



1. Full biography

Charis Tsalpara was born in Athens. She starts Introductory Music Courses in kindergarden, and continues at Philippos Nakas Conservatory after encouragement of her teacher. She starts attending piano performance at the age of 7 at the conservatory "Odeion Athinwn" class of John Mihailides, as well as music Theory, solfege and dictee which finishes with Kiriakos Tsolakis. In 2004 she succeeds among the first ten and starts her studies in the Department of Music Studies, University of Athens. During 2005, she continues attending piano performance at Orfeio Conservatory Athens, class of J.Mihailides. At the same time she completes her studies in Instrumentation, History of music, Chorus, Morphology, Chamber music, History of Art and Practical Teaching. The same year, she attends a full year seminar on music therapy by the Nordoff- Robbins music therapist Maria Froudaki and when she finishes, she works as a volunteer along with musictherapy team at the Patriotic Institute of Social Welfare and Awareness for one year. In 2008 she receives her degree in Harmony, from the Hellenic Conservatory, class of E. Tzerahi and continues her studies in advanced Theory. Two years later, in 2010, receives her degree in Counterpoint. During the same year, she graduates from the Department of Music Studies and a year later, (2011) she receives her Diploma in Piano Performance from Orfeio Conservatory Athens, class of J.Mihailides. During her undergraduate studies, she attended among other classes Community Music Seminar with dr. Christina Anagnostopoulou and worked for one year as a volunteer with team at the daycare service "Iliotropio", for adults with Pervasive Developmental Disorders (Autism), Schizophrenia and other mental disorders. She speaks English fluently (Certificate of Proficiency in English in 2001). She got involved with greek popular and traditional music for the first time in 2005. Since 2007 she studies in depth vocal interpretation of the best popular singers of the first decades of the 20th century such as Roza Eskenazy, Rita Abatzi and others, while she starts discovering the chaos of eastern Mediterranean music world. She started playing accordion in 2013, which gave her the chance to see the piano keyboard in a completely new way. She has worked as a musician and singer in several food and drink establishments with many different bands and faces of greek and generally eastern mediterranean traditional and folk music.

Music groups:

- Hipsi 78rpm
- Mussiki Avli - Smyrne (Athenaeum Kelari 2012-2013)
- Smyrna (2014)
- Loukoum Trio" (2015)
- Mpam (2015-today)
- Banda Jovanica (2015-today)
- Romvia (2013-today)



Performances:

- "Marika" (2015)
- "Nous sommes pareils à ces crapauds" (2016- Cie Les Mains Les Pieds et La Tête Aussl Company)
- "Oi Kores" (2017, with Bijoux de Kant company, for Greek Festival Org 2017)
- "Bolivar" (2018, with Bijoux de Kant)
- "Zoi ein' afti zoitsa mou" (2018, with Bijoux de Kant theatre company)

Seminars:

- "Accordion: Balancing between east and west" (Ikaria Musical Yards 2018)
- "Retro Singing"(Music Stories, 2017, cooperating with Rena Strouliou)
- "Accordion: Balancing between east and west" (Syros accordion festival 2017)

At the same time and especially since 2011 and until today, she is steadily working as a freelancer singer and musician (baglamas, accordion, piano) in taverns, cafes, bar, restaurants and wherever traditional music is hosted in Greece and especially Athens with many different musicians. This gave her the opportunity to receive evidential experience and knowledge on the field of greek popular and traditional music. Also, since 2013, internally fermenting all these melodies of our music, she started studying and experimenting on the piano, in order to use her favorite instrument as a scale for eastern and western music world . This quest continues until today, and probably will never end...This project, after the name PianOLAterna, is presented every Saturday afternoon in the one and only Ouzeri with a piano inside in Athens, "Ouzeri Lesvos." She has cooperated and still does with many remarkable musicians and artists, while today, she is a member of two music groups, "Μπαμ" along with Theodora Athanassiou and Glafkos Smarianakis, and "Banda Jovanica" along with Klearchos Korkovelos, Giannis Niarchos Glafkos Smarianakis and Lucas Metaxas. At the same time, she 's running her own project "PianOLAterna" and still, also performing in several places along with many great musicians that use Grammophone sound and Eastern Mediterranean traditional music as their common touchstone.



2. Solo project

PianOLaterna



"This project is my attempt to unite two different parts of me that seem almost impossible nowadays to exist together: Traditional Greek and Eastern Mediterranean music and the Piano. I have been studying classical piano for 16 years in conservatories, until I realized that I have to find out how music exists in the real world in places where people meet to eat and drink, alongside with listening to the same old songs for decades. This became the beginning of a long musical journey that will never possibly end. I started working in places like those for many years as a singer and later as singer and musician. PianOLaterna A is the child of these two loves combination. It is also a path that brings me closer to answering the huge "Who am I?" question that worries all of us from our childhood until our death."

Charis Tsalpara

~ * ~

Piano – Vocals

Charis Tsalpara

**Laterna = the Greek word for the barrel organ*



3. Summary

Charis Tsalpara was born in Athens, Greece. She has studied classical piano, classical music Theory, Harmony and Countepoint. She has also a degree from the NKUA, Faculty of Music Studies. She firstly got involved with traditional music and rebetiko in 2007 as a singer, and some years later (2013) started playing accordion. She is a professional musician since 2011, and works with many different projects and people, in taverns, bars, theatres, concerts, and many other events. She is a Banda Iovanica member since 2015.

4. Profile Picture

