



Buenos Aires: Combining the bouzouki with the tango

An Argentine musician loved the sound of the bouzouki and decided to combine it with the music of his country, the tango. 73-year-old Manuel Hernandez Martin from Buenos Aires recently fulfilled the dream of his life – to visit Greece. In fact, at a musical evening organised in Athens, he played the tango on his bouzouki, as well as Greek music.

“In Argentina I have many friends who are Greek and I learnt the Greek language from them”, he told the Athens News Agency. “I love Greece and for many years my dream was to visit it. And now my dream has come true because of my sister, who married a Greek-Argentine, and now they have settled in Greece”.

Coins from Alexander the Great found in Syria

More than 250 silver coins dating back to the time of Alexander the Great were unearthed in northern Syria, a Syrian archaeologist said Thursday.



Youssef Kanjo, the head of archaeological excavations in the ancient city of Aleppo, said the coins were discovered two weeks ago in northern Syria when a local man was digging the foundations of his new home. The man handed the coins, that were found in a bronze box, to authorities, Kanjo said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press.

The coins date from the Hellenic period, which ranges from 4th to the 1st centuries B.C. after Macedonian warrior-king Alexander the Great spread Greek culture into Middle East and beyond with his conquests. One side of the tetra drachma coins depicts Alexander the Great, while the other side shows the Greek god Zeus sitting on a throne with an eagle perched on his extended arm.

Some of the coins bear the inscription King Alexander in Greek, while others say Alexander or carry the name of King Philip, most likely referring to his father.

After Alexander the Great's conquests, many of the successor kingdoms in the Middle East adopted drachmas as their currency.

Gulfood exhibition in Dubai: Greek food firms to boost sales on weak euro

The financial crisis in Greece is bad news for many – but the country's food manufacturers say they are benefiting as the euro's depreciation against the dollar has made their products more competitive outside the euro zone.



And many are hoping to pick up extra sales in the UAE. A number of Greek businessmen who attended the Gulfood exhibition in Dubai said reports about the crisis in the international press had been exaggerated and they were seeing an increase in sales.

“The financial crisis is affecting Greek firms and businesses because it affects people's shopping behaviour,” said John Taousanis, Export Director of fish company North Aegean Sea Canneries. “Even people who have money are scared to spend it.”

“A few months ago the global media's attention was on the so-called Dubai World crisis and now the focus has shifted to Greece. In a few months' time the focus will shift to another European country. There are problems all over the world but the current situation is helping us to expand our exports because our goods are becoming cheaper outside the euro zone. In the United States, our prod-

ucts are 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than American brands. And we are optimistic about doing business in Dubai.”

Taousanis, who was visiting the city for the first time, said his company produced canned mackerel, herring, octopus, squid, sardines, anchovies and tuna.

Georgia Paradissi, Export Manager Agro VI M, said the company's olive oil products were sold through Spinneys, Carrefour and other supermarket chains and were normally a little more expensive than rival brands from Jordan, Lebanon and other Gulf countries.

“The current exchange rate is helping the company's position in the regional and global markets,” he added. “However, the gain is greater in the US market where the euro-dollar exchange rate benefits the Greek brands.”

Alexander Christodoulou, Area

Sales Manager of another Greek company, CHB Fruit Processing, said the crisis was giving a boost to food exports.

“We can now take advantage of the weak euro and enjoy a clear advantage over US products in world markets. We have many customers in the UAE such as Aujan Industries and other processing units. We're able to sell at a cheaper price now due to the euro's weakness, we enjoy a price advantage in the UAE market.”

Alexander Theodoulidis, Senior Manager of the processed fruits division of Venus Growers, said the firm was trying to win new orders in the Middle East.

“We produce 50,000 tonnes of canned peaches, canned fruit cocktail, fruits in plastic pots and peach puree,” he added.

“As the dollar is getting stronger we are gaining from the current financial turmoil,” he said.

“The country's debt crisis has no impact on our company's dealings with our regular customers.”

Theodoulidis said he had received many inquiries from visitors to the Greek pavilion at Gulfood. Twenty-three companies from the country took part in the show and the Greek Ministry of Economy Competitiveness and Shopping was also represented.

Greek Festival of Sydney

The 28th annual Greek Festival of Sydney will launch with a two day long celebration at Darling Harbour on the 20th and 21st of March. Bring your family, bring your appetites and bring your dancing shoes for two days of music, fine food and Greek festivities. Entry is free of charge for all.

On this weekend the foreshores of Darling Harbour will come alive to the sounds of fabulous Greek music, the aromas of sumptuous Greek food, dazzling displays of Greek dancing, and many surprises for the children.

This is the perfect way to celebrate the vibrant multiculturalism of Sydney and to explore the beauty of Greek culture.

From 3pm Saturday the Festival will feature international performers, the best local contemporary youth music acts and Greek dancing groups, children's activities, musical performances, mouth watering Greek delicacies and spe-



cial guests.

From 10am Sunday, the Greek Orthodox Community of New South Wales will celebrate Greek Independence Day with a traditional parade through Darling Harbour from Pyrmont Bridge to Tumbalong Park, followed by a full day of traditional and contemporary Greek entertainment. The highlights for the day apart from the food, coffee, family atmosphere and friendly crowds are the live music by our long line-up of local

and international quality acts.

WHAT:
Greek Festival of Sydney

WHEN:
Saturday March 20, 3pm-10pm
Sunday March 21, 10am-10pm

WHERE:
Darling Harbour, Tumbalong Park, Sydney

Welcome to Australia's leading multicultural festival, where everyone is invited to celebrate and explore the beauty of Greek

culture through the arts, history, entertainment and food.

The Darling Harbour celebration will kick off the three month long Greek Festival of Sydney with over 30 events scheduled on this year's program, showcasing the depth and diversity of the Greek Culture in Australia.

For more information into the program and to book tickets to selected events, please visit www.greekfestivalofsydney.com.au