

CV Savina Yannatou

Born in Athens, Greece, Savina Yannatou studied song with G. Georilopoulou at the National Conservatory and later with Spiros Sakkas at the Workshop of Vocal Art in Athens. She attended postgraduate studies (performance and communication skills) at Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, with a scholarship awarded by the Mousigetis Foundation.

Her professional career as a singer started while still a student, when she sang for the very successful and until today highly respected daily program of the Greek National Radio 3 «Lillipoupoli» under the direction of the famous composer Manos Hadjidakis.

After that she interpreted «entechno» («artful») Greek songs, collaborating with well-known Greek composers and also covered contemporary opera and music. Later she focused on medieval, renaissance and baroque music, and in the early nineties she discovered her love for vocal improvisation. (*Please, note: she is **NOT** based in Classical music!*). Parallel to that she started a collaboration with six Thessaloniki-based musicians, who at that occasion founded the group «Primavera en Salonico», with whom she has recorded 8 CDs (of which three on ECM Records) so far and has traveled all over the world since 1996 giving hundreds of concerts at renowned venues and festivals: a.o. the Barbican and the Queen Elizabeth Hall in London (several times sold-out), the Melbourne Concert Hall, Symphony Space in New York, the London Jazz festival, many WOMAD festivals all over the world, Stern Grove Festival in San Francisco, Moers New Music Festival, Rudolstadt Folk Festival and UCLA in Los Angeles. The singer and group have received countless triumphant reviews of CD releases and concerts in major publications all over the world.

Savina Yannatou has also composed her own music and songs, as well as music for theater (a.o. for Medea, performed in 1997 by the National Greek Theatre), video art and dance theatre. All together she has brought out 21 CDs and has participated in

over 30 other LPs and CDs. She released three CDs with her own compositions: *Is Kind Alexander Alive?* (Lyra, 1983), *Rosa das Rosas* (Lyra, 2000) and *Musique des Chambres* (Lyra, 2007).

She repeatedly collaborates with well-known musicians in the free improvisation scene: a.o. bass player Barry Guy (Maya Recordings released the CD *Attikos*, a live recording of their concert at Bimhuis in Amsterdam in 2010) and drummer Baby Sommer (Kommeno Project, CD released by Intakt Records in 2012). She is continuing collaborations with early music ensembles and other ensembles, which find themselves in between categories, such as the Canadian group “Constantinople”, and she also continues to work with well-known orchestras and contemporary Greek composers.

A new ECM Production of Savina Yannatou & Primavera en Salonico will be released in early 2015.