



# LAUREL PROJECT

VENTURA COLLEGE FACULTY  
& GUEST ARTIST CONCERT SERIES

## GREEK REBETIKO TRIO



*REBETIKO: 'The Greek Blues'*

**DIMITRIS MANN**  
**ANASTASIA MALLIARAS**  
**TASO COMANESCU**



**VC PERFORMING  
ARTS CENTER**  
YUNKER AUDITORIUM  
4700 LOMA VISTA RD  
VENTURA, CA 93003

**FREE ADMISSION**

# GREEK REBETIKO TRIO

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 / 12:00 PM  
VC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER, YUNKER AUDITORIUM

## **To Minore Tou Teke (Instrumental)**

Music & Lyrics by Ioannis Chalkias aka Jack Gregory (1932)

## **Zaira**

Music by Vasilis Tsitsanis, Lyrics by Kostas Virvos (1955)

## **Haramata I Ora Treis**

Music by Markos Vamvakaris, Lyrics by Kostas Makris (1937)

## **I Magissa Tis Arapias**

Music & Lyrics by Vasilis Tsitsanis (1940)

## **Ta Ziliarika Sou Matia / I Garsona / To diko sou to Marazi (Medley)**

Music & Lyrics by Markos Vamvakaris (1938)

Music & Lyrics by Panos Tountas (1937)

Music & Lyrics by Giorgos Mitsakis (1953)

## **To Hashisi Pou Poulietai**

Unknown (Adespoto, Mourmouriko)

## **Argosvineis Moni**

Music & Lyrics by Vasilis Tsitsanis (1947)

## **Ti Sou Kana Kai M' Egateleipses**

Music by Giorgos Zabetas, Lyrics by Kostas Manesis (1964)

## **Misirlou**

Music & Lyrics by Nikos Roubanis (1927)

## **To Romantzo Mas**

Music & Lyrics by Giorgos Mitsakis (1958)

## **To Sakaki**

Music & Lyrics by Anestis Delias (1936)

## **Thelo Konta Sou Na Meino**

Music by Giorgos Mouzakis, Lyrics by Giorgos Giannakopoulos (1978)

## **To Kafedaki / Partides / Esi Eisai I Aitia (Medley)**

Music & Lyrics by Manolis Chiotis (1950)

Music by Manolis Chiotis, Lyrics by

Charalampos Vasileiadis (1951)

Music & Lyrics by Manolis Chiotis (1949 )

## ABOUT THE ARTISTS

**The Greek Rebetiko Trio**, founded in Boston in 2014, brings audiences the raw, improvisational sounds of rebetiko - Greece's "outlaw blues" that emerged from urban tavernas a century ago. The group was founded by Dimitris Mann, a multi-award-winning composer who has worked under legends like Hans Zimmer and contributed music to over 100 films and TV shows whose musical roots trace back to his grandfather's Piraeus barbershop where rebetiko filled the air, which has driven his mission to keep this unique musical heritage alive. Joining him are soprano Anastasia Malliaras and guitarist Taso Comanescu.

Rebetiko (or Rebetika), often called "The Greek Blues", is a form of Greek urban folk music that originated between the 1920s and 1950s. The word rebetiko is derived from the adjective "rebetis", which was used to describe a person with aspects of character, behavior, morals and dress associated with a particular subculture. The earliest source of the word to date is to be found in a Greek-Latin dictionary where the word "rebitos" is defined as a wanderer, blind or misguided individual. The genre's musical base is a synthesis of Greek mainland and island music, Byzantine music, European music, and Ottoman modal scales (makam).



**Dimitris Mann**, a skilled multi-instrumentalist and multi-award-winning composer, has developed a unique voice in film and TV scoring by constantly exploring uncharted territories. He honed his compositional skills under legends like Hans Zimmer and Joel Goodman and has contributed music to over 100 films and TV shows, including *Formula 1: Drive to Survive*, *Catching Killers*, *American Horror Stories*, *League of Legends: Origins*, *Vanishing at the Cecil Hotel*, and *60 Days In*. He has written music for trailer campaigns for franchises like *Star Wars*, *Marvel Studios*, *Rambo*, *Call of Duty*, *Child's Play*, and the *Superbowl 2023 Fast and Furious X* trailer. Dimitris has composed music for national and international TV spots for brands like *T-Mobile*, *Lexus*, *Citizen*, *Spoke Studios*, *Blizzard Entertainment*, and *G4TV* (Comic-Con 2020), as well as for President Biden's re-election campaign announcement TV spot. He was a member of Greece's first and most successful hip-hop group, *Active Member*. His adoration for opera and the great European composers led to a long-lasting collaboration with world-renowned tenor *Mario Frangoulis*. Leading the *Greek Rebetiko Trio*, Dimitris, a descendant of the renowned bouzouki player and songwriter *Yiannis Papaioannou*, has performed over 200 shows throughout the US and is an active clinician and lecturer on Rebetika music.



**Anastasia Malliaras**, a Greek-American soprano, is devoted to the continuous exploration of new depths both vocally and artistically. Her voice has led her to play operatic roles such as Nannetta, Olympia, Zerbinetta, Marie, and Frasquita, among others. This spring, Anastasia makes her debut with Opera Mississippi, playing the role of Pamina in *The Magic Flute*. In the spring of 2023, Anastasia was an apprentice at Opera Theatre of Saint Louis, where she covered the role of Despina in Mozart's iconic

*Così fan tutte* and made her OTSL professional debut as Mrs. Hayes in Carlisle Floyd's *Susannah*. She has been a Studio Artist at Central City Opera, playing Ruth Baldwin in Musto's *Later That Same Evening*, and has participated in the Young Artist Vocal Academy at Houston Grand Opera and the iSing! International Young Artist Festival. She has placed in prestigious competitions, including the Loren L. Zachary Competition, the Irene Dalis Vocal Competition at Opera San Jose, and the Metropolitan Opera National Council Los Angeles District and Western Regionals. Last winter, she was the soprano soloist in *Messiah* with the Dream Orchestra of Los Angeles and recently performed with the Los Angeles Symphony. She co-founded the chamber music ensemble Duo Apollon, which released its debut album "Folksongs" in August 2023 with Navona Records.



**Taso Comanescu**, a Greek-American guitarist, has emerged on the classical music scene as a colorful performer, full of subtle nuance and strong musicianship. He is an in-demand solo performer and ensemble artist whose accomplishments have taken him around the globe. Taso has performed with internationally acclaimed dramatic tenor Charles Castronovo as well as the Japanese cellist Yoshika Masuda. His debut recording, "Epitaphios," showcases music from around the world, and his second album, "Renaissance | Baroque", features

transcriptions originally for lute, vihuela, theorbo, and baroque guitar. He is a featured instructor for the popular online platform Elite Guitarist and has served on the music faculty at Pepperdine University since 2011. Taso is a founding member of the Greek Rebetiko Trio's LA iteration and has been with the band for a decade.