



Rhodes & South Aegean
International
Jazz Festival



RIJF 2026 JAZZ ACROSS THE WATER

Rhodes: Global Hub for Mediterranean Jazz & Science



"Demeter" Dimitrios Vassilakis
live at RIJF with Espen Berg Trio



*Under the Auspices and Support of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture |
EFFE Label Holder*

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FESTIVAL INTRODUCTION

What

RIJF is an annual global gathering for jazz lovers, featuring events, workshops, and masterclasses.

Where

Hosted at the Palace of the Knights in Rhodes, expanding annually across the South Aegean.

The festival leverages the UNESCO World Heritage Medieval City to create a unique "Boutique Festival" experience.

Why us

RIJF pioneers jazz education with innovative jam sessions and improvisation. Since 2019, it has partnered with Turkey's Bodrum Jazz Festival under the banner 'Jazz Across the Water'



Scan the QR code to access
the official RIJF website

Strategic Alignment

Tourism & Culture A Catalyst for Growth

- **Season Extension:** Strategically placed in October to boost tourism during the "shoulder season."
- **Academic Tourism:** Attracting high-profile visitors (24 researchers, US Professors) who travel for educational purposes.
- **Smart Destination Branding:** Positioning Rhodes not just as a sun & sea destination, but as a Hub for "Jazz & AI Research".
- **Student Engagement:** October allows full participation of the University of the Aegean & Rhodes Music School.



MISSION - VISION STATEMENTS

Vision

To inspire and unite people through jazz, promoting dialogue, equality, and creative, democratic communication"

*Dimitrios Vassilakis,
Founder & Artistic Director*

Core Values

- Creativity
- Dialogue
- Academic Excellence

Mission

- Education: Offering world-class Masterclasses (Cincinnati University) to Rhodes' youth.
- Research: Establishing Rhodes as the permanent home of the MedMus Conference.
- Diplomacy: Strengthening ties via "Jazz Across the Water" (Turkey) and the "Seferis Project" (UK).



Social Inclusion = Cultural Inclusion

Jazz Democracy & AI: At the Forefront of Technology

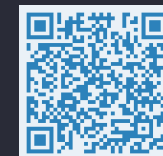


**Jazz
Democracy:
Jazz as
dialogue &
leadership.**

- AI & Robotics: Partnership with Georgia Tech (USA) featuring the Shimon Robot (AI Jazz Marimba player).
- Soft Power: A tool to promote Greek intellectual identity worldwide.



In 2018, Dimitris Vassilakis presented the 'Jazz Democracy Forum' at the UN, upgrading the festival to RIJF. [\[Trailer\]](#)



AI/Robotics & Jazz



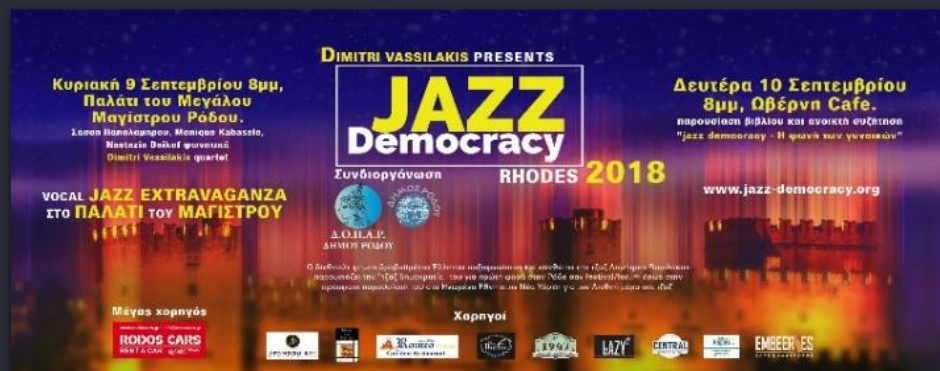
UN presentation



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The RIJF Legacy



Who We Are: History & Legacy

A Decade of Cultural Excellence (2015 – Present)

- Legacy: Hosting Grammy winners and jazz legends in the South Aegean.
- Sisterhood: Established "Jazz Across the Water" with Bodrum Jazz Festival since 2019.

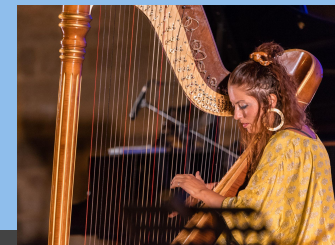
Jam Sessions with international stars and local musicians



Jean Toussaint
(U.S.A.)



Shekinah Rotz
(Puerto Rico)



Maria-Christina Harper
"Women in Jazz"
(UK/Greece)



Cherise
(UK Tomorrow's
Warriors)



Nestor Vassilakis
with the Greek New
Generation Jazz



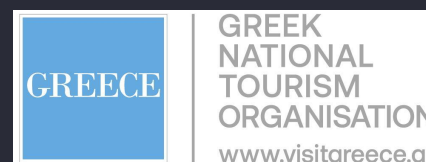
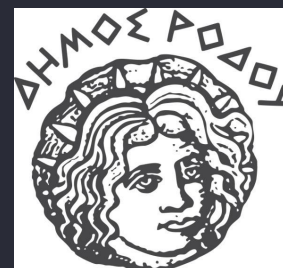
Nefeli Fasouli
(Greece)

Institutional Partners & Endorsements

A global network of
academic,
diplomatic,
and cultural synergy.



Institutional Leadership & Government Auspices



Ministry of Maritime Affairs
&
Insular Policy

The Diplomatic Missions & International Networks



The Academic | Research Core | Affiliated Networks





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The Official Carriers & Media Partners



Academic Pillars

MedMus: The Mediterranean Jazz Conference

- **The Event:** "Mediterranean Improvisations: Connected Worlds" - Exploring the synergy of Music heritage & AI.
- **Scientific Seal:** Under the auspices of NKUA & Demokritos (NCSR).
- **Global Network:** Partnerships with IRCAM (Paris), Georgia Tech, CNRS, Cincinnati, Newcastle & Brussels.
- **Impact:** 24 elite researchers from 7 countries positioning Rhodes as a Global Academic Hub.



RIJF's Outreach: Global Scalability

Platforms: **jazzahead! Bremen** & **London Jazz Festival**



Press Kit to 3.000+ international journalists - local press

Press campaigns: Vasso Sotiriou (GR), Jazz Promo Services (N.Y., globally), Mila Art Agency (CH)

Communication actions on Jazz Democracy social media, websites, National and local TV & Radio Interviews



Online invitations to over
12.000+ people
(musicians, sponsors, public
institutions)



Targeted Impact: 50,000+
Total Reach through
strategic digital
campaigns and
international press
distribution.

RIJF 2026 | Line - Up

Mediterranean Bridges

Duration

22 - 25 June & 22 - 25 October 2026

Venues

- Bodrum
- Kos
- Rhodes (main festival)

Parallel Events

- Masterclasses (with Universities of Athens & Aegean)
- Youth Workshops in Kos & Rhodes
- Showcases at festivals in Bodrum, Tirana, Limassol, Bansko, Syros

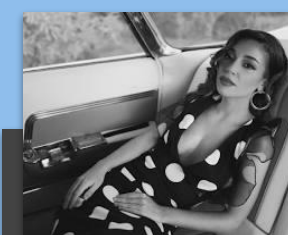
Production Jazz Democracy NPO



Craig Bailey



Dimitrios Vassilakis



Erika Soteri



Theodossi Spassov



Vicky Almazidou



Martin Valihora



Flying Root Qrt



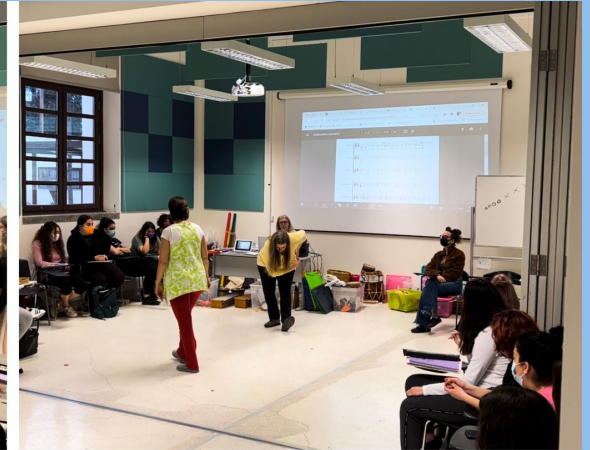
Guido Spannocchi



Eleonora Roussou

Education (Rhodes Exclusive) INVESTING IN THE NEXT GENERATION

- **Masterclasses:** US Professors teaching at the Music School of Rhodes.
- **Workshops:** "Music & Technology" seminars at the University of the Aegean.
- **Jam Sessions:** An open stage for local musicians to play alongside international stars.



SUSTAINABILITY

Jazz Democracy is committed to
UN Sustainable Development Goals
(SDGs) for 2030:



BUILD A SUSTAINABLE SOCIETY

- Creates accessible cultural channels for all
- Empowers communities through open discussions
- Connects young artists with professionals and scholars
- Promotes "Jazz Democracy" for intercultural dialogue

BUILD A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

- Creates jobs for musicians & researchers
- Connects heritage sites to global artist networks & cultural routes
- Builds long-standing partnerships with sponsors
- Applies eco-friendly practices to reduce environmental footprint



Strategic Deliverables & Benefits

- **Global Branding:** Promotion of Rhodes in London & Bremen as a premier cultural destination.
- **Academic Hub:** Establishing the island as a center for Scientific Conferences.
- **Extending Tourist season:** Tangible increase in October visitor numbers (high-spending audience).
- **Content:** High-quality video production of the concerts in the Medieval City, showcasing Rhodes worldwide.
- **Global Visibility:** Greek, European & NY Media.





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KEEP IN TOUCH WITH US



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JAZZ DEMOCRACY NPO | LOCATION

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Amarousion, Athens, Greece

E-MAIL

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jazzdemocracy.npo@gmail.com

Management: Mila Art Agency
<https://milaartagency.com/>



Scan the QR code to access the
official Jazz Democracy website