

June 25–28, 2026 | Kastellorizo

Near & Far Kastellorizo International Festival 2026

On the remote island of Kastellorizo, for the second consecutive year, notes and melodies will fill the air and enchant those fortunate enough to attend.

The highly successful Near & Far Festival—the only festival in the world dedicated to the Greek diaspora—returns for its second year, from June 25 to 28, 2026, transforming Kastellorizo into a vibrant meeting point of cultures, people, and experiences.

This is a four-day, multi-themed cultural festival that bridges “Near” and “Far,” Greece with its diaspora, the local with the international, and art with community. The vision of Pericles Kanaris, an artist with a long-standing career in New York and international recognition, has become reality through his determination to create a platform for Greek artists who excel around the world.

Following the highly successful inaugural event in 2025—which, according to official island authorities, recorded the highest attendance ever for a cultural event in Kastellorizo—the festival returns stronger, with a clear identity and an even more expanded program.

Last year’s event stood out for the exceptional quality of its participants, the blending of diverse musical worlds, and, above all, the moving involvement of the island’s children—a legacy that continues this year. At the same time, its global radio broadcast via “Voice of Greece” (ERT) extended the festival beyond geographical boundaries, enhancing its international reach.

In 2026, Near & Far aims even higher, aspiring to livestream the Kastellorizo experience with video in real time to audiences worldwide, building new bridges with the Greek diaspora and the global community. The festival continues its collaboration with the Ministries of Culture and Foreign Affairs (General Secretariat for Greeks Abroad).

Concert Program | 4 Themed Nights

Thursday, June 25 | 21:00

Bridges — ERINI

“Fos: An Asia Minor Story”

ERINI, based in the United States with roots in Crete and Asia Minor, presents a musical journey blending traditions and contemporary influences, in collaboration with musicians from Greece.

Friday, June 26 | 21:00

Far Voices — Mario’s Toumbas Jazz Trio

“East of the Sun”

Pianist Mario Toumbas and his trio present original compositions and jazz standards in an evening that resonates with the global sound of jazz.

Saturday, June 27 | 21:00

Together — Pericles Kanaris Quartet featuring Andriana Babali, George Karavelatzis & Kastellorizo Kids

Original compositions and arrangements by Pericles Kanaris in a special collaboration with the island's children. Joining them are beloved singer Andriana Babali and oud player George Karavelatzis, a specialist in the local musical tradition of Kastellorizo.

Sunday, June 28 | 21:00

Near Roots — Costa Latso

“Pappou’s Gramophone”

Tenor Costa Latso, born in Australia to Kastellorizian parents and based in Berlin, presents a program moving between opera, Broadway, and crossover, accompanied by accordionist Thanos Stavridis.

Workshops, Activities & Parallel Program

The Near & Far 2026 festival expands beyond concerts, incorporating educational, experiential, and participatory activities for all ages.

Educational & Creative Workshops (Children)

- Visual arts workshop with Heike Kummer (June 25, 11:00–13:00)
- Music workshop with Mario Toumbas (June 26, 13:30–15:00)

Wellness & Experiential Activities

- Meditation and sound healing sessions for adults (June 27 & 28, 11:00–13:00)

Lectures

- Talk by Alexandros Kitroeff on the Greek Diaspora (June 27, 20:00–21:00)

A Festival that Connects

Near & Far is more than just a festival. It is an open platform for connection, where art becomes a catalyst for bringing people, places, and generations together. A space where Kastellorizo is not on the edge, but at the center of a global cultural dialogue.

With the participation of artists from Greece and the diaspora, and with the active involvement of the local community, Near & Far continues to build a new cultural tradition—vibrant, participatory, and outward-looking.