

AN OTTOMAN TABLEAU OF FAITH

featuring,
Robert Labaree, çeng, voice **Panayotis League**, kemençe, voice
Cem Mutlu, percussion, voice
Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, rebab, ney, ud, divan sazı, cura, voice
and **Noam Sender**, ney, voice

*Join us in an evening where the DUNYA ensemble will present
an Ottoman tableaux of different religious musical practices in
Islam, Greek Orthodoxy and Sephardic Judaism.*

Boston University, Hillel House, Wednesday, November 17, 6pm

Part I: Devotional songs in Greek, Hebrew and Turkish

Taksim

Segah Peşrev

by Neyzen Yusuf Paşa

Yeheme Levavi Biroti a piyut (liturgical poem) in Hebrew from the repertoire of the Edirne Maftirim. Text: Rabbi Israel Najara, (b. 1555, Damascus) poet, preacher, Biblical commentator, kabbalist, and rabbi of Gaza. Music: Based on the above Turkish classical Segah Peşrev by Neyzen Yusuf Paşa (in Segah makam).

Yeheme levavi biroti, tsari yiltosh einav negdi / Shinav yakharok gam yisaar, lehafitz hamon gdudi / Khish aneni Noraot, Elohei ha'Tsvaot / Ad matai ketz plaot, esmakh yagel kvodi / Shama leshama samani, vegila avnei yesodi / Omar amar levala, eer nakhalat tzvi hodi / Khaletz nah eved shadood, yartiakh kesir vadood / Tsur be'Kha arutz gdood, le'Kha azamer beodi.

My heart fills with terror, when my enemy stares at me. Gnashing teeth, working up a storm to scatter my companions. Lord of hosts, I beg, respond swiftly with your awesome miracles. How long must I wait for them? How long for that joy and glory? My enemy destroyed me, till the foundations were laid bare and will bring down the glorious city that I long for. I cry out for redemption, a tormented slave, burning in his pain You are my strength; with you I can defeat an army, My song is for you as long as I live.

Christos Anesti Matia Mou (Greek paraliturgical song)

Anonymous

Christos anesti matia mou

Christ has risen in front of my eyes

Segah İlahi (sufi devotional song): Şem-i ruhuna

Şem-i ruhuna cismimi pervane düşürdüm / Evrak-ı dil-i ateşi düşürdüm

To the candle of your soul I have become a moth / On the fire of longing I place the layers of my heart

Dinle sözümü sana derim özge edadır / Derviş olana lazım olan aşk-ı hüdadır

Listen to what I'm saying, it is about another way / What a dervish needs is the love of God

Aşkın nesi var ise maşuka fedadır / Sema safe cana şifa ruha gıdadır

Whatever the lover possesses is sacrificed for the Beloved / The sema is joy, and it is good for body and soul

Part II: Songs of the Alevi and the Bektaşî

Açış

Alis mono den ifiche (Bektaşî Sufi song in Greek)

source: Müyesser Bacı (20th c.)

This is an example of Islamic mysticism (Sufism) from Greece, a Bektaşî Sufi song in Greek from the island of Crete.

*Alis mono den ifiche sti yis apothamenos
s'olo ton kosmo brihnetai ma einai kouklomenos*

Ali was not left dead in the ground
he's everywhere in the world, but he's concealed

*Alis den ipsiase vizi tsi manas na bizazi
to Muhammed perimene ya na tou kouventiazei*

Ali didn't take his mother's breast to nurse
he was waiting for Muhammed, to converse with him

stou Kerbela ta homata o ilios protodidi
chai 'chya 'n' tou Shahi ta paidia ch' o kosmos ta gnorizi

the sun rises on the ground of Kerbela
the Shah's children are there, and all the world knows of them

stou Kerbela ta homata echya tha pa na katso
na psiaso penna che harti ta pathi dos na grapso

I'll go sit on the ground of Kerbela
I'll take pen and paper, and write of their suffering

Bir Kız ile Bir Gelin

*Bir kız ile bir gelinin bahsı var
İkisinin cüda düşmüş yar arası*

There is talk about a girl and a bride
Separation has come between them

region: Fethiye

Allah birdir Peygamber Hak

words: Aşık Veysel (1894-1973) music: anonymous (arr. R. Labaree)

Aşık Veysel spent his life in the rural villages where the *Alevi* brand of Turkish Sufism thrived. This tune is Alevi, as is the poem's theme: the separation of humans from each other by race and creed.

Allah birdir Peygamber Hak God is One and The Prophet is Truth

Kurd, Turk and Circassian

Rabbül alemindir mutlak The Eternal is the Creator

All are sons and daughters of Adam

Senlik benlik nedir bırak What is this yourself, myself? Enough!

All are martyrs and heroes

Söyleyim geldi sırası

Now that the time has come, let me say it.

How is this wrong? Tell me

Part III: Liturgical and Ceremonial Music

Kekragarion (Greek Orthodox hymn)

words and music: anonymous

Simeron pistoi horefsomen en psalmis kai imnois to Kyrio adon tes ti mon kai tin avtou igi azmenin

Today let all the faithful dance, in psalms and hymns, singing to the Lord...

Anastaseos imera... Christos anesti

Doxastikon for Orthros of Pascha. The hymn "Christ is risen," which concludes the doxastikon, constitutes a triumphant proclamation of Christians' belief in the Resurrection of Christ and is the most beloved of all Orthodox hymns. Based on oral tradition and the transcription by Petros the Peloponnesian (c. 1730-1778), this setting in plagal first mode has been further arranged by Photios Ketsetzis.

Beyati tevşih: Ben bu aşka düşeli (26/8)

words: Yunus Emre (14th c.) music: anonymous

Here, a long devotional form in a 26 beat cycle is layered between a repeating phrase often used in Sufi devotions ("la ilahe ilallah": there is no god but God) and an improvised vocal line (*kaside*).

Ben bu aşka düşeli / Allah'la bilişeli

As I fell in Love, becoming one with God

Eli yeşil asalı / Bize dervişler geldi

Dervishes with green scepters, came to us

Perde Kaldırma

Tilavet: chanting of The Holy Koran, I: 1-7 Surah al-Kahf (The Cave)

Bismil-lâ-hir-Rahmân-ir'Rahim

In the name of God, the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

... "Alexander!" We said, "you must either punish them or show them kindness." He replied: "the wicked we shall surely punish. Then shall they return to their Lord and be sternly punished by Him. As for those that have faith and do good works, we shall bestow on them a rich reward and deal indulgently with them."... "Alexander!" they said, "Gog and Magog are ravaging this land. Build a rampart between us, and we will pay you tribute."

Nihavend Mevlevi Ayini, 1. Selam

words: Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi

music: Tanburi Musahip Seyyid Ahmed Ağa (d. 1794)

Bişnev tû zi ney çaha mi güyed

Listen to the ney, to what it is saying

Esrar-ı nühüfte kibriya mi güyed

It speaks of hidden secrets and divine greatness

Bi nutk ü zeban hüda mi güyed

Without speech or tongue it says "God!"

Men ba tû çünanem ey niğar-i Hu

O divine image, when I am with you

Kender galatam ki men tû em ya tû meni

I mistake myself for you, and you for myself

Ni men menem u ni tu tuyi ni tu meni

I am not I, and you are not you, and you are not I,

Hem men menem ü hem tû tüyi hem tû meni

And yet, I am I, and you are you, and you are I

Sermest-i cam-ı aşkam bi sağar ü piyale

I am drunk from the goblet of divine love...[excerpt]

(Translation by Dimitri Kastritsis)