

# WELCOME SPRING

Newsletter Spring 2017

Issue 11



## Irene Vacondios Video Hit

Irene's "Vres ton Paradeiso Sou" video reached thousands of people & was greatly enjoyed by all.

We were pleased with the feedback on the song & video, we know Irene did a great job writing, recording & performing this beautiful song.

We're looking forward to doing a lot more, we have a lot of songs in the works & we're working towards more videos & hopefully an album of original songs written by Irene, Steven & other lyricists who have submitted songs. We'll keep you posted.

You can watch the Meraki TV interview with Irene & Samatza on the Meraki TV web site.



## Summer is on it's way!

Well we got through another winter and boy is it great to see the weather is warming up, flowers are blooming & we're preparing for an epic end to 2017.

You can catch one of our shows by going to either [www.paradiseband.com.au](http://www.paradiseband.com.au) or our Facebook page Paradise Band Australia & check out the calendar. We would sure be happy to see you there.

## PLAYER PROFILE

# Steven Flevaras

### *What is your first recollection of music?*

My parents listened to music at home on Saturdays so I was exposed to all the greats of the era; Marinella, Dionisiou, Parios, Kazantzithis & many others.

### *What was your first foray into musical instruments?*

In 1982 my father took me & my brother for bouzouki lessons but I wasn't really interested in string instruments. At age 9 I picked up my first drumsticks & built a drumset from old paint tins & Mum's salad bowls. I saved very hard and by age 11 I had \$400 to buy a drum set, my beautiful mother put in the rest.

### *What were your first gigs?*

At age 12 I met Samatza & his father George who played bouzouki. It's a small world, at the time Samatza was on keyboards, we played a gig at the Cyprus Club, essentially my first professional gig.

After that I joined a local Greek band "Ta Telia" & at age 15 I joined "Ta Paidia tou Aegeaou". I used to use a headset microphone & sing while I played & this is where my singing career started.



## PLAYER PROFILE

# Steven Flevaras



### *What was your experience as a vocalist?*

In 2003 I started to perform as a singer in local Sydney Greek nightclubs; Castelorizian Club, Mega Alexandros, Greek club Lakemba, Maskes, Haramata, Notes, Grecia Live, Pan Arcadian Club, Cyprus Club Stanmore and Megisti Blue. I did this for a few years & then in 2013 took a two year break from the scene.

### *How did you join the Paradise Band?*

I received a call from Lucky one Saturday afternoon asking if I wanted to join the band as a front line singer, I asked who was in the band & to my surprise he said George Constantinou on drums, Samatza on bass.. I said stop right there, I'm in! Having heard George drumming at Defi's nightclub for many years & in combination with Samatza on bass who could ask for a better rhythm section, these guys work together superbly. I was double blessed to be working alongside the very talented Irene Vacondios whom I refer to as my little sis, she's great!

### *What are your hopes for the future?*

Paradise Band for me is a great musical family, we have a great time & I'm happy to be on this incredible journey as we develop new material, share the magic of being on stage together, the laughter & friendship that makes us who we are. Also I have started to write & record my own songs with help from Samatza who provides the musical guidance & recording.

I want to continue to develop, write & collaborate. I know we have a supportive team that allows this to happen & live performance is the icing on the cake. We meet so many wonderful people & we make it fun.

*Thanks to Steven for taking time for the player profile interview, not only a wonderful & talented guy but a real team player.*





# LEAVE IT TO BEAVER

or “ the things Samatza does when he’s not playing bass”

## SOCIAL BEAVERS

People often ask who is responsible for the web site & social media content.

We asked the same question because it was always left to Samatza to manage the technical side of things. His answer was:

*“For years I’ve had a family of beavers living in my attic, I noticed that if I keep them occupied they tend not to try and use the rafter timbers to build a dam so I’ve tasked them with all the web site & social media work to keep them busy. They seem pretty happy doing it too, so It’s a win-win situation”.*

Who knew?



One of the beavers yesterday.

## TECHNO BABBLE

Sometimes it takes a lot of stuff to make a show happen. Besides all the rehearsals, writing charts & wardrobe there are a lot of technical issues to overcome.

Samatza has always been the tech-head gizmo guy in the band. He seemed to have a knack of how things worked & is often seen in the local electronics store picking up bits & pieces to build the next bit of kit.

Seriously though he does know a lot & he was the driving force in bringing the band into the digital era with the right equipment that would get the job done.

He also put the studio together & his latest acquisition was a new microphone. “It’s a RODE NT 1A, great vocal microphone used in studios around the world” he said.

We thought he said “it’s a rodent tea one eh!” You know, like beavers in the attic.



It is a great mic though & we’re glad Samatza knows what’s what in the audio world- oh yeah, he also plays bass!

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**To the people that made it all possible - thank you!**

We've always said that Paradise Band is a lot more than it's members. There are a lot of people behind the scenes who have helped us along the way and we would like to thank them sincerely, we could not have done it without them.

Firstly our audiences without whom we would not exist - thank you, it's always great to see you all & to hang out together.

To our wonderful friends & musicians who have featured in our shows over the last few years, we owe you all a debt of gratitude & thank you for being there for us.

Michael Naxakis, Johnny Diamond, Chris Olympios, Peter Pantazopoulos, George Paradisis - all awesome bouzouki players! Thank you!

Sam Kalos for stepping in on bass guitar and guitar, what a guy! - thanks Sam!

Bill Tringas, Mario Kehagias, Maria Stavropoulos, Vasilis Metaxas, George Metaxas, Matina Kokkalis & Xara Dimitriou for their wonderful performances - thank you.

Themis Ioakimidis for bringing the awesome guitar & a great attitude & he's always loads of fun - thanks Themis.

Foti Lambis & Savvas Jordanou - legendary drummers - thanks guys, we love you!

Chris Theocharidis - drummer & percussionist extraordinaire! Thanks Chris!

Meraki TV crew & a special shout out to Joanna Poullos - thank you for your love & support.

Christopher Samartzis for the awesome tenor sax, photos & video production. Thanks a million Chris!

Six Pack - our agents for all your hard work behind the scenes- huge thanks.

John Tikis - a Greek pop icon, thank you for your love & support and 22 years of fun!

All the venues & sound & lighting crews - thank you for your support & hard work.

To the fine folks in Newcastle & Grenfell - love being with you guys, you're awesome!

That's a lot of people, hope we haven't missed anyone in this list! Seriously we are truly grateful for having these wonderful people in our lives.





# DOING THE GREEK THING!

