

## Biography

Yiannis Giagourtas was born in 1981 in Alexandroupolis, Greece. He completed his music studies in Greece at the Athenaeum Conservatory “Maria Kallas” under the tutelage of Evangelos Assimakopoulos. He achieved the Soloist Diploma with the highest honours, unanimously granted with the 1<sup>st</sup> Award and the Conservatory’s Gold Medal for his outstanding performance. In parallel with his music studies, Yiannis gained a degree in Accounting and Finance from the University of Macedonia.

Yiannis continued his musical education with Oscar Ghiglia for three years. In 2008 he was accepted with a scholarship into Ghiglia’s class in the prestigious Academia Chigiana in Siena, Italy. Between 2009-10, Yiannis completed a Master’s Degree in Performance in the class of John Feeley at the DIT College of Music and Drama in Dublin, where he graduated with First Class Honours. In 2011 Yiannis enrolled in the Royal Conservatory of The Hague for a second Master’s degree, studying with Zoran Dukic and he completed it with the highest honors between the alumni of his academic school year.

Yiannis has taken part in master classes with Roland Dyens, David Russell, Vladimir Mikulka, Gary Ryan, Carlo Marchione, Nikita Koshkin, Ricardo Gallen, Andrew York, Martha Masters, Alexander Swete and Sir Richard Rodney Bennett. He studied Baroque music interpretation with Dimitri Ioannou and Panagioti Adam.

Yiannis regularly performs both solo and chamber music recitals and gives master classes and lectures throughout Europe. His most recent Tour dates have taken him to Germany, Netherlands, Italy, Serbia, Cyprus, Republic of Ireland, Austria and Greece. He has performed as a soloist with the Orchestra of the Public Conservatory of Thessaloniki.

In 2002 he was awarded with the First Prize in the National Competition of Veroia, dedicated to Dimitri Fampas. In 2010, he won First Prize in the International Music Competition of the Faculty of Applied Arts in Dublin, a competition open to all instrumentalists. During the same year, Yiannis was a finalist in the International Guitar Competition in Berlin and in the Second World Guitar Competition in Novi Sad, Serbia.

In 2008 Yiannis was invited to record a documentary film about the life and work of the Greek guitar maker Pavlos Gypas which was broadcast on national television in Greece. With the Gitaarsalon in Enkhuizen, Netherlands, Yiannis made a recording for the Dutch classical music TV channel BravaNL. Yiannis worked closely with the well-known Greek composer Nikos Mamangakis on a project transcribing and recording some of his guitar works. In 2012, the prolific Greek composer and President of the Greek composer’s union, Theodore

Antoniou, composed his second concerto for guitar and string quartet especially for Yiannis. The world premiere was held with Yiannis as a soloist at the chamber music festival organized by the Royal Conservatory of the Hague in 2013. In 2015 Yiannis started his collaboration with the Dutch composer Marco de Goeij and he made the world premiere of his first solo guitar work 'Sonata' in April of 2017, in Bodegraven in The Netherlands.

Yiannis released his debut solo album Guitar Echoes in November 2015 with music from Albeniz, Paganini, Rodrigo, Theodorakis, Regondi, Tarrega, Granados and Satie. The album is air played by major classical music radio stations in USA, Canada and The Netherlands. The distribution is by Phoenix Classical. In Oct. 2017, Yiannis started his collaboration with the Dutch trumpet player Theo Hartman and they formed the 'Duo Beyond Limits'. The goal of the new duo is to play music from different styles and epochs for this unusual combination of musical instruments. The premiere of Duo Beyond Limits was in The Hague in Dec. of 2017 and already composers from all over the world offered to write new works for their duo.

Yiannis is based in The Hague and he teaches classical guitar at the Bilingual Montessori School Casa, the Virtuosi School of Music, the Grace Music International and privately.

He is sponsored by Savarez.

## About Yiannis

"...possessing not only the extraordinary way of interpretation and technique which can be achieved through exceptional work and dedication, Yiannis Giagourtas has ethos. Only the great artists can have such an ethos. I am certain that one day he will have a great future in music..."

- Evangelos Assimakopoulos

"Yiannis Giagourtas is sensational. Just a marvellous performer."

- Sir Richard Rodney Bennett