

John Bilezikjian

ENTERTAINER • MUSICIAN • SINGER • COMPOSER
TEACHER • AUTHOR

DANTZ RECORDS

P. O. Box 2434 Laguna Hills, CA. 92654-2434 • Phone & Fax (949) 581-5664
E-Mail: dantzrec@aol.com • Web: www.dantzrecords.com

Highlights and Qualifications

- Performing for over 50 years
- B.A. in Violin, Oud and composition from SFVSC (now CSUN)
- Perform repertoire from around the world and can perform on many traditional western stringed instruments plus many authentic instruments from around the world.
- Sings in several languages
- A solo performer as well as an ensemble player and leader of his own musical group.

Professional Experience

*Recordings, Television, Motion Pictures, Radio, Concerts,
World Tours, Lecturer, Teacher and Performer*

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 has worked with the Los Angeles Philharmonic Orchestra. **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*

The Orange County Register... "He speaks, sings and performs in at least 11 languages, including: Armenian, Turkish, Persian, Arabic, Franco-Arabic, Greek, Assyrian, Hebrew, Ladino, Spanish, French, German, Irish, Yugoslavian, Russian and both Lawrence Olivier English as well as Willie Nelson English". *by John Hall.*

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

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

Stereo Review... "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".

He regularly records for television and motion picture sound tracks. He has recorded music for Robert Palmer, Placido Domingo, Ofra Haza, Leonard Cohen and many more. John is the owner of his own business and has over 20 CD's and cassette recordings to his credit.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

"Creativity and Synthesis in the Music of John Bilezikjian" UCLA Publications/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 & Dances

Music from the Armenian Diaspora—Instrumental Armenian Folk Music

Yeraz To Armenia with Love—Selected Classical & Folk Songs featuring Helen and John
Dantz Fever—Armenian and Greek Folk Dances

Armenian Connection—Selected Armenian and Greek Folk Dance Songs

Oasis—Oasis Middle-Eastern Ensemble-Armenian and Greek Dance Music

BELLY DANCE MUSIC

The Tapestry of the Dance—Greek, Armenian, Turkish, Persian and Arabic Belly Dance Music with John and Var Daghdvirian

The Magic of John Bilezikjian-Turkish Belly Dance and Arabic Classical Music featuring John and Souhail Kaspar

La Danse Orientale—Arabic/Lebanese Belly Dance Music featuring John with Aziz Khadra

Sirocco—Persian and Turkish Belly Dance Music featuring John with Var

Dream of Scheherazade—Instrumental Turkish, Arabic and Middle-Eastern Belly Dancing Music with John and Louis Sayegh

One Thousand and One Nights—Instrumental Arabic Belly Dancing Music with Turkish Classical Music featuring John and Tony Ayad

Ecstasy in Belly Dancing "Of Veils and Incense"—Greek, Armenian, Arabic and Persian Belly Dancing Music

CLASSICAL & SEASONAL MUSIC

America's Oud Virtuoso—Live in concert at the Wilshire Ebell Theatre, Los Angeles featuring

John with his Ensemble Moonlight Sonata—2 prior musical productions, "Art of the Oud" and "Neo-Classical Oud" in one CD of Classical and original selections

Merry Christmas—Traditional Christmas music and original pieces for the Oud (Solo CD)

SEPHARDIC MUSIC

Kantigas de mi Chikes (Songs of my Childhood)—Music of the Sephardic people Bonita Nahoum Jaros and John

Plata y Oro (Silver and Gold) Music of the Sephardic people—Judy Frankel and John Canto Antiquo-(Music of the Sephardim) Music of the Jews who have Turkish, Spanish and Hebrew backgrounds, performed on ancient instruments

Sephardic Songs of Love and Hope—Ladino Romance and Sacred songs of the Sephardim- Judy Frankel

RECORDINGS WITH WELL-KNOWN ARTISTS ON OTHER LABELS

Ridin' High- Robert Palmer, Rock and New Age music

Kirya-Ofra Haza

De mi Alma Latina-Placido Domingo, Classical Latin Love Songs

Oriente Bouquet-Harry Saroyan

Leonard Cohen-Field Commander Cohen, Cohen Live in Concert and other recordings

Record Plant Hollywood Ziggy Marley (Bob Marley) son 2002

MOTION PICTURES AND DOCUMENTARIES

Dreamworks

"Prince of Egypt"

Fox

"Anastasia"

Sony

"Mission Impossible," "Schindlers List"

Warner Bros.

"Affair to Remember," "Maximum Risk,"
 "French Connection," "Must Love Dogs"
 2005 License agreement, "Syriana" (2005)

Tristar

"Executive Decision"

Lorimar

"Telefon"

Universal

"Postman Always Rings Twice," "Ruby Cairo,"
 "Deception," "Bashkaus,"

A.Egoyan,Canada

"Exotica"

Village Roadshow Productions

"Queen of the Damned"

Miramax (DVD)

"Accidental Spy"

Orion

"Spy Game" 2001

Ted Turner Films

"XXX"

Armenian Film Foundation

"Voices from the Lake" (Documentary on Armenian Genocide)

Sonnet Films

"Pomegranate"

Disney

"Hidalgo" 2002 "Untitled History Project"
 Oud and Violin-2006, "Sinbad" 2006

Private Source

"Mirror Wars" 2005 David Robbins,
 Russian Production

Rusk Studios	"Omar Khayyam" Farouk Ahi 2005
Egyptian Documentary	"Dreams Khalil" 2006
Private Source	"Out of Faith" Documentary—Miriam Cutler 2005
Private Source	"Ali" Turkish Documentary
Culver Studios	"Beowulf" recording and sidelining in film 2005
Showtime	"Sleeper Cell"
Universal	"Charlie Wilson's War" James Newton Howard 2007
	"David and Fatima" John Bisharat

TELEVISION

20th Century Fox	"30 Something"
Paramount	"Mission Impossible," "Murder She Wrote," "Happy Days," "Mork and Mindy", "I Spy," "Ohanian," "Laverne and Shirley," "Apples Way," "Wings of Eagles," "Three's Company"
Warner Bros.	"The Pirate," "Cheers," "St. Elsewhere," "21 Hours at Munich," "Bionic Woman," "Hart to Hart," "Alice"
Private Source	"Samson & Delilah" Maurice Jarre and Frank Capp
NBC	"Princess Daisy—Lalo Schifrin
ABC	"Hardy Boys"—Stu Phillips
Universal Studios	"Voyagers"—Elliott Kaplan, "Greek and Egyptian Documentaries
KCET	Russian Presentation-Melissa Totten
Yoav Films	"Golan Israel"-Israeli Documentary 2002
Hallmark Special	"Ten Commandments" 2006, "Lions Gate" 2007, "The Nativity Story"

CAST PARTIES

Disney, Fox, Harliquin Dinner Theatre, Mark Taper Forum, Aladdin, Anastasia, Zorba the Greek, Nine Armenians, Hunchback of Notre Dame

COMMERCIALS

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

CONCERTS AND STAGE PERFORMANCES

- 2006 Bouzouki soloist with Pasadena Pops Orchestra-Rachel Worby Conducting
- 2005 Oud soloist with Boston Pops Orchestra at Symphony Hall in Boston
- 2002 LA Jewish Symphony, Noreen Green Conductor Sephardic Music for Oud and Orch
- 1997 London CAIA, Centre for Armenian Information & Advice—John and Helen, LA Philharmonic Orchestra November concert series—Balalaika soloist, J Paul Getty Museum—Malibu Closing ceremonies “International Music”, Mark Taper Forum—Nine Armenians Opening Night, Board of Directors Party Reception for Nine Armenians, Skirball Cultural Center—Sephardic Concert Series
- 1996 Tifereth Israel Temple of Beverly Hills—Sephardic Concert, VJCC Van Nuys Sephardic Center Concert, Mission Hills Ararat Home President of Armenia Reception
- 1974–1996 LA Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts, Romeo and Juliette Ballet Mandolin soloist
- 1995 “Fasl Taiseer” Debut of piece for Oud and Strings with American String Quartet (Dr. Janice Foy) Written by Miriam Gerberg
- 1989 Romeo & Juliette Ballet with LA Philharmonic Orchestra Hollywood Bowl LA Philharmonic Orchestra Mahler vs Mozart Dorothy Chandler Pavilion of Music Center
- 1988 Oud Concerto of Vazken Muradian Debut with LA Mandolin Orchestra, Joel Lish Conducting @ Santa Monica College
- 1987 Concierto de Aranjuez by Joaquin Rodrigo Oud with Pacific Palisades Symphony Orchestra, Joel Lish Conducting at Pacific Palisades High School Auditorium
- 1986 Lute Concerto of Antonio Vivaldi Oud Soloist with LA Mandolin Orchestra, Joel Lish Conducting University of Judaism Brentwood
- 1980 present-Wilshire Tifereth Temple Beverly Hills King Juan Carlos and Queen Sophia of Spain command performance and presentation with Hazzan Isaac Behar
- 1980 & 1981 Wilshire Ebell Theatre Oud Concerts of John Bilezikjian Triple X Fraternity of Los Angeles sponsored
- 1978 Sephardic Temple Beverly Hills, Command performance for Mrs.Anwar Sadat of Egypt
- 1973 Wilshire Ebell Theatre Oud Concert of John Bilezikjian Live concert with Ensemble

WORLD TOURS

- 1979–1988 Leonard Cohen European Tours with Mama Concerts Oud & Mandolin
- 1988 Leonard Cohen Australian World Tour Mama Concerts Oud & Mandolin

LECTURES

- 2004 Sage College Troy New York, Dr. Steven Leibo Oud Lecture and Demonstration
- 2003 SCL Society of Composers and Lyricists Oud Lecture and Demonstration
- 1978–1997 GIT Guitar Institute Demonstration on Oud Tom Tedesco Class
- 1996 APS-Armenian Professional Society Lecture on origins of Armenian Music and Demonstration
- 1989 UCLA Origins of the Oud and Style of John Bilezikjian Dr. Jihad Racy Chairman of Ethnomusicology Dept.
- 1988 UCLA Lecture on Armenian Music of John Bilezikjian Dr. Richard Hovannisian Chair of Dept. of Armenian Studies
- 1988 USC Ethnomusicology Dept. Armenian Music and John Bilezikjian Dr. Anne 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 Demonstration of Armenian Music on the Oud Armenian Studies Club
- 1974 Dana Hills High School Music Dept. Demonstration Dr. William Priestly
- 1967 Grant High School Music Dept. The Oud and Armenian Music

RADIO

- KCRW-FM 89.9 Tom Snobel show
- KPFK 90.7 Mario Cassetta show
- KPFK 90.7 Roz and Howard Larman show
- KUSC-FM Bonnie Grice show
- KPCC Doug Johnson show

CLUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Too many to mention all

- 1965 to 1980 The Seventh Veil–Hollywood, The Cascades in Anaheim, The Fez–Hollywood, Aladdin Restaurant–North Hollywood, Kabob Palace–Azusa, Apadana–Newport Beach, Ararat Restaurant–Anaheim, Ali Baba–North Hollywood
- 1980 to 1990 Greek Village–Hollywood, Grecian Gardens–Hollywood, Athenian–Huntington Beach, Holiday Inn–Anaheim, Sheraton Hotel–San Pedro, Buena Park Hotel–Buena Park, Beverly Hills Hotel–Beverly Hills