

# George Koufogiannakis

## Generations – Greek Oud Jazz

Nominated for **"World Solo Artist of the Year"**  
at the 2009 Canadian Folk Music Awards  
and **"Jazz Album of the Year"**  
at the 2010 Independent Music Awards

George Koufogiannakis – *oud, guitar, bouzouki*  
Dan Skakun - *drums*  
Thom Golub – *acoustic bass*

with special guests:

Charlie Austin (retired Head of Keyboard Studies;  
GMacUniv.) – *piano and organ*  
Jeremiah McDade (JUNO & Canadian Folk Music Award  
winning saxophonist) – *saxophones and violin*  
Terry McDade – *harp & co-prod.* / Joel Gray – *trumpet*  
Jessica Rogers – *flute* / Kevin Parkinson – *hand perc.*  
The Cosmopolitan Music Society *Monday Night Band*

### • ABOUT THIS RECORDING •

Canadian jazz guitarist, George Koufogiannakis, has been performing, producing, and touring across Canada for more than 20 years and has appeared on dozens of recordings. His latest release as a leader, "Generations – Greek Oud Jazz", combines Modern Jazz and Traditional Greek Music from and inspired by the Island of Crete. George states, 'I wanted to try and explore some of that wonderful Greek spirit and intensity in the songs and influence of my family, with an emphasis on creative improvisation and harmonically taking the music where possibly it has not yet traveled. It was such a pleasure working with these amazing musicians who took these open structures and driving rhythms and playfully, with a wonderful sense of form and interaction, allowed these pieces to organically flow and evolve through this recording.'

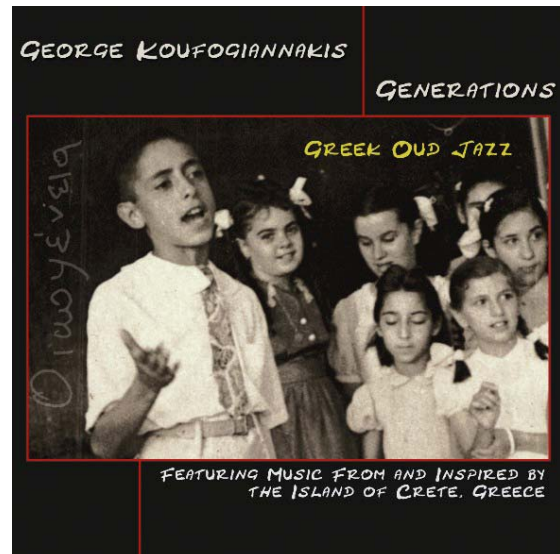
"...The keyword is good taste without compromise. George K is not merely juxtaposing traditional and modern themes and rhythms, his arrangements rise beyond a colorful kaleidoscope of eclectic sonorities to achieve inclusiveness, a new compositional structure that merges together the essence of Greek dances and the spontaneity of jazz orchestrations. There is a flavor of infused Eastern musical spirituality flowing, which gives the music a distinctive dimension." – JazzWorldQuest.com

### • BIOGRAPHY •

As a youth, George showed promise early-on in school, performing with All-City School Bands in Edmonton and winning Most Outstanding Jazz Soloist in the 1986 National Festival.

"Generations – Greek Oud Jazz" is available online at iTunes and cdbaby.com

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He continued his music studies at Grant MacEwan and St. Francis Xavier University where he performed extensively with the university bands and also led his own quartet, recording for CBC radio.

He has now performed across Canada in every situation from Blues, Folk, Country, Latin, and Ukrainian Polka, to Traditional Big Band and Experimental Free Jazz, including a guest appearance on "The Goodspeed Staples Quartet – Eastern Passage" CD, which won "Best Jazz Recording" honours at the 1996 East Coast Music Awards, and also releases from "The Craft", "The Big Breakfast Boogie Band", and Canadian Idol finalist, Tyler Hamilton. In 2001 he composed and produced the music for a television comedy special which aired on the Comedy Network, and in 2007 one of George's original compositions from his previous CD release, "Explorations in Improvised Music", won the honour of appearing on the "Dig Your Roots – Creative Jazz" cross-Canada compilation CD project.

George has recently returned to Canada after some time abroad in the United Kingdom, where he completed his Masters of Music Degree in Jazz Performance from Leeds College of Music, University of Leeds. He has now settled back in the Edmonton area where he continues to teach, act as clinician, produce, and perform with his own projects and as a freelance guitarist with such notable ensembles as the Edmonton Creative Musicians' Collective (ECMC) and the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra.