greek writer, Alexandros Papadiamantis, in the summer of 2017. The two cds, titled Axiom and No Strings Attached, include compositions of an atypical structure and peculiar melodic lines and harmonies. Thus, the organic Aegean Jazz by Antonis Mitzelos: music and playing from the heart, provocative, improvisational, with intense emotional load, Greek and international at the same time.

In recent years, alongside his guitar playing and song writing, he composes modern classical music for small and large ensembles. He has completed a music cycle consisting of 10 compositions for string orchestra, several sonatas and string quartets and 4 works for symphony orchestra. All these projects remain unrecorded and unpublished.

In total, he has released 9 personal albums and 5 singles. With Termites band they have done 7 albums, 2 studio7", 7 collections and 5 participations. He has participated as a composer on more than 150 albums and compilations. He has arranged music in more than 30 albums for other artists. He has played over 3,500 live performances and about 2,500 songs in Greek discography as a musician. He has received 16 platinum and 10 gold discs. As a composer and guitarist, he has played in many Ethnic Jazz Festivals such as the Pirineos Sur Festival in Spain, Hemispheres Festival in Sydney Australia, France, Belgium, Canada, New Zealand, Tasmania, Denmark, Great Britain, Holland, Israel, USA, Romania, Germany, Finland, Portugal etc. Among his top performances were 6 the concerts at SFINGS FESTIVAL, WOMAD Festivals and MONTREUX JAZZ FESTIVAL in Switzerland (Verve night - Miles Davis Hall) with Eleftheria Arvanitaki, Mari Boine and John McLaughlin - Remember Shakti.

Through out his career, he collaborated with notable international musicians such as Earl "China" Smith (guitar), Elton John, Scott Kreitzer, Tom Saumman, Amanda Homi, Scott Ambuss, Joel Rosenblatt, Ara Dinkjian, Arto Tunçboyacıyan, Akira Inaba, Cesaria Evora, Night Ark, Angelo Branduardi, Paolo Conte, Julie Massino, Eiji Kawamura, Toshiro Imaizumi, George Fakanas, Markos Alexiou and others, mainly playing jazz rock fusion in conjunction with ethnic world music. His songs have been sung by Eleonora Zouganeli, Petros Gaitanos, Alkistis Protopsalti, Yiannis Kotsiras, Lavrentis Macheritsas, Giorgos Dalaras, Haris Alexiou, Flery Dantonakis, Eleftheria Arvanitaki, Georgia Dagaki, Dimitra Galani, Eleni Vitali, Melina Aslanidou, Vasilis Papakonstantinou, Amanda Homi, Akira Inaba, Spyro Gyra and many others.

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