

YIORGOS FAKANAS GROUP in Concert

Yiorgos Fakanas is one of the greatest creators and soloists of Jazz.

Founder of the **Yiorgos Fakanas Group**, one of the most important and longest-running music groups in Greece, with international acclaim.

In recent years the group has collaborated in concerts with the world's greatest musicians such as **Guthrie Govan, Dave Weckl, Mike Stern, Anthony Jackson, Frank Gambale, Dennis Chambers, Bireli Lagrene, Victor Wooten, Lenny White, Wallace Roney, Alex Acuna, Mitch Forman, Eric Marienthal, Greg Howe, Horacio El Negro, Brett Garsed** etc. recording and playing in Europe, America and Asia in sold-out shows.

At the same time, major international music magazines have made amazing reviews of Fakanas' discography, ranking him among the best and most creative bass players and composers of modern music (**American Bass Player, Bass musician magazine, Modern Drummer, Bass guitar magazine, Rhythm, etc.**)

His cd "INTERSPIRIT" reached the prenomination list of the GRAMMY awards (Best Contemporary Jazz album).

In a course of 30 years, Yiorgos Fakanas has performed, playing his own music in numerous concerts in Greece: in the Athens Concert Hall (in collaboration with Symphony and String orchestras), in the Ancient Theatre Herodeion,(with the Big Band of Radio-TV),in Pallas Theatre, Kallimarmaro, Stavros Niarchos Foundation etc.

He participated in projects of other composers with major international orchestras and also in theatrical performances and recordings for theatrical music written by Yiorgos Fakanas.

The magic and light of the compositions, the breathtaking improvisations, the dense and substantial orchestration, the melodic lines that act as bridges leading the listener to the next sonic adventure, combined with the perfect musical performance, lead the listener to the ultimate music hearing.

With old and new works, Yiorgos Fakanas Group, proves on stage, not only what is talent and love for music, but above all what is quality, knowledge and professionalism.

At the concerts, the group mainly presents compositions from the most recent orchestral works of Yiorgos Fakanas.

In the current composition of **YFG (Yiorgos Fakanas Group)**, the following musicians participate:

Takis Paterelis (saxes), Sami Amiri (piano), Yiorgos Fakanas (bass), Menios Pasialis (drums)

YIORGOS FAKANAS - BIOGRAPHY

He participates in the historical recording of Lillipouli by Manos Hadjidakis and so far he has taken part in over **1000 recordings**(Cds, Lps, theater, television, radio, advertising, cinema). Founder of the group **ISKRA**, the first Jazz Fusion group in Greece. He was the sole representative of Greece in the **European Jazz Orchestra**. He has **12 personal CDs: A New Day, Parastasis, Horizon, Amorosa, Stand Art, Echoes, Domino, Interspirit, Maestro, Acrobat, The Nest** live in Athens, **Topaz** in which participate the world's greatest musicians like **Dave Weckl, Anthony Jackson, Frank Gambale, Mike Stern, Guthrie Govan, Bireli Lagrene, Eric Marienthal, Mitch Forman, Scott Kinsey, Wallace Roney, Lenny White, Brett Garsed, etc.**

The CD "**INTERSPIRIT**" includes music he composed especially for the great bassist **Anthony Jackson**. It is published by the American company "Abstract Logix" and is released in America, Europe and Asia, while it is included in the Prenomination List of the candidates of the "**53rd Grammy Award**" in the "**Best Contemporary Jazz Album**" category.

His music is presented in America, Europe and Asia with great success, while the Japanese company "King Records" reissues the cds "Echoes" and "Domino".

He writes music for theater and cinema while he is the founder of the "**Art Music School**" and **ATHINA Live** where concerts/seminars are organized with musicians of the world jazz scene (**John Scofield, Pat Martino, Joe Zawinul, Buster Williams, Billy Cobham, Steve Gadd, John Pattituci, Dennis Chambers, Allan Holdsworth, Scott Henderson, Frank Gambale, Victor Wooten, Anthony Jackson, etc.**).

He has taught Electric Bass and jazz theory to more than **3000 professionals**. He is the author of **24 educational books on music theory and the electric bass**, which are taught in modern conservatories in Greece and abroad.

With the Yiorgos Fakanas Group he gives concerts collaborating with names of the international jazz scene such as **Mike Stern, Frank Gambale, Anthony Jackson, Dave Weckl, Alex Acuna, Bireli Lagrene, Dennis Chambers, Horacio El Negro, Greg Howe, Eric Marienthal, Guthrie Govan, Dominique Di Piazza, Brett Garsed, Barry Finerty, Mitch Forman, Tony Lakatos, Scott Kinsey, Jeff Richman, Bob Franceschini** and others.

TAKIS PATERELIS - BIOGRAPHY

Takis Paterelis (saxes) began classical piano studies at the Athens Conservatory at the age of 6. In 1978 he took second place for middle school students in the Panhellenic Piano Competition, (pianist Dimitris Sgouros was in first place). He graduated in 1984 with an Honors Diploma and 2nd Prize.

In 1982 he started studying saxophone and jazz music on his own and at the end of 1983 he made his first appearances as a saxophonist with Jazz Groups.

In 1991-1992 he attended courses in improvisation, orchestration and composition at the Berklee College of Music, in Boston (USA).

His teachers were personalities such as Andy McGhee, Herb Pomeroy, Paul Fontaine, Jeff Friedman, Bob Pilkington, etc.

Since 1993 he has been teaching saxophone, piano, orchestration and other theory courses.

During the last 20 years he has collaborated with most of the names of Greek jazz music.

He also collaborated with foreign jazz musicians such as John Hicks, Manny Boyd, Danny Hayes, Tony Lakatos, Bela Lakatos, Jimmy Cob, etc.

SAMI AMIRIS - BIOGRAPHY

Sami Amiris (piano) was born in Thessaloniki and was a scholar of the Anatolia American College. Later, he studied mathematics in Crete and piano in Athens with Dimitris Toufexis, teacher, conductor and internationally renowned soloist. Then he studied composition with Ath. Zervas and Th. Antoniou. He considers his acquaintance with the great pianist Mal Waldron extremely important in his development.

Today Sami Amiris is one of the best known jazz pianists in Greece. His playing is influenced by both classical music and jazz, traditional world music (India, Arabia, Latin America, Africa, Greece, Balkans) and ancient Greek music.

He is also a pianist in the Big Band of the Municipality of Athens, in which he has also taken over the musical direction during this period.

He has collaborated with many Greek and foreign artists. Examples include Bobby Shew, Arild Andersen, Markus Stockhausen, Graig Bailey, Patrice Heral, Chico Freeman, etc.

He has appeared at many festivals inside and outside the borders such as Durrès, Athens, Santorini, Tinos, Novi Sad (twice). He has taught at the 6th Summer Jazz Academy of the Ionian University, at the 7th Jazz Fest of Novi Sad in Serbia, and at other university faculties.

MENIOS PASIALIS – BIOGRAPHY

Menios Pasialis (drums) was born in **Sydney, Australia**. At the age of 11 he moves to Greece and 2 years later he decided to get into the music. Although he started by playing the guitar, it was the drums that attracted him more. Since then, drums are his greatest passion. He studied in **R.S.I. (Rhythm Section Institute)** - Athens for 5 years, from where he graduated with "Excellence" in 1996.

He has attended various clinics with great drummers such as: **Dave Weckl, Jojo Mayer, Dom Famularo, Thomas Lang**, and more.

In his professional career, he has been cooperating in live performances, and concerts with some of the most highly regarded singers and/ or composers in the music industry of his country.

He is a member (Drummer) of **Y.F.G "Yiorgos Fakanas Group"** and has collaborated with this band with some of the greatest musicians in the world such as: **Andre Nieri, Bob Franceschini, Guthrie Govan, Miso Iossifov, Mike Stern, Steve Weingart, Stu Hamm, Tony Lacatos, Tim Garland**. But also with some of the greatest musicians in his country such as: **Antonis Andreou, Yiorgos Fakanas, Yuri Yiatakis, Dimitris Sevdalis, Babis Markoulis, Takis Paterelis, Christos Pikridas, David Lynch, Samuel Marlieri** etc. In the year 2018 he released his first personal album titled **"Expectations"** and he also started leading his own band **"Menios Pasialis Band"**. He has been teaching for 20 years and for the last 5 years he has been in charge of the drum department at Yiorgos Fakanas Art Music School in Athens Greece.