

Sami Amiris

F.L.C.M., M.Mus., B.Sc.

Sami Vasileios Amiris was born in Thessaloniki, Greece. He was a scholarship student in Anatolia College for all years of middle and high school. He studied music, first with Panagiotis Moralis, whom he sites as an influence in listening and playing by ear, and later in Contemporary Conservatory of Thessaloniki. At Anatolia, he studied music with Prof. William Gladd, whom he sites as a great influence in all aspects of his musical growth.

He studied Mathematics at the University of Crete, Heraklion, and jazz studies at London College of Music. He has also studied classical piano with Prof. Dimitri Toufexis, a concert pianist and conductor of international stature and a Julliard Alumnus and Professor and composition with Dr. Ath. Zervas, Profs. Th. Antoniou, Fabio D'Andrea, etc.

Very important for his musical development were the long-time association and friendship with the master drummer Zach Pinakoulakis, and the brief encounter he had with the great Mal Waldron.

Today, he is one of the best-known jazz pianists in Greece. His style encompasses many influences, from classical and contemporary music to jazz and blues and all related styles, to the music of Central and South America, Cuba, as well as Africa, India, Arabia, Maori and Ancient Greek music.

Central in his musical life are the collaborations with Yiannis Stavropoulos and Periklis Trivolis in the power Jazz piano trio "Nukeleus" (double CD release entitled "Masterpieces Revisited") and with Antonis Ladopoulos in the highly interactive saxophone – piano duo "Phos" (2012 CD release also entitled "Phos").

He is the pianist of the Big Band of the Municipality of Athens, and has been since 2000.

He teaches at Deree, the American College of Greece.

He has appeared in many jazz festivals both inside and outside Greece with various collaborations, which include people like Bobby Shew, Ralph Peterson, Nils Lundgren, Rex Richardson, Markus Stockhausen, Arild Andersen, Patrice Heral, Craig Bailey, Chico Freeman, Ron McClure, Sean McGowan, Reiner Witzel, David Garibaldi, Dom Famularo, Walfredo Reyes Jr, Marko Djordjevic, Manuel Orza, Veronica Mortensen, Takis Paterelis, Giotis Kiourtsoglou, Vasilis Rakopoulos, the Athens State Symphony Orchestra etc.

He has also lectured as a seminar lecturer in various insitutions and festivals, like the Pannonian Bridge Project (Novi Sad, Serbia), 6th Summer Jazz Academy (Corfu), Ioannina Jazz Festival, University of Macedonia, Deree, etc.

As a teacher, he has had many success stories. Students of his have enrolled in many of the world's most prestigious music institutions, both at the undergraduate and graduate level.

He is a firm believer in the active interaction between Mathematics and Music.