



PSARANDONIS

The King of Lyra

Antonis Xylouris, aka Psarandonis, comes from a renowned Cretan musical family and is known as the most idiosyncratic lyra player on the island. An exponent of tripped out Cretan music, Psarandonis's unique three-stringed lyra playing style, his distinctive voice and his inimitable rendition of traditional folk songs has made him a cult legend in Greece and beyond, particularly with a younger generation of Cretan music lovers. Seeing Psarandonis live is considered to be a once in a lifetime experience. In January 2009, Psarandonis gave memorable performances at the All Tomorrow's Parties Festival curated by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds and hosted on Cockatoo Island, Sydney and Mt Buller in Victoria.

The input of Cave's current artistic muse and Bad Seed protagonist Ellis was no more evident than in the choice of Greek lyre player Psarandonis who, despite limited prior exposure, whipped the crowd into a dancing frenzy to conclude Saturday night's proceedings on the small stage. - Review from ATP Mt.Buller

Psarandonis is a Greek musical legend and master of the lyra, a traditional Cretan folk instrument. Accompanied by his son George Xylouris (Xylouris Ensemble) also on lyra and Jim White (Dirty Three) on drums they were a breath of fresh air from the electricity filling the island air. The mood was different and the crowd gave a standing ovation for his instrumental and singing mastery. It was a musical education for many of the audience who got to hear him. - Review from ATP Sydney

George Xylouris and Jim White will again join the master lyra player as they weave a way into your skull with shows in Sydney, Melbourne and Castlemaine

in addition to the already announced performances at Womadelaide and at Meredith's Golden Plains Festival.

WHO IS WHO

Antonis Xylouris, nicknamed Psarantonis is a Greek composer, singer and performer of lyra, the bowed string instrument of Crete and most popular surviving form of the medieval Byzantine lyra. He comes from the mountainous village of Anogeia in Crete and is the younger brother of the late Nikos Xylouris, a notable Cretan singer/musician as well as the older brother of Yiannis Xylouris, an equally notable Cretan musician. His son, Giorgos Xylouris, is also a professional musician playing mostly the Lute. Psarantonis is known for the special timbre of his voice and his lyra playing style. Apart from the lyra Psarantonis plays various traditional instruments.

He first played the lyre at the age of 13 and recorded his first single in 1964, titled «I Thought of Denying You» (Greek: Εσκέφτηκα να σ' αρνηθώ). He has released many recordings since then and has represented Greece many times in festivals abroad.

In May 2005, Psarantonis performed at the World Music Institute's 20th anniversary benefit concert at Town Hall, New York. In 2007 at the festival Rock «All tomorrow's Parties» in Minehead, UK.

In January 2009, he gave memorable performances in the rock music festival All Tomorrow's Parties hosted in Brisbane, Sydney and Mount Buller (in Victoria) and curated by Nick Cave & The Bad Seeds. In 2007 he worked with Daemonia Nympe on their album Krataia Asterope doing the vocals and playing the lyra in the track Dios Astrapaion



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