

## Michalis Kouloumis - VIOLINIST AND COMPOSER

Michalis Kouloumis was born into a musical family in Cyprus, which instilled in him a profound sensitivity to music from an early age. Initially trained in European classical violin, his artistic pursuits naturally extended to the exploration of the rich musical traditions of the Eastern Mediterranean and beyond.

He pursued formal studies in Greek traditional music at the Philippos Nakas Conservatory in Athens, where he earned his diploma with distinction under the mentorship of violinist Yorgos Marinakis. In parallel with his musical education, he completed undergraduate studies in Physics at the University of Athens. In 2013, he obtained a Master of Arts in Violin Performance -with a specialization in Taksim in Ottoman Classical music- from CodArts, University for the Arts (Netherlands), where he distinguished himself as the first alumnus to be awarded the "10/10 Excellence in Performance" prize.

Kouloumis further enriched his musical development by participating in workshops led by esteemed artists such as Kudsi Ergüner, Ömer Erdoğdular, Ross Daly, Nedim Nalbantoğlu, Baki Kemancı, Harris Lambrakis, Efren Lopez, and Murat Aydemir.

As a performer, Michalis Kouloumis has collaborated

with world-renowned artists, including Ross Daly, Jordi Savall, Kudsi Ergüner, Nana Mouskouri, Gabriel Yared, Sokratis Sinopoulos, Efren Lopez, Ghada Shbeir, Zohar Fresco, Hrachya Avanesyan, among many others.

He has appeared at some of the world's most prestigious venues and festivals, including: Royal Albert Hall (London, UK), Concertgebouw (Brugge, BE), Union Chapel (London, UK), King's Place (London, UK), Onassis Cultural Centre (Athens, GR), Palace of Arts (Budapest, HU), Katara Festival (Doha, QA), WOMAD (UK), Mawazine Festival (Rabat, MAR), Sharq Taronalari Festival (Samarkand, UZB), Bimhuis (Amsterdam, NL), Muziekpublique (Brussels, BE), Festival Abbaye de Fontfroide (FR), Sydney Festival (AU), WOMEX Showcase (Las Palmas, ES).

Between 2013 and 2023, Kouloumis was a faculty member at Codarts, University for the Arts where he taught courses on Ottoman Classical Music, Greek Traditional Music and Makam Improvisation.

His personal discography comprises of: SOIL (2014), EPHEMERA (2017), MUSIC FOR SHEPHERDS AND SULTANS (2023), DISPLACED DREAMS (2025), THE MUSIC OF CYPRUS (2025).

Beyond his musical career, Michalis Kouloumis is also a dedicated runner, actively competing in medium and long-distance races.

## MICHALIS KOULOUMIS **Displaced Dreams**

Displaced Dreams part I 06:36

Displaced Dreams part II 07:43

Agony 03:12

Islands of hope 05:03

Dreaming 04:11

On hostile ground 05:14

Escape 02:59

Farewell 04:23

Redemption 05:27

Total time 44:51

Michalis Kouloumis violin, viola | Makis Baklatzis violin | Christos Dalianis violin | Giannis Zarias violin | Sakis Karakostas violin | Manos Skalidakis violin | Fotis Siotas viola | Stefanos Sekeroglou viola | Vassilis Lemonias cello | Despina Spanou cello | Michalis Cholevas tarhu | Dine Doneff double bass | Harris Lambrakis ney | Alexandros Papadimitrakis oud | Maria Ploumi cretan lute | Stratis Psaradelis bağlama | Martha Mavroidi bağlama | Maria Melahrinou bağlama | Vaggelis Karipis frame drum | Ruven Ruppik cajon, snare drum, udu, cymbals | Tasos Poulios kanun | Petros Kouloumis lute



## **CREDITS**

MUSICIANS ON 1, 2:

Michalis Kouloumis violin Makis Baklatzis violin Christos Dalianis violin Giannis Zarias violin Sakis Karakostas violin Manos Skalidakis violin Fotis Siotas viola Stefanos Sekeroglou viola Vassilis Lemonias cello **Despina Spanou** cello Michalis Cholevas tarhu **Dine Doneff** double bass Harris Lambrakis nev Alexandros Papadimitrakis oud Maria Ploumi cretan lute Stratis Psaradelis bağlama Martha Mavroidi bağlama Maria Melahrinou bağlama Vaggelis Karipis frame drum Ruven Ruppik cajon, snare drum, udu, cymbals

MUSICIANS ON 3:

Dine Doneff double bass Michalis Kouloumis violin **MUSICIANS ON 4:** 

Alexandros Papadimitrakis oud Michalis Kouloumis violin

MUSICIANS ON 5:

Michalis Kouloumis violin

MUSICIANS ON 6:

Dine Doneff double bass Michalis Kouloumis viola

MUSICIANS ON 7:

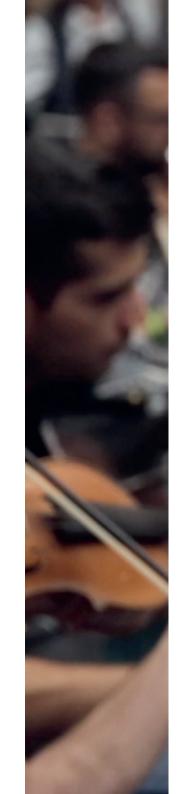
Vaggelis Karipis frame drum Michalis Kouloumis violin

MUSICIANS ON 8:

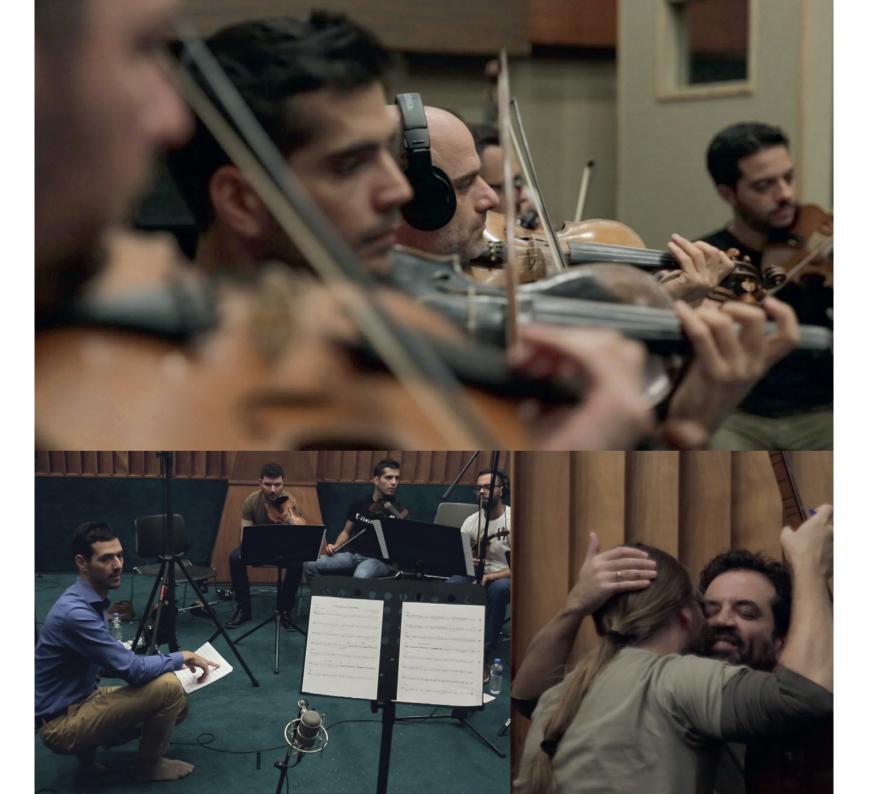
Harris Lambrakis ney
Tasos Poulios kanun
Alexandros Papadimitrakis oud
Dine Doneff double bass
Petros Kouloumis lute
Michalis Kouloumis violin

MUSICIANS ON 9:

Michalis Kouloumis viola









\_\_\_\_\_

Recorded live on October 21/22, 2019 at Sierra Studios, Athens except tracks 1 and 2 (recorded on October 20/21, 2017 at Finos Film Studios, Athens) by Giannis Baxevanis

Mixed on December 10, 2019 at Sierra Studios, Athens by Giannis Baxevanis

Mastered at CS Mastering Studios, Vienna by Christoph Stickel

Produced by Seyir Muzik

Photos: Stelios Katsatsidis, Nefeli Papaioannou

Design: Eleni Lomvardou

Contributors/Sponsors: Konstantinos Fereos, Andreas Petrakis, Anthony Laurijsen, Estelle Falcy, Stepan Soultanian, Anna Gregoriou, Katerina Fotinaki, Michael Machin, Elena Hadjiafxendi, Alexandros Kapsokavadis, Alexandros Papadimitrakis, Nikolaos Baimpas, Sorin Horlea, Michiel van der Meulen, Eleni Christodoulou, Alexis Dimitriades, Maria Hadjimichael, Chryso Charalambous, Vassilis Philippou.

I would like to sincerely thank my students and colleagues at Codarts University in the Netherlands for their willingness to try out my ideas, my dear friend Tristan Driessens who insisted on and believed in bringing this album to the world and last but not least my wife Eleni Koki for her unconditional support and love.