

OUT OF OFFICE

AXE, SAX... & TAX



All ICPAC members naturally have a life beyond accountancy and, in each issue of the magazine, we take a look at how one of them spends his free time. Marios Andreou, in charge of Tax Advisory, Head of International Markets, Member of the Management Board at PwC Cyprus, also happens to be lead singer and rhythm guitarist with the band LST.

How and when did your fascination with music begin?

When I was 9 or 10, my mother gave me a classical guitar as a Christmas present and a few days later, I started classical guitar lessons.

A couple of years later, the cover of the popular '80s music weekly *Smash Hits* had a photo of Martin

Fry, the singer with ABC, holding an alto saxophone and I fell in love with the instrument. My grandmother planned to buy me a saxophone for Christmas but I ended up with a clarinet, which I later played in a wind band. Later still, during my national service, I played in the army band and started singing. Encouraged once again by my mother, I took vocal lessons and I was introduced to the wonderful voices of people like Luciano Pavarotti, Jose Carreras and Placido Domingo. As a result, I really love singing operatic arias and Neapolitan songs.

Tell us about the band.

When we formed the band, it consisted of three lawyers and an accountant (me). We wanted a name that would reflect our background, so we decided on LST, which stands for Law, Sex and Tax! We each come from a different musical background and, as a result, we cover a wide range of styles. I am the lead singer and rhythm guitarist and I occasionally play sax.

Do you play gigs? How often and where?

The purpose of the band is for us to have fun whilst benefiting a good cause so we do play in public but it is always for charity. Given our hectic work schedules, we only

manage to perform once or twice a year and we'd like to be doing it a lot more.

Do you play any original songs or is your repertoire made up of cover versions?

Even though some of us have written songs, we have only played cover versions for now. Hopefully we will perform our own songs at some stage.

What is your favourite song on your current setlist and why?

We play so many beautiful songs so it really depends on my mood and the dynamics within the band at the time but some of my favourites are *Take It On The Run* by REO Speedwagon, *Bed of Roses* and *This Ain't a Love Song* by Bon Jovi, *Cat People (Putting Out Fire)* by David Bowie, *Still Got the Blues* by Gary Moore, *Bad Love* by Eric Clapton, and *Go Your Own Way* by Fleetwood Mac. These are the sounds I was listening to as a teenager and later as a student in London and we perform them to a very decent standard.

Why do you enjoy being a band?

Playing in a band is so much fun. It's a great way to relax after work and it has a therapeutic effect. We enjoy ourselves immensely and music is a very strong bond that makes our friendship even stronger. I also love the thrill of performing live and the fact that we are raising money for a good cause while enjoying ourselves so much.

Do you ever dream about how things might have been if you'd become a rock star instead of an accountant?

I used to but not anymore! To be honest, if I was going to be a professional musician, my real preference would be to be a successful tenor and sing in the world's great opera houses.

What do your family, friends and colleagues think of your music?

My parents and grandparents were very supportive from the very first minute I showed an interest in music and I am so thankful to them. My wife Christiana appreciates what music means to me and shows great understanding, which allows me the time to study and rehearse with the band. She showed even greater understanding when some of my PwC partners and friends gave "us" a Gibson Les Paul electric guitar as a wedding present! Friends and colleagues appreciate the music we play and I would like to thank them for always supporting us and contributing to the charity we've chosen. Even my seven-month-old son seems to have enjoyed listening to my singing from the day he was born but this may be wishful thinking on my part. I'll have to wait until he can speak and express his opinion before I can be sure!

Marios Andreou

