

## *John Bilezikjian Foundation Mission Statement*

*To honor the lifetime achievements of John Bilezikjian in Music and Education and to support those striving to continue his legacy*

- To document, record and film John Bilezikjian
- To support others in the field of Music & Education through grants and scholarships from the Foundation
- To archive and maintain the instruments and documentation of John's body of work
- To fund the research, awareness, prevention and treatment of the National Kidney Foundation

### *Vision*

The purpose is to celebrate John's extensive body of work and continue his musical legacy. To further the talents of young musicians who will be following in John's footsteps through grants, scholarships, lectures, performances and recordings and to find an answer to the problems John and others have faced with kidney failure.

### *Thank you*

A contribution can be made to the John Bilezikjian Foundation either by check or online at [JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com](http://JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com) via paypal. Please call us toll free at 1-855-OUDDIST (683-3478), or (949) 768-8026 if you'd like to sponsor or advertise in our next event, have questions or need further information.



photo by Designway.com

**John Bilezikjian Foundation**

John Bilezikjian Foundation  
P. O. Box 3204  
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## *John Bilezikjian Foundation*

*To honor the lifetime achievements of  
John Bilezikjian in Music and Education and  
to support those striving to continue his legacy*



photo by Don Hagopian Studios

*Let's keep his legacy  
alive for our children*

His lifelong passion and dedication to music entertained and inspired thousands. Please join us in celebrating the newly created John Bilezikjian Foundation.

[JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com](http://JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com)

# The National Kidney Foundation

A non-profit health organization dedicated to preventing kidney and urinary tract disease, improving the health and well-being of individuals and families affected by kidney disease and increasing the availability of all organs for transplantation. The JBFoundation would like to begin by donating to this worthy cause in John's name.



photo by Scott Windus

Dear Friends:

You have known John and enjoyed his music for many years. Through his recordings, film scores, classical concerts, personal appearances and University lectures, John Bilezikjian has entertained and inspired thousands

of people. Please join us in celebrating the new John Bilezikjian Foundation to honor the lifetime achievement of John in music and education and to support those striving to continue his legacy.

The foundation was started by friends and family of John's many supporters when he was found to have renal failure at age 59. Although kidney failure can be a crippling disease, both emotionally and financially, John has continued to perform and keep up a positive attitude.

In keeping with our Mission Statement and for as long as John is with us, the foundation is committed to raising enough funds to complete several projects on John's behalf furthering his legacy.



photo by Don Hagopian Studios

Thank you for considering a contribution to the John Bilezikjian Foundation. We rely on donations to support our mission. Donations of any amount are appreciated. We look forward to working with you in this worthy cause.

Let's keep his legacy alive for our children... His lifelong passion and dedication to music has entertained and inspired thousands. Please join us in celebrating in the newly created John Bilezikjian Foundation.

(Inc., under Section 501 (c) (3).

# Can you help us KEEP THE MUSIC ALIVE?

John Bilezikjian presents a scholarship award to Artoor Minas. We are happy to say that we have given a grant to Artoor Minas, of Armenian descent to further his study of the Oud. He has also completed his law degree and looking forward to working with the foundation.



photo by Designway.com

## John Bilezikjian

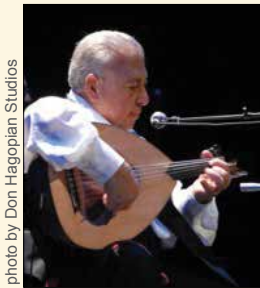


photo by Don Hagopian Studios

For over fifty years, audiences have enjoyed his music. John has performed for decades with the LA Philharmonic Orchestra. He performed in Las Vegas with Little Richard, recorded with Placido Domingo and toured with Leonard Cohen. John gave a command performance for the King and Queen of Spain. He has over 35 recordings on his own label, Dantz Records, Laguna Hills, Ca. John has recorded and composed 82 film and television scores, performed in numerous classical concerts, and has made countless personal appearances. At age five he began studying the Violin and at age nine he started the study of the Oud. His lifelong passion and dedication to the Violin and Oud earned him degrees in music from CSUN. He has entertained, educated and inspired thousands.



photo by Designway.com

A benefit concert, "The Magic of John Bilezikjian," kicked-off the creation of the John Bilezikjian Foundation. Music lovers had the chance to hear John Bilezikjian live in concert at the La Mirada Theater and Performing Arts Center on August 21, 2011.

Currently a biography of John and his life in music is in the process of being written by Alyssa Mathias under the terms of the 2012 UCLA graduate program for an ethnomusicology award.

John has completed a book of Armenian folk music from the Armenian Diaspora, which is soon to be published. There are also plans being discussed for a documentary to be filmed and aired on television by Guershon Morena, a screen writer and director.

[JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com](http://JohnBilezikjianFoundation.com)  
[DantzRecords.com](http://DantzRecords.com)

# A Brief History Of The Oud



Archive photo

A Persian philosopher, stated that the origin of the Oud was invented by Lamak, the sixth grandson of Adam. The legend states that the grieving Lamak hung the body of his dead son on a tree. The bleached shaped skeleton of his son's body on the tree inspired the first Oud.

The Oud is the predecessor of many present day stringed instruments and is the Father of the Lute and the Grandfather of the Guitar. The Oud dates back some 2500 years to Persia. In its present form the instrument has 11 strings and no frets. The Oud is played with an eagle's quill. Each country has their own great players and to each country the Oud has a unique style of its own.

In the ninth century a freed African slave, Ziryab, Abu I-Hasan (Ali Ibn Nafi) in Persian and Arabic, was considered by many to be the most important and prominent Oud player of his time. He was born in 789 and died in 857. His birthplace was Baghdad, Iraq. He was active at the Umayyad Court of Cordoba in Islamic Iberia. He first achieved notoriety at the Abbasid Court in Baghdad and was the student of the great musician and composer, Ishaq al-Mawsili.

Ziryab is credited with inventing the use of the eagle's feather as the desired plectrum for the Oud instead of the original plectrum (a piece of wood) allowing the strings to last longer and not break.

Ziryab also added a 5th course of strings to the then 4 course set of strings that was on the instrument. He dyed the 5 course set of strings colors to symbolize the Aristotelian humors and the 5th course set to represent the soul.

Ziryab wrote songs and created a unique and influential style of musical performance for generations to come. He had a great influence on Spanish music and is considered the founder of the Andalusian music traditions of North Africa and the Middle-East.

Ziryab founded one of the first schools of music in Cordoba. He was considered a virtuoso on the Oud and a great singer of songs. He introduced the Oud to the Spanish Guitar, which eventually became present day Flamenco music.

Ziryab had eight sons and two daughters and all of his children became musicians of some prominence. The children kept the memory of Ziryab alive and through his children spread his music throughout Europe.