

## Yiannis Karalis - BIOGRAPHY

[www.yanniskaralis.com](http://www.yanniskaralis.com)

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**Yiannis Karalis** was born in Athens. Since he was a young boy, melodies, words and rhythms were a passionate part of Yiannis' upbringing and he often dreamed of becoming who he is today.

Throughout his youthful years, he learned the guitar and played in bands emulating the sounds of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones, the most dominant bands that influenced the young generation of that era.



Although enrolled in pharmaceutical studies at the University of Athens, Yiannis came realize that music was his true destiny and thus continued his educational pursuits in classical Guitar. With a full scholarship to the Hellenic Conservatory Yiannis was well on his way to making his dream a reality.

Musical director Michalis Rozakis introduced Yiannis to legendary Greek composer, Manos Xatzidakis who upon hearing the works of Yiannis soon landed recording sessions at the famed Second Programming at Public Radio to broadcast and release his songs from the radio show 'Studio B'.

This was the beginning of his journey and in 1977. Yiannis' first songs "Paei i agapi mou" (There Goes My Love) performed by Alkistis Protopsalti became an instant success and remains until this day an all time classic.

Following that success he wrote hundreds of others songs (gold and platinum hits) for most of Greece's top performers, justifying the fact that people consider Yiannis to be amongst the greatest Greek composers of our time.

Yiannis Karalis is often noted for his ease in creating 'hits', his humor and intelligence, while his songs are notable for their quality or their marketability and certainly for their originality.

As Yiannis himself states, *"I despise boring mediocrity and prefer the extremes..."*

It was in 1990 when Yiannis introduced and released the new hit sensation Christos Dantis with hit singles "Push ups" and "Daktilika apotipomata" (Fingerprints) which went gold.

Karalis went on to write for Danti's first four and a half albums that turned gold and platinum and became huge hits. From these collaborations the songs of Yiannis Karalis "Aman" and "Kapios s' agapaei" have been aired worldwide on **MTV** and **MCM** as well and have been distributed through out four European nations.

By 1992, Yiannis helped release and establish yet another young talent, Litsa Giakousi for whom he wrote six albums with major hits and commercial success. It became evident by this time that Yiannis Karalis was a master at introducing new artists in Greece's ever changing music industry.

Yiannis also wrote and composed for theatrical productions such as "Stavrofories" (Crusades) by Nikos Tsiforos and "Peter Pan" adapted by Kostas Potamitis. Television was also within Yiannis' grasp as he wrote for the highly viewed show "Uranio toxo" ( Rainbow), not to mention countless radio shows.

In 1989 Yiannis got behind the microphone live on SKY Radio as a producer.

In the collection volume "200 All time classic Greek Songs", composed in 1994, by musicologist George Notaras, Yiannis' great hit "Me teleioses" performed by George Dalaras included in this distinguished catalogue.

In 1994 he won the first Popcorn award for the lyrics in his song "Psaxe me".

Parallel to his music career, Yiannis gave equal emphasis to his work in advertising ranging from the over 100 compositions of jingles and the creation of a plethora of radio advertising spots.

He was recognized in 1996 with a nationwide award for his work in radio advertising for his work on behalf of the "Diana" Paper Company.

By 1997 with the benefits of time and the experience that comes along with it, Yiannis re-visited some of his classic hits and additionally composed a new suite for classical guitar. Thus the instrumental album "**ODYSSEY**" was born rooted in an "ethnic flavor". [www.yanniskaralis.com/#!blank/cut6](http://www.yanniskaralis.com/#!blank/cut6)

"Odyssey" was released worldwide (JUN 24 1997) and still enjoys steady commercial recognition to this day. This album includes the instrumental single "**ECLIPSE**".

"The sound of the original composition **ECLIPSE**

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4rfkY47C9w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W4rfkY47C9w)

was lifted illegally in its entirety by the record label 'Universal Turkey' without the consent of the composer. With the inclusion of lyrics and vocals by Sezen Aksu, "ECLIPSE'S" original composition by Yannis Karalis was transformed into the Turkish song "**Adi Bende Sakli**" !! [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD2o9IOLY-k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD2o9IOLY-k)

This imitation nevertheless was a major commercial success topping over 2 million units sold without any mention of the song's original composer." !!

**Ultimately the Turkish Court vindicated Yannis in early 2013**

In 1997, working for Walt Disney productions Yiannis composed the Greek lyric adaptation for the song "Go the distance" sung by Dionysis Shinas in the movie "Hercules" and in 2006 the adaptation for the end title song

"Route 66" sung by Sakis Rouvas, in the movie "Cars".

In 1999 he wrote the composition "Diana blue" for violin, included in the album "Cosmos" of the soloist Nicos Hatzopoulos which was also released internationally. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ra86RqwgSs8>

At the present time, as the music industry seems to be gasping for breath, Yiannis writes for a select few artists and personal friends.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=20dPyX3Pv0k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=20dPyX3Pv0k)

Yiannis work has been dubbed audacious and innovative.

One - dimensional he certainly is not.

His interests and engagements range from mechanical and

electronic engineering, medicine, physics, law, design and computers, while in his free time he composes music.

He has selectively appeared on numerous television and radio shows throughout the years and has given many interviews to newspapers and magazines.

He adores Einstein, Poetry, John Lennon, Rock Music, Nikos Kazantzakis, Manos Xatzidakis, Niko Gatsos... his black sunglasses (because things seem rather gloomy lately), a good sense of humor and the wisdom of the ordinary man.

He dislikes current day saviors, musical plagiarists, those that bask in the light of others and fake cultural wannabes.

A believer that human stupidity should be penalized, **Yiannis Karalis** often dreams of who he used to be, when he desired to become who he is today!