

## **GEORGE BUTRUM LIS Biography / Music CV**

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George Butrumlis has played the Piano Accordion since the age of six. He was an original member of Jo Camilleri's Black Sorrows and his accordion is featured on the first five Black Sorrows albums.

George's band, Zydeco Jump, has been a feature on the Australian music scene for over 20 years and has appeared at most major Australian music festivals including Port Fairy Folk Festival, Byron Bay Blues, Melbourne International Festival, Festival of Perth, Adelaide Festival, Sydney Biennale, Brunswick Music Festival and Wangarratta Jazz Festival. Zydeco Jump played at Live En Aout and the Giant Omelette Festival in Noumea. In 2004, Zydeco Jump travelled to China with Paul Petran of ABC Radio National's Music Deli programme for a highly successful series of concerts.

George has worked and recorded with a diverse group of artists such as Robyn Archer, Cesary Skubiscewski (most recently playing on the soundtrack of "Red Dog" and "Monsieur Mayonnaise"), Jeannie Lewis, Paul Grabowsky, Kristina Olsen, Men At Work, Jane Clifton, Ross Wilson, Archie Roach, Ted Egan, The Backsliders, The Three Tenors, Melbourne Symphony (also with Luciano Pavarotti) and the sadly departed musician extraordinaire Ross Hannaford.

George has also specialised in the music of the Tango having been a member of Doug De Vries' New Tango Quintet and continued playing tango with musicians such as Jex Saarelaht, Phillip Rex, Anita Hustas, Dan Bourke and David Osborne whose group The Raga Dolls Salon Orchestra also features George's playing. During 2005 George was also a featured artist at the National Gallery of Victoria during the Impressionist exhibition and the Dutch Masters.

Early in 2007, George formed SANFONA, a trio dedicated to performing the music of Brazil including choro, forro, bossa nova, music of possibly Brazil's greatest accordionist, Sivuca, and the enchanting piano works of Ernesto Nazareth.

In 2008, George performed with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra in their series of Metropolis concerts playing in the Australian premier of 'Correspondances' by Henri Dutilleux, and in 2009 again with the MSO under the direction of Matthais Pintscher.

Since 2009 George has performed regularly with Robyn Archer at the Adelaide Cabaret Festival, the Gala Dinner for the opening of the Canberra Centenary Celebrations, the Noosa Long Weekend Festival and the 30th anniversary of the Hong Kong Academy for the Performing Arts.

George recently performed in Auckland for the Auckland Live festival performing with Cameron Goodall and Enio Pozzebon in "The Sound of Falling Stars", devised, written and directed by Robyn Archer.

Over the past few years George has begun exploring his Greek heritage learning and performing a wide range of Greek music. He recently performed at the Melbourne Recital Centre as part of the Music Deli Goes Greek concert.

In the early 2000's George facilitated the Community Music Programme at Ozanam Community Centre in North Melbourne. He has recently served a three-year term as a member of the Music Board of the Australia Council for the Arts and has taught the accordion at VCASS and AIM.

In 2015 George travelled to Austria again and performed a number of sold out Zydeco

concerts in Vienna and toured with Otto Lechner's "Wiener Zieharmonika" Accordion Orchestra performing in Switzerland in Altdorf for the Alpentone Festival and in Zurich for the Zurich Spektakel.

For the last 3 years George has performed with renowned Australian/New Zealand musician and songwriter Mike Rudd of Spectrum fame in a trio including outstanding bassist, Jeremy Alsop.

George has performed as solo accordionist at Shannon Bennett's award-winning restaurant, Bistro Vue, in central Melbourne from its opening in 2006 until its closure in October 2017.

In March 2019 George performed for the Adelaide Festival in Picaresque, Robyn Archer's latest production featuring pop-up cardboard maquettes of significant buildings from all over the world in a virtual busking travelogue. George mostly played the accordion and sang but he also played the Bouzouki and sang in Greek for the first time.

George is the musical director of the Melbourne Accordion Orchestra in a voluntary capacity. The Melbourne Accordion Orchestra is a registered not for profit organisation.