

## **AggelikiToubanaki**

*PhD, Vocalist, vocal educator, performer, producer, sound experimentalist*

[aggelikitoubanaki.com](http://aggelikitoubanaki.com)

Aggeliki Toubanaki considers the human voice to be the most expressive and the richest in terms of musical nuances instrument. Using voice, she improvises, she experiments, she expresses herself and communicates, having a strong belief in artistic expression that lies beyond musical borders and social norms.

Alongside her musical studies she completed a long cycle of scientific research – she has been awarded a PhD (Distinction) in Cellular Biology by the Medical School of the University of Athens. The deeper relationship between science and art is what she considers to be her basic pillar of inspiration and expression, and hence semantically an experientially explores the potentials of the human voice through improvisation, through artistic expression and through the interdisciplinary route.

### **STUDIES**

Aggeliki has attended Jazz Master Classes (Improvisation, Free Improvisation) with Bob Stoloff, JD Walter, Jay Clayton, Rene Marie, Sheila Cooper, Deborah Carter. She was attended "Vocal Circles" with Bobby McFerrin, and his team (Omega Institute, NY). She has studied at the Jazz department of Athenaeum Conservatory with Sylvio Syro. She has taught Voice Technique (SLS) by Sophia Noiti. She has completed the 3rd level in Integrated Voice Therapy with the speech therapist - special voice therapist Elpida Koutsoubaki. She she has studied Byzantine Music at the Ecclesiastical Foundation of Byzantine and Traditional Music of the Holy Archdiocese of Athens. Finally, she has attended Seminars, she has studied Indian classical singing with Uday Bhawalkar, Persian classical singing with Mama Khadem, Rhythmology with the dancer Francisco Jose Soares Barrera, and Flamenco song with Vincente Gelo, Classical Ottoman singing with Ahmet Erdogular, Epirus polyphonic song at the Museum of popular instruments, and Bulgarian singing with TzvetankaVarimezova, at the Ross Daly's musical workshop "Labyrinth".

### **«TOUBANAKI MUSIC PROJECTS»**

Starting from her training in jazz music and the research and collection of traditional sounds, rhythms, musical idioms and phonemes, she creates unique orchestrations alongside her distinct singing style. Since 2005 she has been the **creator, producer and lead vocalist** of various music projects, specializing mainly in Contemporary Vocal Jazz and World Jazz music («Toubanaki & the Buzz Bastardz», «Jazz Plus», «On the edge: Aggeliki Toubanaki ft Maria-Christina & The 7 Pedals», «Ulalum», «Syndesis», «Crossovers») – that have been successfully presented both in Greece and abroad.



She has presented her projects:

**in Festivals:** Athens & Epidaurus Festival, Tinos Jazz Festival, Athens Jazz FX Festival, 4th Summer Festival of Guitar Music Academy Arion, Academy classical guitar Arion, Jazz + Praxis (2014), Fougaro Jazz Festival, Frank Zappa Festival, Athens World Music Festival, Art Resistance, International Festival of Patras, Festival Theatre 'Vrachos'-Melina Mercouri, Polyphonic Song Festival,

**in Concert Venues:** Odeon of Herodes Atticus (Irodition), Stavros Niarchos Foundation, Michael Cacoyannis Foundation, *Megaron* - The *Athens* Concert Hall, Technopolis, Gazarte, Mikro Pallas, Ianos, Passport, Bios, Kitaro-Live club, Stavros tou Notou Club, Half Note, Gialino Music Theater,

**abroad:** New York, Massachusetts, London, Amsterdam, Tel Aviv, Oxford, Reading, Newcastle, Bassano del Grappa

## RESEARCH

In 2006 she started her research on **"extended vocal techniques"**, studying traditional vocalisms and contemporary vocal improvisation, and her experimentation with looping.

Since 2014, she has been experimenting with orchestration based on the mixing of natural and electronic sound and has been creating the innovative music project [«Drums Voice Jazztronica Duet»](#) with the drummer Ilias Doumanis. Their need to explore and test the limits of their instruments' sound and their desire to compose a polymorphic sonic environment using electronic media and programs have been the driving forces of their artistic coexistence.

Since 2016, she has been a member of the [Interdisciplinary Team "Voice Mentoring"](#), planning treatment and rehabilitation of patients with voice disorders.

## TEACHING

She teaches **"Vocal Technique"**, **"Jazz Improvisation"** and **"Theory of Music"** at the 'Philippos Nakas Conservatory'.

She teaches actors. She undertakes the **"Vocal preparation"** and **"Music education"** of performers/actors in theatrical productions.

Since 2017 she has been collaborating with director-researcher and acting coach Sotiris Karamessinis, teaching ["MUSA"](#) (**Musical System of Acting**) – a holistic method of vocal education, actor's preparation and role synthesis.



She is a member of the education team of **“Artventure Camp”**– an alternative artistic camp, created by the multipercussionist, composer and percussion professor Petros Kourtis. Artventure Camp was honored with the 2019 & 2020 Gold Tourism Award in the category of experiential tourism.



She also conducts seminars such as **“The multidimensional role of Voice”** and **“Vocal Improvisation”**. Often, she invites world famous vocalists (Christiane Karam, Jay Clayton etc.), to conduct seminars and events which focus on the mechanism of voice.

She directs **“Vocal Circles”** (Circle Singing), according to the technique of Bobby McFerrin, Rhiannon and Bob Stollof, which she was taught in New York (2015), and uses these with the aim of promoting music education and human communication.

### **ACTIONS**

She participates in the musical actions organised by the **Second Chance School** in the Thebes Women’s Prisons, in collaboration with the Support Network for Women prisoners.

In addition, she is the lead educator and choir director of the humanitarian initiative **“KALESMA project”**, in cooperation with the world-renowned musician/composer Vasilis Kostas. The aim of the initiative is to improve everyday life for the children of **“I Kivotos tou Kosmou”** by offering the children of the Kivotos in Athens a permanent music-educational program of a high standard, as well as scholarships for further **Music studies in the United States of America**.



## COLLABORATIONS

- **Costas Baltazanis**, jazz guitarist, composer (Half Note jazz club, 02/2020)
- **Giorgos Kontrafouris**, Jazz pianist (11<sup>o</sup> Panhellenic Conference “Biosciences in 21<sup>st</sup> Century”, 2018)
- **Nicolas Anadolis**, Jazz pianist \_ «8th Jazz on Tinos»
- **Christiane Karam**, singer and songwriter, head of the Ethnic music department at the University of Berklee College of Music, co-leader at the Vocal Circle of performer Bobby Mc Ferrin, creator of the award-winning ZilZALA Ensemble (New York 2015, Zografou Festival, 2016)
- **Alekos Orfanos**, Jazz pianist «Oh no Frank Zappa» project (tribute at F. Zappa in Half Note Jazz Club 2014, Jazz Festival “Jazz & Praxis 2014”)
- **Maria Christina & the 7 pedals**, avant garde electric harpist, experimental duet "Harp & Voice"
- **Onur Il**, percussionist (Descarga project, Αθήνα, 2013)
- **Panagiotis Kalatzopoulos**, **I orchestra tou Dromou** ft Aggeliki Toubanaki (2013)
- **Cameron Brown**, Jazz bass player \_Bassano del Grappa, Ιταλία, 2010)
- **Groups**: Sam Roma (Roma music 2017-2018, Anthypnic Flow (ambient soundscapes, 2010), Mare Yiem (ethnic music, 2008) , Sanades (9-member polyphonic group, 2007)

## PARTICIPATIONS IN MUSICAL THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES

- Theatrical performance “The awakening of memory”, Athens and Epidauros Festival, 2017 (vocal preparation and musical teaching of the actors, participation in the performance)
- Theatrical performance “From Crete to Smyrna, From Yesterday to the Present”, a co-production of “Megaron – The Athens Concert Hall” and the group “Playing Ecologically & Interculturally”.
- Jazz musical by the composer and jazz pianist George Anamateros, «Μία βεβαιότης φώλιασε στην καρδιά της φωτισμένης τυράννου» [“Mia vevaiotis foliasse stin kardia tis fotismenis tyrannou”].
- Music-theatre performance in Yiannis Kostaris’ «Passport project», directed by Valentini Siova, in Zp87, 2015.



Christiane Karam, Zografou Festival, 2016)



Costas Baltazanis, (Half Note jazz club, 02/2020)



## DISCOGRAPHY

### **Debut album\_ “Aggeliki Toubanaki & the Buzz Bastardz”**

In 2008, Aggeliki creates *an explosive* group with six virtuoso musicians of Greek traditional and jazz music. In 2015, the band releases its first album, with the name “Toubanaki & The Buzz Bastardz”, which includes inventive adaptations and original compositions (seven songs by Vasilis Ketentzoglou, an instrumental piece by Pantelis Stoikos and a composition with percussions and voices by Yannis Angelopoulos and Kostas Meretakis). The recording took place in Athens and the mixing in New York. Without a doubt it is one of the most unique and multi-cultural musical proposals of the World Jazz Scene in Greece. In March 2016, the album was re-issued.



### **PARTICIPATIONS**

- 2019, «*Νόνη το περήφανο παγώνι*» [Noni, to periphano pagoni], Album “*Το Νησί της Φαντασίας*” [To nisi tis fantasias] (Panik Records)
- 2019, «*Δυο παράξενα παιδιά*», «*Το Ταξίδι Μας Αρχίζει*», *Voice improvisation in «Ναι Χορεύω! Ναι Τραγουδάω!»* [Ne xorevo, nai tragoudao], Album: “*Το χάρτινο αερόστατο*” [To chartino aerostato], MLK / CD
- 2017, Vocal improvisation, Album “*Parenthesis*” by percussionist and composer Giannis Papagiannoulis (Define Productions)
- 2017, «*Borders of Paradise*», Album: *Stratman – Borders of Paradise*” (Ankh Productions /Ankh Music & Entertainment/ Stratman)
- 2017, 2019 «*Το σπίτι*» [To spiti], Album “*Κάτι από σένα*” [Kati apo sena], (Μετρονόμος)
- 2017, «*Ταξίδι μ’ απαγορευτικό*» [Taxidi m’ apagoreftiko], Album “*Πάραλος*” [Paralos] (Ζεύξης Music)
- 2016-15, «*Παντέρμη*» [Pantermi], Aggeliki Toubanaki & Maria Christina Harper, Collection “*Ξαναδιαβάζοντας τον Μίκη Θεοδωράκη*” [Xanadiavazontas ton Miki Theodorakis], [www.musicmirror.gr](http://www.musicmirror.gr).
- 2015, «*Οι ψυχές* [I psiches], Album “*Μίλα μου σαν παραμύθι*” (Final Touch/Cobalt)
- 2012, «*Αφήνω εσένα να τα πεις*» [Aphino esena na pis], Album “*ΦΥΓΟΚΕΝΤΡΟΣ*” [Fygokentros], (Μετρονόμος)

## **PROJECTS & LINKS**

### **1. Crossovers (World Jazz music)**

The “Crossovers” is a collective of folk and jazz virtuosi amalgamating heterogeneous sounds and melodies with innovative compositions into an explosive performance. Aggeliki and her collaborators join their diverse musical experience, aesthetic and inner passion for music into a concerted interaction and invite us to an everchanging musical play. The “Crossovers” has toured Greece and abroad, making new friends and collaborating with renowned international artists extending its reach and gaining applause.

### **2. Drums & Voice Jazztronica duet (Nu Jazz)**

In 2014, Aggeliki Toubanaki and the drummer Ilias Doumanis create the “Drums & Voice Jazztronics Duet”. The two musicians compose a polymorphic sonic universe using electronic media and programs. Their aim is to seek the limits of their instruments’ sound. [Drums & Voice Jazztronica Duet ft Soloup \(Benaki Museum, 23.1.2019\)](#)

### **3. Toubanaki& the Buzz Bastardz (World Jazz music)**

In 2008, Aggeliki creates an explosive group with six virtuoso musicians of Greek traditional and jazz music. In 2015, the band releases its first record, with the name "Toubanaki & The Buzz Bastardz ". The recording took place in Athens and the mixing in New York. Without a doubt it is one of the most unique and multi-cultural musical proposals of the World Jazz Scene in Greece. In 2015, after seven years of experimentation and playing music together, the band releases its first record, “Toubanaki & The Buzz Bastardz”. The album is recorded in Athens and mixed in New York. It received excellent reviews and was rated as “One of the Best Greek Records of the Year”. [Toubanaki & the Buzz Bastardz – ERT \(SummERTime Festival\)](#)

### **4. Ulaloum (Electronic Jazz Rock)**

A hybrid show; the speech of poets and songwriters open a dialogue with the modern music form. Melodies, strange sounds, effects are transformed into light, colors, shadows. Word-concepts acquire a special sonic vibration in a multidimensional electronic music universe.

### **5. “Jazz Plus” project (Contemporary Vocal Jazz)**

A purely jazz band. Its repertoire covers the modern Vocal Jazz scene and is based not only on spontaneous, real time reconstruction of rhythm, harmony and form, but also on the vocal jazz and extended vocal improvisation. Aggeliki Toubanaki created the “Jazz Plus” Project in 2010 along with two distinguished Greek musicians, Grigoris Danis (guitar) and Kostas Konstantinou (contrabass).



[aggelikitoubanaki.com](http://aggelikitoubanaki.com)

[Toubanaki YouTube Channel](#)

[Facebook Page/ToubanakiMusicProjects](#)

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## [Press Reviews](#)

“Have you ever seen a singer whose entire body (arms, shoulders, fingers), facial expressions, breathing, coordinate and "dance" the words? Musician, creator, vocal performer, (Aggeliki Toubanaki) is the definition of a vibrant chord when she sings on stage...» [Charis Pontida – Tospirto.net](#)



«The power of music tames Aggeliki to such an extent and this renders her untamable in any form of it. The way in which she brings world music together and makes it an integral part of her, conveys the freedom of joy to the audience, communicating a spiritual ritual», **Dionysis Christopoulos-** [musicity.gr](#)

«Aggeliki seems to be in communion with the most primitive of our strains, bringing to the surface this locus that we miss even though we have never been there. She has that “supernatural” ability», **Kiki Moustakidou -** [Parallaximag.gr](#)

«Aggeliki Toubanaki did, does, and will do everything it takes to make her relationship with music evolve. (...) A fastidious singer who directs herself and carries out innumerable musical projects, who participates in other composers’ repertoires, who lives life anticipating every minute of joy that the stage and her relationship with music can offer», **Yiannis Panagopoulos,** [FRAGILE.](#)

«She improvises, experiments, sings with her body and soul, touches the audience with the different musical traditions which she explores. (...) Creator, producer, vocalist, and performer; unique, open hearted and restless», [GiotaSykka, Kathimerini](#)

«Aggeliki Toubanaki is a not only highly gifted and idiosyncratic, but also a fastidious and multi-tasking performer. «Aggeliki Toubanaki & The Buzz Bastardz» is a delightfully multi-collective album, which starts from the traditional music not only of our country, but of many other regions of the world and comes up with a perfectly contemporary and exciting result. This in itself qualifies her art to be nominated as some of the best work of the year! **Thanos Mantzanas, Avgi**

«A musical multi-instrument that conquered us. Impressive, emotional, passionate, fastidious, versatile, a music elf, this is Aggeliki Toubanaki», **Kulturosupa.gr**

«Those who, indeed, attended the concert given to the "Michael Cacoyannis Foundation" last July confirmed; the children's choir was equally professional», [Vasilis Kostas and Aggeliki Toubanaki present the **initiative Kalesma Project** and the participation of the children of Kivotos in the summer program [Vocal Summit of Berklee College of Music in Boston](#)], [Ioanna Fotiadis, Kathimerini](#)