

# Savina Yannatou

## & Primavera en Salonico

Greece

**Savina Yannatou**      voice

**Primavera en Salonico:**

Kostas Vomvolos      qanun, accordion  
Kyriakos Gouventas    violin  
Haris Lambrakis      nay  
Yannis Alexandris    oud, guitar, tamboura  
Michalis Siganidis    double bass  
Kostas Theodorou     percussion

**Genre: “Avant-garde world music”**

Based on traditional material – mainly from the Mediterranean Area – Savina Yannatou and the group Primavera en Salonico offer an open sound without borders or labels, from simple songs extending to contemporary music forms.

Insisting on acoustic instruments, half of which have their origin in the East, they attempt at exploiting their specific sound, oftentimes also exploring them to the limits of their possibilities. Beyond her exquisite interpretive capacity Savina Yannatou gives special emphasis to the expression of the “music” of each different language, without letting that stop her from oftentimes using her voice as one more instrument.

Countless raving reviews in press outlets all over the world, including the LA times, Frankfurter Allgemeine, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Independent, New York Times, and many more, are a witness to the wide acclaim of their work:

*“Dark-toned but ambrosial, highly disciplined yet seemingly bursting with a soul of pure flame, the rather staggering Athens-born singer Savina Yannatou is a virtuosic chameleon adept at an extensive range of vocal traditions (and languages) from the Mediterranean region – not just interpreting but leaping off from these old folk musics with a daring, exploratory technique and far-flung tonal scope that allows her to stamp it all with a brash intelligence and some might say punky attitude. There’s not a thing dried-up or academic about her new takes on ancient songs... Yannatou really lets the blood out of these songs, brazenly improvising on them, as if called by some inner primal force, kneading and kneedling them, caressing them, smearing their borders and launching out something entirely new in the process.”      John Payne, L.A. Weekly*

Savina Yannatou and Primavera en Salonico have been giving concerts all over the world since 1996. This includes the whole of Europe, the United States, Australia,

Israel, South Korea, China and Taiwan, in venues like the Queen Elizabeth Hall (various times sold-out), the Barbican in London, UCLA in Los Angeles, the Melbourne Concert Hall, BELEN Cultural Centre in Lisbon and various WOMAD festivals in different parts of the world, as well as numerous other world music and jazz festivals – to name a few: Stern Grove in San Francisco, Taipeh World Music Festival, Fiesta des Suds in Marseille, Moers new Jazz Festival, Music Meeting in Holland, Etnosur Festival in Spain, Musicas do Mundo in Portugal, International Jazz festival Muenster, London Jazz Festival, New Directions Festival in Umea, Sweden, Oct-Loft Jazz Festival in Shenzhen and TCC Jazz Festival in Guanzhou, China, Ulsan World Music Festival in South Korea and many others.

Together with the group “Primavera en Salonico” Savina Yannatou recorded “Primavera en Salonico” - Sephardic Folk Songs from Salonica (Lyra), Mediterranea (Sounds True, USA/ Lyra), Virgin Maries of the World (Lyra), Tutti Bacci with Elena Ledda (Lyra), Terra Nostra, a live CD (ECM Records 2003), Sumiglia, a production by ECM, result of creative collaboration with producer and label founder Manfred Eicher (ECM records 2005) and Songs Of An Other (ECM Records 2008). A new CD was recorded by ECM Records in February and is planned for release in early 2015.