

Music Of Cyprus

Music in Cyprus has a very old tradition and accompanies Cypriot in nearly every aspect of their life. Traditional orchestras include in their repertoire songs for every age and most occasions (Love, Joy of life and sadness, work in the fields etc.). Main organs used in these orchestras are violin, Lute, Tampoutsia and shepherds flute.



Lute



Shepherds flute



Tampoutsia

String traditional organs:

Although that violin and lute entered into our music tradition later they are playing now the main role in our traditional music. However before violin and lute main organs with traditional background were tampoutsia and shepherd's flute.

Dance:

Traditional music on Cyprus is similar to the traditional music of Greece and includes dances like the tatsia, sousta, syrtos, zeibekiko and the karsilama suites. Note that unlike Greece and Turkey, there are suites of four karsilama dances, different for men and women, some of them other than the standard 9/8 rhythm.

Tsiatista:

The *tsiatista* is improvised antiphonal singing akin to the Cretan *mantinada*, with satirical and comedic intent, usually performed between friends or relatives poking fun at each other.

→ Notable performers of Greek Cypriot folk music include singers Michael Tterlikkas, Christos Sikkis, Michalis Hatzimichail, Kyriakou Pelagia and Ilias Kouloumis.

Michalis Violaris

The famous singer and composer, in Cyprus and Greece, of traditional Cypriot and popular music is Mihalis Violaris.

Michalis Kyriakou, known by his stage-name **Michalis Violaris** was born 9 January 1944 Agia Varvara, Nicosia Cyprus, is a popular singer and composer of modern Greek and Cypriot music

He is also a pioneer responsible for popularising in Greece Cypriot songs sung in the Cypriot dialect. His song *Ta Ryalia* in Cypriot Greek became a hit in the top-10 of Greece in 1973.

Monsieur Doumani:

Another example includes Monsieur Doumani, a Cypriot band from Nicosia which focuses on developing Cypriot traditional music and reworking traditional Cypriot folk songs.

Each member comes from a different musical background but nevertheless all three are influenced by Cypriot tradition on various levels. The band focuses upon the unique character of Cypriot folkloric music, enriching traditional songs with new arrangements, melodies, rhythms and sounds and crafting a style distinctively their own. The band's music is a blend of the traditional element with modern genres. Their repertoire also includes their own compositions in the Cypriot Greek dialect.



