

NHIS Celebrates Greek Independence Day

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PRESS RELEASE

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The National Hellenic Society, a non-profit foundation dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and passing-on Hellenic heritage in America, will host a unique celebration on March 25th, 2022, in celebration of Greece's War for Independence after 400 years of subjugation and oppression — an online FreedomFest Jazz Festival.

Special guest appearances in honor of Greece's Revolutionary War for Freedom are headlined by legendary **Harvey Mason**. Mason, considered to be among the most recorded and sought-after drummers of all time, is also a prolific composer, producer and recording artist and the Father of **Harvey Mason, Jr.**, record producer, songwriter, film producer and the current Chief Executive Officer of the Recording Academy (The Grammys).

Viewers will also enjoy performances by:

- **Harvey Mason and Fourplay;**
- Italy's incomparable songstress, **Letizia Gambi;**
- celebrated jazz pianist, **Bill O'Connell;**
- the rich sounds of **Julie Michaels** backed-up by the soothing **Metropolitan Community Church of Toronto;**
- the mystical and soulful sounds of artists **Riva Nyri Percil** and **Monvelyno** and their band, **Bohio Music;**

- the alluring music of the laouto, a stringed instrument masterfully performed by award-winning musician, composer and visionary, **Vasilis Kostas**;
- the internally acclaimed, award-winning **Dimitris Vassilakis**, a Greek saxophonist, vocalist, educator, and founder of the Rhodes International Jazz Festival;
- singing sensation **Vassy**, a multi-platinum award winning artist with eight #1 Billboard singles considered one of dance music's most prominent female vocalists;
- veteran pianist, songwriter, producer, composer and creative force, **Tom Alexander** joined by the multi-talented **Earth Code**;
- the universal and multitalented **Richard Barrata**, film maker, producer and musician joined by the **Richard Baratta Latin Jazz Septet**;
- the echoes of truth from artist and vocalist **Aimeé Allen** complemented by profound lyrics, insightful reflections accompanied by guitarist **Tony Romano**; and,
- and the versatile sounds of award-winning bassist, composer, and producer, **Petros Klampanis**.

This outstanding and dedicated selection of artists are contributing their voices to chorus celebrating freedom for Greece and all people.

Professors and authors, **Tom Papademetriou** from Stockton University, President of the Modern Greek Studies Association, and **Alexander Kitroeff**, from Haverford College set the stage for the concert with context and insights brought to life through a clip from the feature film, *Cliffs of Freedom*. This epic motion picture revolves around an ill-fated love story set in the early throes of Greece's Revolutionary War in 1821. The film features a stellar cast and crew including the late Academy Award-winning actor **Christopher Plummer** in one of his final screen appearances, **Billy Zane**, **Patti Lupone**, and many others.

FreedomFest virtual jazz concert is [AVAILABLE HERE](#), on the National Hellenic Society's website, www.hellenicsociety.org, and on March 25, 2022, on social media www.facebook.com/myparea. Special thanks to Renee Pappas and Carol Green, Redwood Entertainment. For questions, call Maria Kosmakos, at 703.256-3180, or email us at: mk@hellenicsociety.org.