

# SPIROS EXARAS

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Born and raised in Greece, Spiros studied classical guitar and music composition at the Athens Conservatory of Music, where he obtained his master's degrees.

A great explorer on his instrument, he always liked to perform different styles such as jazz, rock and world music. Spiros became the lead guitarist of numerous prominent composers and singers at an early age. He has performed and recorded with Evanthia Rebutou, Mario Frangoulis, Kostas Hatzis, Elias Andriopoulos, Alkistis Protopsalti, Yannis Markopoulos, Kostas Karalis and Antonis Kaloyannis, among others.

Because of his versatility as a musician he was also hired to work with Symphonic Orchestras such as Orchestra of Colors and Greek National Radio & Television Orchestra (ERT), in several projects, while he was chosen to accompany the legendary singer Shirley Bassey in her debut performance at the Acropolis ancient theater (1990).

In 1992, Spiros releases his first solo album with MBI records, playing the music of the acclaimed Greek songwriter Kostas Hatzis. The same year he moves to New York to pursue his "jazz dream". Shortly he starts playing with the biggest names on New York's jazz scene such as Gerardo Velez, Philip Hamilton, Charles Blenzig, Mike Pope, Andy Middleton, Randy Brecker, Joel Rosenblatt, Jon Benitez, Tessa Souter, Mark Murphy and the Grammy winners Dave Valentin, Arturo O'Farrill and Hernan Romero, to name just a few.

His name is growing and Mariah Carey is asking him to play a guitar solo on the multi-platinum single hit "My All" (Sony 1998).

Spiros keeps looking for new paths of expression and in 1999 he puts together for first time his world-jazz ensemble, comprised with some of the world's most renowned musicians such as Henry Hey, Matthew Garrison, Gene Lake, Arto Tunçboyacıyan and Lefteris Bournias. He releases his second CD and first as a composer in 2003, under the prestige of the legendary Blue Note Records, in a big critical acclaim. The recording got very positive reviews and the compositions got the attention of a lot of radio producers which gave the band the opportunity to perform in various jazz festivals around the world.

Spiros's composing credits include feature film "Everything For A Reason", short film "Niko's Restaurant and theatrical plays "Gallathea" and "The Hand And The Hen" and numerous of commercials.

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