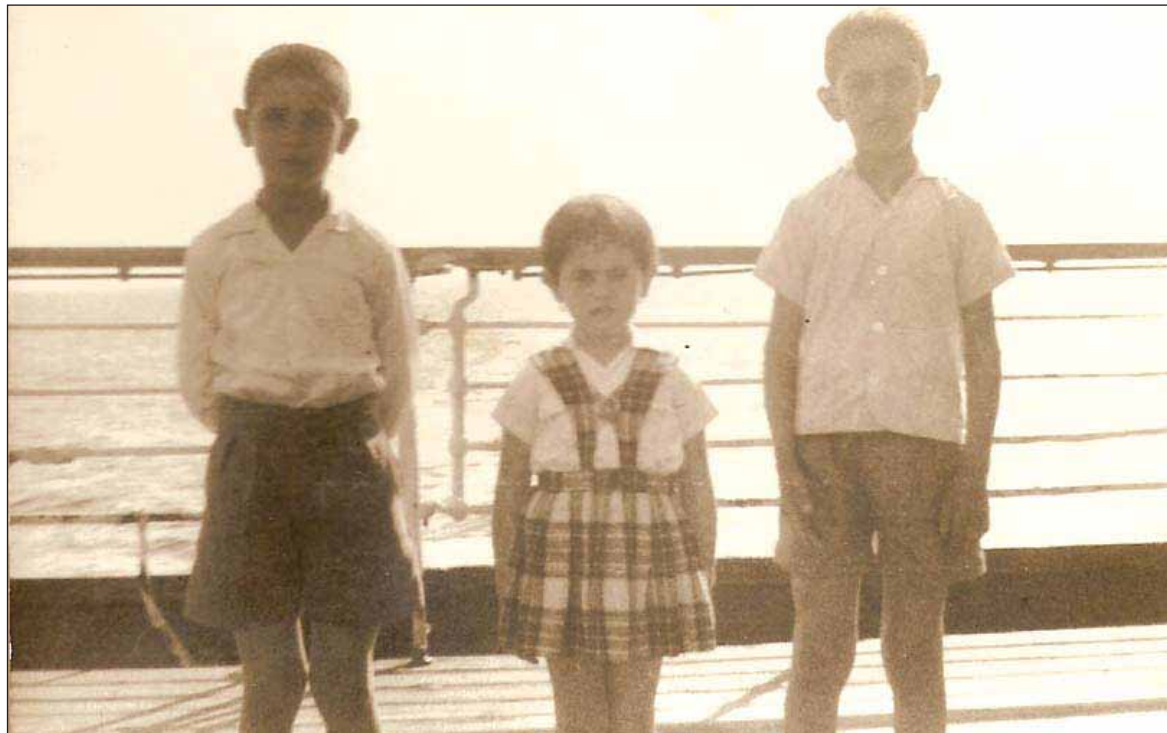


Costa Vasili

# His passion for music just keeps growing

*Costa Vasili (formerly Hagivasili) was born in Cyprus in 1954 in a small town between Nicosia and Larnaca called Athienou. His mother with her three children and grandmother migrated to Australia in 1964. His father migrated to Australia in 1963 to work and the raise money to bring the rest of the family to Australia but to also see if Sydney was the right place for his family. The family settled in the Sydney suburb of Beaconsfield and eight years later relocated to Kogarah.*



Costa started 4th class primary school in Sydney with no knowledge of English. This was a very frustrating initial period as his academic performance was nothing like what he was achieving in Cyprus due to lack of understanding of the language. However, he was well advanced in arithmetic and within a couple of years he developed his English skills and his academic achievements were top of the class in several subjects. In high school he excelled in Science, Mathematics and German.

ried in 1980. They have two children.

At the age of 14 Costa wanted to learn guitar and play in a



bought his first bouzouki and taught himself, formed a Greek band by the name of Freedom and led it for the following 16 years playing at a variety of Greek and non Greek functions. The Freedom band recorded an album in 1984 with ten original Greek songs with most of them written by Costa. The band became very popular in the Sydney Greek scene and was mostly booked one year ahead.

Costa has taught guitar and bouzouki for over 20 years and has published the bouzouki method tuition books of Complete Course in Bouzouki ([www.bouzoukiman.com](http://www.bouzoukiman.com)) and

Secretary, Treasurer and Public Officer for several years.

In 1994/1995 Costa served on the Board of the Cyprus Community of NSW and was also its President of the Culture Committee in 1996. During this period and beyond he organised and performed in musical presentations for the Community's commemoration events including the establishments and leading of the Community's choir.

**Costa took interest in Greek music particularly in the bouzouki. He then bought his first bouzouki and taught himself, formed a Greek band by the name of Freedom and led it for the following 16 years playing at a variety of Greek and non Greek functions.**

neering organisations. He is currently a senior executive manager in a global engineering consultancy. In his professional career, Costa has worked overseas for short durations in countries such as Vietnam and Japan. Whilst his professional obligations are demanding he still finds some time to dedicate to writing music, preparing musical arrangements and teaching material and performing.



Costa met his wife in 1979 and they got mar-

band but his parents preferred that he concentrate on his studies instead. At the age of 16 he bought his first guitar and taught himself sufficiently to join his first band a year later. His hunger for music wasn't satisfied with just the guitar and during his final year in high school Costa taught himself to play the piano by practising on the school's piano at lunch time every day whenever a piano was available.

He played electric guitar in blues and rock bands for the next four years. This provided him with a good foundation for technique development and stage experience. At the age of 21, Costa took interest in Greek music particularly in the bouzouki. He then

other teaching material. In addition to music in 2007, Costa and two of his engineering colleagues published a unique engineering design book.

Over his musical years Costa has played diverse musical styles including blues, rock and roll, Latin, jazz, various Greek styles with guitar and bouzouki.

In 1988 when Costa moved to Lugarno, together with a small number of local Greek parents established an independent Greek school in the Lugarno-Peakhurst district to provide the opportunity for local children of Greek parents to learn the Greek language and culture including dancing. Costa served on the committee as President,

