

Elena Papandreou was born in Athens on 7 March 1966. She studied the guitar with Evangelos Boudounis (with whom she received her diploma in 1985 from the National Conservatory with the highest mark) and with Oscar Ghiglia. She also studied with Gordon Crosskey at the Royal Northern College of Music, England, on a British Council scholarship, obtaining the Diploma in Advanced Studies in Musical Performance (1986). She played in master classes of Alirio Diaz, Julian Bream, Leo Brouwer and Ruggero Chiesa.

She has won the First Prize in three International Competitions, "Maria Callas" (Greece 1984), "Gargnano" (Italy 1985), "Alessandria" (Italy 1985) and the Second Prize in the "Guitar Foundation of America" Competition (1995). In the latter she was also awarded the "NAXOS" Prize, which gave her the opportunity to record two personal CDs with this company. In the past she had released five other records while now she collaborates with the Swedish BIS where she recorded three CDs (music by Nikita Koshkin and by Roland Dyens). In 1992 she was honoured by the Academy of Athens with the "Spyros Moutsenigos" Prize - a most important prize that is awarded to one outstanding performer every two years.

Elena Papandreou has performed in most European countries, as well as in the U.S.A., Canada, Venezuela, Puerto Rico, Brazil, Mexico, Colombia, China, Taiwan, South Korea and Japan. Within the "Rising Stars" program of the "European Concert Hall Organisation", she gave concerts in some of the most prestigious halls in Europe, the Vienna Musikverein, the Koelner Philharmonie, the Birmingham Symphony Hall and the Athens Concert Hall. She has also played in the Tchaikovsky Concert Hall in Moscow and the Queen Elisabeth Hall in London. In 1998 she gave her debut in Carnegie Hall in New York.

She has collaborated with outstanding musicians, among which, the guitarists Oscar Ghiglia, Alirio Diaz, Roland Dyens, Nikita Koshkin, Evangelos Boudounis, the violinist Leonidas Kavakos and the cellist Leonid Gorokhov. Elena Papandreou has played as a soloist with the State Orchestras of Athens and Thessaloniki, the Camerata Orchestra, the Orchestra of Colours, the Orchestra of Patras, the Orchestra of Alessandria, Italy, the Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, the Bucharest Philharmonic, the Singapore Symphony Orchestra and the ESMDM orchestra in Monterrey Mexico, with conductors such as Daniele Gatti, Lan Shui, Paul Chiang, Cristian Mandeal, Miltos Logiadis, Vassilis Christopoulos etc

Performances of hers were recorded by the Greek Television and Radio, Radio France, Deutsche Welle and the Turkish Television.

Elena Papandreou is an Associate Professor in the University of Macedonia in Thessaloniki and teaches in the summer course of Incontri Chitarristici di Gargnano, Italy together with Oscar Ghiglia.

Several composers have dedicated works to her: Roland Dyens, Nikita Koshkin (including a concerto for guitar and orchestra), Nikos Mamangakis (including a concerto for guitar and orchestra), Giorgos Koumendakis, Evangelos Boudounis etc.

For her interpretations she has received laudatory comments from significant people of the music world and enthusiastic reviews from the Press in Greece and abroad. Leo Brouwer said about her: "If you want to hear music of the highest level of interpretation with poetical perfection you must hear Elena Papandreou." The Washington Post called her "a poet of the guitar" and the Greek newspaper "Ta Nea" wrote: "Now we see Elena Papandreou as one of the greatest interpreters [...] the critic becomes silent ... when the Music begins."

[www.elenapapandreou.gr](http://www.elenapapandreou.gr)