

John Bilezikjian

ENTERTAINER • MUSICIAN • SINGER • COMPOSER

John Bilezikjian • Dantz Records • P. O. Box 2434, Laguna Hills, CA. 92654-2434
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Highlights of Qualifications

- Performing for over 51 years
- B.A. in Violin, Oud, Performance and Composition from San Fernando Valley State College (CSUN)
- Repertoire from around the world and able to play many stringed instruments plus an array of authentic instruments from around the world. He sings in many languages.
- He is a solo performer and is leader of his own Ensemble, Band, & Orchestra.

Professional Experience

Recordings, Television, Motion Pictures, Radio, Concerts, World Tours, Lectures, Clubs & Restaurants.

From out of the dark light of the cabaret and into the spotlight of the concert stage the Oud is very much alive and John Bilezikjian's playing proves that there certainly can be a "Heifetz on the Oud". by Berge H. Kevorkian

John's music needs no translation in the world of American or Middle Eastern audiences. He is a composer, teacher, entertainer, actor, and soloist. He is a soloist with the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His degrees are in music with a specialization on the Oud, Violin, Performance and Composition. In the opinion of many qualified critics from the Los Angeles Times, "He is internationally acclaimed and considered a music dazzler" by Herbert J. Vida.

"his command of rhythm, dynamics, and harmonic color is astounding"

Frets Magazine

The Orange County Register "He's slightly amazing" , "He speaks and performs in at least 11 languages - Turkish, Armenian, Russian, Spanish, Arabic, Persian, French, German, Greek and both Laurence Oliver English and Willie Nelson English".

by John Hall.

"a sworn statement to Bilezikjian's proficiency on the difficult 11 stringed instrument played with a quill".

Billboard Magazine

"is able to push the Oud far beyond it's ancient capabilities, coaxing chords, harmonies, and contrapuntal effects that lend surprising color to his performance".

Stereo Review

He regularly records for television and motion picture sound tracks such as the Academy award winner "Schindler's List" and most recently the sound track for "Accidental Spy". He can be heard on Robert Palmer's "Ridin' High"; Placido Domingo's "De Mi Alma Latina" and Ofra Haza's release "Kirya". John has 25 CD's on the market. Some of his more recent CD releases are "Armenian Connection", "Music of the Armenian Diaspora" and "The Magic of John Bilezikjian". "The Neo Classical Oud" and "The Art of the Oud" are representations of his more classical works.

Awards and Recognitions

- "Creativity and Synthesis in the Music of John Bilezikjian" UCLA Publication/Thesis by Gail Schwartz
"Who's Who" of Professional Artists Composers and Musicians, Copyright London England 1992
"Who's Who" among Armenians in North America 1994
"Most Outstanding Entertainer" Solo Performer 1993 from NAFISA, Gem Awards
"Best Entertainer" Solo Performer 1994 from NAFISA, Gem Awards
"Best Entertainer" "Most Outstanding Group" Soloist & Group Category 1995 NAFISA, Gem Awards

Recordings On Dantz Records

ARMENIAN FOLK SONGS & DANCE ON DANTZ RECORDS

- Tape/CD Music from the Armenian Diaspora—Instrumental Armenian Folk Music
Tape/CD **YERAZ**—To Armenia with Love Selected classical & folk songs featuring Helen & John Bilezikjian
Tape/CD **Dantz Fever**—Armenian and Greek folk dancing
Tape/CD **Armenian Connection**—Selected classical & folk songs featuring Armenian and Greek Folk Music.
CD **Oasis Middle Eastern Ensemble**—Armenian and Greek dance music

BELLY DANCE TAPES ON DANTZ RECORDS

- Tape/CD **The Tapestry of the Dance**—Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Persian and Arabic Belly Dance Music with John & Var Daghdvirian
Tape/CD **The Magic of John Bilezikjian**—Turkish Belly Dance and Arabic classical Music featuring John with Souhael Kaspar
Tape/CD **La Danse Orientale**—Arabic Belly Dance Music featuring John with Aziz Khadra
Tape/CD **Sirocco**—Persian and Turkish Belly Dance Music featuring John with Var Daghdvirian
Tape/CD **Dream of Scheherazade**—Turkish, Arabic and Armenian Belly Dance music with John and Louis Sayegh
Tape/CD **One Thousand and One Nights**—Arabic Belly Dancing and Turkish classical music featuring John with Tony Ayad
Tape/CD **Ecstasy in Belly Dancing Of Veils and Incense**—Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Arabic and Persian Belly Dance Music

CLASSICAL & SEASONAL TAPES ON DANTZ RECORDS

- Tape **America's Oud Virtuoso**—Live in concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theater featuring John with his Orchestra





- Tape **Art of the Oud**—Classical and original instrumental pieces
- Tape **Neo Classical Oud**—Classical and original instrumental pieces
- CD **Moonlight Sonata**—Classical and original instrumental pieces (compilation of Art and Neo tapes)
- Tape/Album **Merry Christmas**—Traditional Christmas music with some original pieces (solo Album)
- Tape **The Best of John Bilezikjian**—Selections from John's recordings.

SEPHARDIC MUSIC ON VARIOUS OTHER LABELS

- Double Tape **Kantigas de Mi Chikes (Songs of my Childhood)**—Music of the Sephardic people Bonita Jaros & John
- Double CD **Bilezikjian**—Double Cassette \$25.00; Double CD \$30.00
- Tape/CD **Silver and Gold (Plata Y Oro)**—Music of the Sephardic Jews sung in Ladino with Judy Frankel and John
- Tape **Canto Antiquo (Music of the Sephardim)**—Music of the Jews who have Turkish, Spanish, Hebrew backgrounds and performed on ancient instruments
- Tape/CD **Sephardic Songs of Love & Hope**—Ladino Romance and Sacred Songs of the Sephardim, with oud and guitar with Judy Frankel & John Bilezikjian

RECORDINGS WITH WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS ON OTHER LABELS

- Tape/CD **Ridin High**—by Robert Palmer, Rock & New Age Music
- Tape/CD **Kirya**—by Ofra Haza
- Tape/CD **De mi Alma Latina**—by Placido Domingo Classical Latin Love Songs
- Tape **Orientale Bouquet**—Harry Saroyan
- CD **Leonard Cohen Live**—Field Commander Cohen, and many other Leonard Cohen albums



Motion Pictures

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|---------------------------|--|
| Dreamworks | "Prince of Egypt" |
| Fox | "Anastasia" |
| Sony | "Mission Impossible" |
| Warner Bros. | "Affair to Remember" |
| Sony | "Schindlers List" |
| Warner Bros. | "Maximum Risk" |
| Tristar | "Executive Decision" |
| Lorimar | "Telefon" |
| Universal | "Postman Always Rings Twice" "Ruby Cairo"/ "Deception" "Bashkaus, Siberia" Documentary |
| A. Egoyan, Canada | "Exotica" |
| Warner Bros. | "French Connection" |
| Village Roadshow Prod. | "Queen of the Damned" |
| Miramax | "Accidental Spy" |
| Universal | "Scorpion King" |
| Armenian Film Found | "Voices From The Lake" Documentary on Armenian Genocide |

Cast Parties

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|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Disney | Aladdin |
| Fox | Anastasia |
| Harliquinn Dinner Theater | Zorba the Greek |
| Mark Taper Forum | Nine Armenians |
| Disney | Hunchback of Notre Dame |

Television

(Too numerous to name dates)

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| 20th Century Fox | "30 Something" |
| Paramount | "Mission Impossible"; "Murder She Wrote"; "Happy Days"; "Mork & Mindy"; "I Spy"; "Ohanian"; "Laverne & Shirley"; "Apples Way", "Wings of Eagles", "Three's Company" |
| Warner Brothers | "The Pirate"; "Cheers"; "St. Elsewhere"; "21 Hours at Munich"; "Bionic Women"; "Hart to Hart"; "Alice"; "Samson & Delilah" Maurice Jarre & Frank Capp |
| NBC | "Princess Daisy" Lalo Schifrin |
| ABC | "Hardy Boys " Stu Phillips |
| Universal Studios | "Voyagers" Elliott Kaplan "Austin City Limits" Leonard Cohen |
| KCET | Greece Documentary Egypt Documentary Russian Presentation, Melissa Totten |

Commercials

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| DHL |
| Isuzu "Trooper" |
| Kit Kat Bar |
| Rice A Roni |
| Rold Gold Pretzels |



Concerts & Stage Performances

- 1997 London, CAIA, Centre for Armenian infor. & Advice "John & Helen Present Music of Armenia"
- 1997 L.A. Philharmonic, Nov. Concert Series - Balalaika Soloist
- 1997 J.P.Getty Museum, Malibu, Closing Ceremonies "International Music"
- 1997 Mark Taper Forum - Nine Armenians Opening Night
- 1997 Mark Taper Forum - Board of Directors for Nine Armenians
- 1997 Skirball Cultural Center - Sephardic Concert Series
- 1996 Tifereth Israel Temple Beverly Hills - Sephardic Concert
- 1996 VJCC Van Nuys Sephardic Concert
- 1996 Mission Hills Ararat Home - President of Armenia
- 1974–1996 L.A. Philharmonic - Romeo & Juliette Ballet (Mandolin soloist)
- 1995 Fasl Taiseer, Debut for Oud & Strings with American String Quartet (Dr. Janice Foy)
- 1989 Romeo & Juliette, L. A. Philharmonic, Hollywood Bowl
- 1989 L. A. Philharmonic, Mahler vs Mozart, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion
- 1988 Debut Vazken Muradian Oud Concerto w/ LA Mandolin Orch., Joel Lish Conductor, Santa Monica
- 1887 Rodrigo Guitar Concerto with LA Mandolin Orch., Joel Lish Conductor, Santa Monica
- 1986 Vivaldi Guitar Concerto on Oud w/ LA Mandolin Orch., Joel Lish Conductor, Santa Monica
- 1980–Present Wilshire Tifereth Temple, Beverly Hills, King Juan Carlos of Spain & Queen Sophia
- 1980–1981 Wilshire Ebell Theater - John Bilezikjian, Triple X Fraternity Concert
- 1978 Sephardic Temple, Mrs. Anwar Sadat
- 1973 Wilshire Ebell Theater - John Bilezikjian, Live in Concert with ensemble

World Tours

- 1979 Leonard Cohen - European Tour, Mama Concerts - Oud, Mandolin
- 1988 Leonard Cohen - European & American Tour - Mama Concerts - Oud, Mandolin
- 1988 Leonard Cohen - Australian Tour - Mama Concerts - Oud, Mandolin



Lectures

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| 1978–1997 | GIT - Guitar Institute - Demonstration on Oud and capabilities - Tom Tedesco Class |
| 1996 | APS - Armenian Professional Society - Lecture on the Origins of Armenian Music - Demonstration |
| 1989 | UCLA - Origins of the Oud & style of John Bilezikjian - Dr. Jihad Racy, Chairman Ethnomusicology |
| 1988 | UCLA - Lecture on Armenian Music & John Bilezikjian - Dr. Hovannisian, Armenian Studies |
| 1988 | USC - Ethnomusicology Dept - Armenian Music & John Bilezikjian - Dr. A. Vardanian |
| 1988 | USC - Sephardic Music Club - The Oud and Sephardic Music |
| 1986 | SFVSC - Music Dept. - Lecture and performance on the Oud |
| 1986 | UCSD - Lecture and performance of Armenian Music on the Oud - Armenian Studies Club |
| 1967 | Grant High School Music Dept. - The Oud and Armenian Music |
| 1974 | Dana Hills High School - Music Dept. - Dr. Wm Priestly |

Radio

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| FM/KCRW – 89.9 | Tom Snobel |
| KPFK – 90.7 | Mario Cassetta |
| KPFK – 90.7 | Roz and Howard Larman |
| FM/KUSC | Bonnie Grice |
| KPCC | Doug Johnson |

Clubs & Restaurants

(Too Many to Mention)

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| 1965 to 1980 | The Seventh Veil, The Cascades, The Fez, Aladdin Rest. Kabob Palace, Apadana, Ararat Rest. Ali Baba |
| 1980 thru 1990 | Greek Village, Grecian Gardens, Athenian, Holiday Inn, Sheraton Hotel, Buena Park Hotel, Beverly Hills Hotel |

