PARADISE BAND

Newsletter Autumn 2017

Issue 11

John Tikis Live Tour 2017

A runaway success

John's 22nd tour of Australia was a huge hit with fans who turned out to hear John sing songs from his new album & all the hits of previous years.

John is a firm believer in developing young talent & he has strived to bring new elements to the show every year. In 2017 John invited Christopher Samartzis to play tenor sax on a few songs adding yet another dimension to the stage. Christopher was thrilled to not only perform with a legend of Greek popular music but to be on stage with highly accomplished performers, this was his first ever live gig & thanks to the encouragement from John & the band he did an excellent job.

"We need to encourage young talent" John said, "if we want live music to move forward we need to give young players the opportunity to get up and perform"

Also on the tour talent list Sydney's very own Irene Vacondios on vocals, Themis Ioakimidis on guitar & Evie providing the excellent dance routines, we are always thrilled to have these fine performers on the tour.

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BREAKING NEWS

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Irene Vacondios video release

Great news! Our beautiful sister & wonderful friend Irene Vacondios has released a video for one of the songs she has written entitled "Vres Ton Paradeiso Sou" - Find Your Paradise.

We hinted that we were doing some recording last year, well, we've done quite a bit of recording and this song was completed earlier this year so we did a video to go along with it.

As always Irene being the consummate professional had no trouble adapting to the visual medium.

Irene wrote the lyrics & vocal melody, recorded it on her iPhone & emailed it to Samatza.

"We fleshed out the basic structure & then I set to work writing & recording the base tracks" Samatza said. " Irene is very talented & nailed the vocal tracks in one or two takes, you don't get this very often in the studio"

"It's a labour of love, with many weeks spent recording the tracks, mixing & mastering the song. Then we got on to the video & we recruited the talent of Christopher Samartzis (who also played tenor sax on the John Tikis tour). It took two full days of shooting & two weeks of editing but we were pleased with the result" We're proud of Irene & the boys, we'll be working of more as we progress & this is a great start.

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PLAYER PROFILE

Christopher Samartzis - tenor saxophone

Q: how long have you been playing?

A: Just over a year now, I've had formal lessons for about 10 months.

Q: why the tenor sax?

A: I was fortunate to have almost every conceivable instrument in the house because Dad is a musician. He never forced us to learn music, he simply gave us access to the tools & exposed us to lots of different genres of music. One day I asked him if I could play saxophone, we didn't have one so we went to the store to try it out, I liked it but Dad said "here is the money, sleep on it for one week and then decide". The week passed and I woke him up & said "Dad, let's go and pick up that sax".

Dad taught me a lot about music, let me find my way for a few weeks & then employed a teacher for me.

Q: who are your influences?

A: A lot of great sax players from the jazz world, man those guys can play. I listen a lot to Buddy Rich big band, Steve Marcus, Don Menza & many others. Dad also takes me to lots of concerts so I get to see the greats in action.

Q: What was your first live performance like?

A: I was fortunate that the Paradise Band of which my Dad, Samatza is a member has been performing with John Tikis for 22 years. John asked that I play some songs on the show, I was thrilled & terrified at the same time!

It was great to get up on stage, especially with musicians for whom I have the greatest respect, they gave me loads of encouragement & help & it was great!

Q: What do you want to do in the future?

A: I want to learn more about music, play live & eventually write my own music. It's a great way to develop discipline & an enjoyable craft.

We would like to thank Chris for taking part in our player profile series & for his fantastic live performance on the tour.

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BEHIND THE SCENES

What it takes to take the show on the road

How technology has changed

We've been doing this a long time an fortunately as the years have progressed so has the technology. When I first started in the music industry a public address system was valve powered, around 80 watts and it weighed a ton!

In the day 200 watts was considered gargantuan, fast forward 40 years & it's not uncommon to have system of around 3,000 watts that fits in the back of a station wagon.

Digital technology has progressed in leaps & bounds & now we can enjoy the best performance in a small, portable package.

Are we there yet?

Parents are used to this often asked question, the answer is usually "no, we've only been on the road 15 minutes"

Quite often when we travel in NSW we need to get to the gig by road, it's the only way to transport all the required gear we need for a show. Very often we don't have the luxury of staying overnight & have to drive back home in the early hours. We have to be very careful to stay safe at these times & the designated drivers don't drink for at least 24 hours before we hit the road. It can be tiring but hey, we're happy to travel and perform away from home, we get to meet some great people & enjoy the scenery.

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DOING THE GREEK THING!

Pics from recent shows

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