



What has been the biggest milestone during your years of playing the clarinet?

My biggest milestone must be when the klarino player Kostas Zafiroopoulos had come to Sydney and put me up on stage at 15 years old to play a song at the Lakemba Greek Community Club. This was the day that I was introduced to the Greek music scene.

Do you perform? Where have you performed so far?

I perform frequently throughout the year. I am currently at "Tavernaki" restaurant in Leichhardt every Friday and Saturday night. I also do Weddings, Christenings and other functions.

In the past I have played many times at my two schools *All Saints Grammar* and *Saint Spyridon College*, at the *Naf-*

paktian club Marrickville, the *Lakemba Greek Community Club*, the *Parramata Greek Festival*, the old *Megas Alexandros Club* at Marickville, the *Pan-Arcadian Club*. I've also played at *Belmore Parish "All Saints"*, *"Saint Spyridon" Parish Kingsford*, and at *"Saints Raphael, Nicholas and Irene" Liverpool Parish*, and annually at the *Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Christmas Carols* at Redfern.

Have you ever played a different instrument?

I also play a bit of *touberleki* and other Greek hand drums, and some very basic keyboard. If I feel like it, sometimes I sing (lol). Though I don't perform any of these at the moment.

How do you balance your life when you have varying responsibilities and goals?

I don't really balance my schedule manually. I let everything flow naturally in life, and live life as it comes. If I want to do something, I will do it - no matter how restricted I am with time.

What is your favourite song on the Klarino?

My favourite song on the klarino has to be *"To Feggari Kanei Volta"*. It's not a masterpiece, but that was my favourite song as a kid. In fact I remember, in Year 1, my Greek teacher at *All Saints, Kyrio Theodori*, would make me sing it in front of the class. That may just have been my first performance (haha).

Do you think more should be done in schools to prepare students for what their life as a musician might be? Does a child have to go to special music schools so as to build their career in your opinion?

I think that schools should teach children individuality and not conformity. When people learn not to conform, and to think for themselves, they have the confidence to do anything - including performing as a musician.

What characteristic(s) do you think someone needs in order to play the Klarino?

You need to love the instrument you play. If you do this, you can conquer the difficulty of playing.



- Phone number: 0402 342 155
- Services: Weddings, Baptisms, Parties and other functions
- Performances at the *Tavernaki* every weekend
- Facebook: *Svolos Klarino*