



When the Greek migrant generation was at its zenith in the late 1970s and 1980s, being relatively youngish and dynamic, an important aspect of Greeks' yearning for their homeland was through music. Through his travels through the Greek community, with relation to the shops, Vasilis has quickly realised how many musicians and bands the Greek community had in its heyday. Most of them admittedly worked as musicians on a part-time basis (Friday and Saturday nights) but there were lots of bands nonetheless.

One shop Vasilis came across in Bankstown was the music shop on Chapel Street which is run by Yiannis Bardas. While Vasilis may have asked for the story of the shop, he quickly realised Yiannis' story went beyond the shop as he was a successful musician as well. Yiannis recounted jaw-dropping anecdotes as a guitarist playing nightclubs such as Stork and Fantasia in Athens and for singers such as, Stamatis Kokotas, Doukissa and Jenny Vanou, as well as Michalis Menidiatis, Dakis and Phillipas Nikolaou.

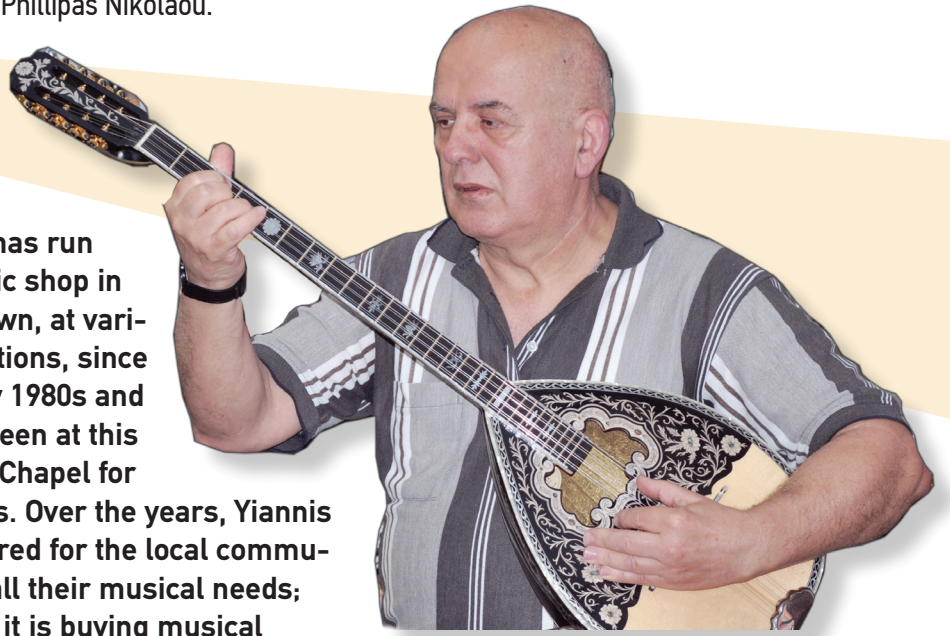


Yiannis has run the music shop in Bankstown, at various locations, since the early 1980s and he has been at this shop on Chapel for ten years. Over the years, Yiannis has catered for the local community for all their musical needs; whether it is buying musical instruments and accessories, doing repairs or giving music lessons.

Yiannis passion for music is highlighted by the fact he works in the shop seven days a week, even though the shop is shut on Sundays. As Yannis explains, 'I just love working with music and musical instruments. The most satisfying thing about any occupation is finding work you are passionate about. I am just very lucky that I work with my passion for music,'

Vasilis loves Yiannis' versatility at the music shop, 'Yiannis has serviced the bouzoukis of some of Australia's most famous bouzouki players and then he has also serviced the instruments of Australian rock bands. He just has an incredible wealth of knowledge and skills in this area of expertise. As for the stories on the Athenian music scene, you can listen to Yianni all day...'

One thing Vasilis would like to remind anyone wishing to visit the Bankstown music shop is that they ask for Yianni, not John, Bardas..



Yiannis Bardas

When Music Runs Through Your Veins