

SUMMER 2017

ANDRÉS SEGOVIA'S LEGACY | SUMMER FESTIVALS | SABRINA VLASKALIC | PLAY A BOSSA NOVA

# CLASSICAL GUITAR

**SPECIAL FOCUS** COMPOSERS ON  
COMPOSING

# SERGIO ASSAD



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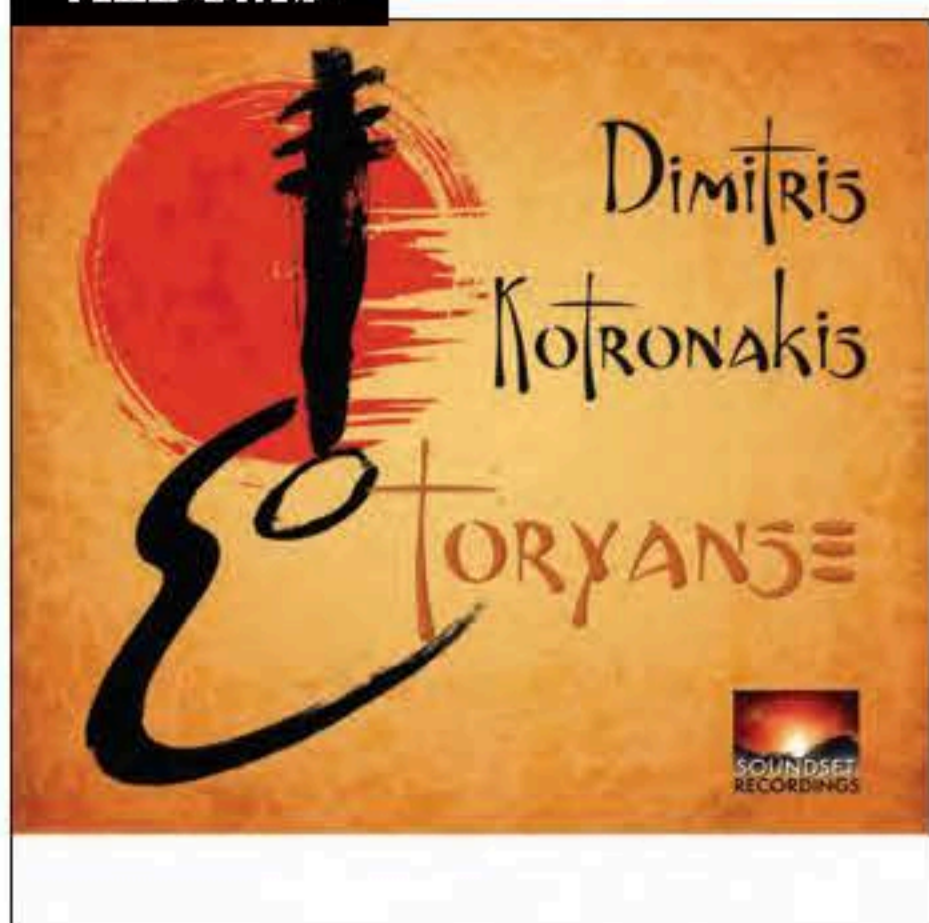
STEPHEN  
GOSS

JORGE MOREL

DUŠAN  
BOGDANOVIC

MARK  
HOUGHTON

AND  
MORE



## Toryanse

*Dimitris Kotronakis*

Soundset Recordings

### Exciting repertoire and playing from Greek guitarist

It is always intriguing to hear someone new playing fresh material, and all the better if, from the first notes of the recording, you feel you are in for a real treat. Dimitris Kotronakis (b. 1973) is a lauded guitarist, with a diploma and doctorate to his name, and also the muscular surety of a great technique and the ability to make the guitar *sing*.

There is an eclectic array of composers here: Atanas Ourkouzounov; Carlo Domeniconi; Thanassis Moraitis; Gerard Drozd; Štěpán Rak, Astor Piazzolla, and Sergio Assad; over an hour's worth of distinct and vivacious music that is both gratifying and uplifting.

I haven't heard Rak's works in a new release for a long time, and the Russian overtones of *Kaygorod* and *Balalaika*, as you might expect, are great tremolo ventures for Kotronakis. Bulgarian composer Ourkouzounov uses Japanese idioms to create a dynamic tapestry with the titular *Toryanse Tales*.

Expect surprises with the Domeniconi pieces, especially the gorgeous *A Step to Paradise*. Two sketches by Moraitis give a nod to Kotronakis' Greek heritage, and Drozd's *Adagio, Op. 44* is an "air"-style homage to J.S. Bach. The guitarist avoids Piazzolla pitfalls by aiming further afield than most do, highlighting his *Suite Troileana* (transcribed by Dario Bisso), with the movements "Bandoneon" and "Zita" well-executed and leading delightfully to Sergio Assad's superb *Fantasia Carioca*.

*Toryanse* is an excellent recording, bursting with exciting repertoire that should help to maintain a buoyant interest in the guitar. —TP