

# Biography

*“finest playing skills along with a musicality that is glowing with talent, intent and a deep understanding of universal beauty”*

Fusing together his contemporary and classical background, London-based, Greek guitarist and composer Stelios Kyriakidis aims to create music for guitar that is as understated as it is stirring. Influenced by neoclassical, folk and film music elements, Stelios is equally at home in writing music as he is performing it on stage, seeking to deliver an organic and transcendent experience in his live shows.

Stelios has been interviewed and had his music featured on BBC Radio London. The Minor7th magazine stated that *“Stelios has a delightful way of creating bright, shimmering melodies that you want to hear again”*. One of his latest pieces, Copenhagen, entered the iTunes United Kingdom Classical Charts at no.34. A Wonderful Life, from the Agalia EP, has reached over 160 thousand streams and has been included in a Spotify editorial playlist. Sofar Sounds has filmed Stelios performing A Moment And A Thousand Years at the Old Church in Stoke Newington, London. New Beginnings, the opening piece from the Agalia EP, was featured in the campaign video for a car-free London by the climate action charity Possible. The Music Dances When You Sleep blog described his music as *“it's as if the guitar itself has a voice, whispering stories of love, loss, and hope to those who are willing to listen”*.

Stelios has performed in the USA, UK, Germany and Greece in places such as the 21st Century Guitar Conference (Indianapolis, USA), Green Note (London, UK), Somerset Jazz Festival (UK), Handmade & Recycled Festival (Athens, GR), Herman Schulz Cafe, (Berlin, DE) and Sofar Sounds (London, Brighton & Bristol, UK), among others.

With three EPs to date, Stelios's debut full-length album, 508 Days, has been released on October 6th 2023. The work features storytelling pieces along with short, song-like ones, arranged chronologically and making the album similar to an audio diary. 508 Days reflects an exploratory period in Stelios's life, when he left his solitary six-month stay in a Greek seaside village and went back to the world, first busking in Europe and then moving back to London. One of the pieces, I'll Split Mine With You, has been included in the compilation CD album 'Guitar Tenderness', released in Japan by Inpartmaint records.

Born in Drama, Greece, he started his musical journey by studying piano as a teenager. After a year of piano tuition, he became increasingly dissatisfied with the dry and uninspiring delivery of the lessons. This dissatisfaction, along with the discovery of rock and metal music, led him to learn electric guitar. He studied the instrument with renowned local teachers and players and it was during that time he discovered his passion for music.

At the age of 19, Stelios moved to London, UK to expand his horizons and pursue his musical dream. He became a member and songwriter of various bands, most notably the goth rock band 'The Faces of Sarah'. Some of his performances with The Faces of Sarah include The Underworld (London), Oravafest (Slovakia), Dada club (Greece), Budapest and various venues in the UK, from London to Newcastle. After 2 years of performing and touring with the band, Stelios felt the need to broaden his musical knowledge in order to evolve as a musician. At the age of 27, he decided to study classical guitar, music theory and composition.

Stelios studied classical guitar with Alberto Perez Fernandez, Kasia Elsner Weir, Graham Anthony Devine and with the teacher he considers his mentor, Carlos Bonell of the Royal College of Music. He also studied Harmony, Counterpoint and Orchestration with Paul Sarcich and Paul Bartholomew. His studies resulted in a Diploma from ABRSM (DipABRSM, classical guitar) and a Master of Music in classical guitar from the Trinity Laban conservatoire in London. During his studies at Trinity, he has received a financial award from the Stavros Niarchos Foundation.

Stelios has also composed music for short films, contemporary dance, documentaries and theatre. His compositions have been performed in places such as the Robin Howard Theatre (UK), East London Dance (UK), Vault Festival (UK) and Arion Guitar Festival (Greece). Stelios composed the official music for the 2011 Athens Video Dance Project in Greece. He has worked as a composer with Middlesex University, Trinity Laban Conservatoire and the NHS. In 2015, he wrote and performed a score for 'Trivialis', a dance performance showcased at the Resolution! festival and gaining a residency at the Blue Elephant theatre. Philippa Newis (Thinking on my feet) wrote on her review: *"Stelios Kyriakidis's score is brooding and imposing. The electric guitar throbs and pulses, enveloping the performers in a dense cocoon of sound."*

Along with his solo project, Stelios has collaborated with several musicians over the years, most notably with guzheng player Muqi Li. They performed their original music for guitar & guzheng at the Film Atelier in London on July 2023. Stelios also teaches classical/acoustic guitar and music theory and has over 15 years of experience delivering lessons face to face in London or online, worldwide.

# Short Biography

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