

DÜNYA, in collaboration with *The Turkish American Cultural Society of New England*, presents

GREEK & TURKISH HOLY DAYS II

*This event is a part of the “Three Hundred Years of Turkish Music” Concert Series



directed by **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**, *voice*

voice **Nektarios Antoniou**, *voice* **Güç Başar Gülle**, *voice* **Panayiotis Thomas**

voice **Rick Vanderhoef**, *voice* **Cem Mutlu**, *voice* **Bogomil Sabtchev**,

çeng **Robert Labaree**, *ud* **Kareem Roustom**, *kemençe* **Panayiotis League**,

ney **Frederick Stubbs**, *ney* **Nihat Tokdil**, *ney* **Shanteri Baliga**

percussion **Bertram Lehmann** and *percussion* **Engin Günaydın**

Friday, November 12, 2004, 8:00 pm

St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brookline

On November 22, 2003 the first Greek and Turkish Holy Days concert celebrated two very important Holy Days of Orthodox Christianity and Islam which fell on the same day: The entrance of Mary (*Theotokos*) into the Temple and the revelation of the Holy Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad. This year, members of the Orthodox and Muslim communities of Boston come together once again in mutual respect and joy to celebrate the same Holy days with Byzantine and Sufi music.

Notes

One of the most sacred dates in the Islamic calendar, The Night of Power (*Laylat al-qadr*) is the night in which The Holy Qur'an, the sacred scripture of Islam, began to be revealed to the Prophet Muhammad, in 610, through the Archangel Gabriel. It usually falls within the last ten days of Ramadan, the month of fasting when Muslims fast by abstaining from eating, drinking, smoking, sexual intercourse, fighting and the like from dawn to dusk. The Qur'an describes the Night of Power as "better than a thousand months" and "peace...until dawn" (Qur'an, 97:3-5). It signifies the dissipation of spiritual darkness and the rise of a new light in one's heart as peace and tranquility. Throughout the Islamic world, the Night of Power is considered to be a night of repentance and spiritual rebirth.

The feast for the entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple takes up the story of Mary's infancy from the Protevangelion of James, at the point where the previous feast of Our Lady's Nativity left it. As with the feast of the birth of the Theotokos (Birth-giver of God), what matters is not the historical exactness of the story but its inner meaning. This account of Mary's Entry into the temple and of her dwelling there signifies her total dedication to God, in readiness for her future vocation as Mother of the Incarnate Lord. The feast is of Mary's entry into the temple is a feast of anticipation. ' Today is the foreshadowing of the good pleasure of God, and the herald of the salvation of men.'

The first part of the program consists of Greek para-liturgical folk songs and the Turkish Sufi devotional love songs. Tonight you will hear that the rhythmic cycles are taken as the basis and the songs are built around them in order to construct a composition which combines both traditions in a unifying way.

Ayin is the name given to the four movement musical setting of the text of the whirling ceremony. The poetry being sung in this part of the program is in Persian and Turkish, much of it drawn from the *Mesnevi*, the great mystical poetic work of Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi (d. 1273) that has been called "the Qur'an in Persian." One of the greatest mystics of Islam and perhaps of all time, Rumi is the spiritual father of the Mevlevi order of dervishes known in the West as the "whirling dervishes" because of the turning movement used in their devotions. Rumi is known to have associated with Greek monks and to have had some Greek disciples; his poetic corpus even contains a few verses in Greek, as well as Turkish. His poetry has been called "the most perfect example of the spontaneous outpouring of mystical love and visionary ecstasy in Persian, perhaps even in world literature" (W. M. Thackston).

An excerpt from the text of *Ferahfeza Mevlevi Ayini*

...Ey ki hezâr âferîn, bu nice sultân olur
Kulu olan kisiler hüsrev ü hâkân olur
Her ki bugün Veled'e inanuben yüz süre
Yoksul ise bay olur, bay ise sultan olur

...O the great Creator who is the Ruler
Servants of whom are the faithful to the Ruler
Whoever believes in Veled today
if he is poor he will be rich, if he is rich he will be a sultan
(Translation by Mehmet Ali Sanlikol)

Xairis (Rejoice):

Heaven and earth rejoice, beholding the spiritual Heaven, the only Virgin without blemish, enter the house of God, there to be reared in reverence. To her Zacharias in amazement cried: 'O Gate of the Lord! Unto thee I open the gates of the temple: rejoice and go round it in gladness. For I know and believe that the deliverance of Israel shall now come to dwell openly in our midst, and that from thee shall be born God the Word, who grants the world great mercy.'

Apolytikion:

Simeron tis evdokias Theu to proimion, ke tis ton anthropon sotirias i prokyrixis, en nao tu Theu tranos i Parthenos diknyte ke ton Christon tis pasi prokatangelete. Afti ke imis megalofonos voisomen Chere tis ikonomias tu ktistu i ekplirosis

Anthem (of the Feast, the last chant to be sung as services conclude):

Today is the foreshadowing of the good pleasure of God and the herald of the salvation of men. The Virgin is revealed in the temple of God, and beforehand she announces Christ to all. Let us therefore cry to her with mighty voice: Hail! Thou fulfillment of the Creator's dispensation (Three times).

(Translations and notes from the "The Feast Menaion," translated by Mother Mary and Kallistos Ware, St. Tikhon's Seminary Press)

PROGRAM

I. GREEK and TURKISH para-liturgical songs

Ney Taksim (instrumental improvisation)

Dolap niçin inilersin

Yunus Emre (13th c.)

San tin megali Pasxalia

Anonymous

Kemençe Taksim (instrumental improvisation)

Efta vdomades

Anonymous

Ud Taksim (instrumental improvisation)

Ben Aglarım Yane Yane

Yunus Emre (13th c.)

Christos Anesti Matia Mou

Anonymous

Dervislik Bastadır

Yunus Emre (13th c.)

II. Feast for the entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple (traditional)

Intonation

Anixandaria

Intonation

Kyrie Ekekraksa

Kekragarion

Fos Ilaron

Xairis

Apolytikion

III. Ferahfeza Mevlevi Ayini

Music composed by ismail Dede Efendi (b. 1778-d. 1846)

Çeng Taksim (instrumental improvisation)

Ferahfeza Peşrev (instrumental prelude)

Birinci selam (first movement)

ikinci Selam (second movement)

Üçüncü Selam (third movement)

Dördüncü Selam (fourth movement)

Son peşrev (instrumental postlude)

Tanburi Zeki Mehmed Aga (b. 1776-d. 1846)

Son Yürük Semai (instrumental postlude)

Anonymous

* * * *

Acknowledgements

As the director of this concert, I am thankful to former governor of Massachusetts Michael Dukakis for his support and assistance in the creation of this concert. Without Nektarios Antoniou there simply would have been no concert. He taught me how to read the Byzantine notation and was kind enough to travel to every rehearsal from New Haven. A big thanks to all the participating musicians! Without their respect to each other, this concert wouldn't have been possible. It was Robert Labaree that guided me every step of the way during this concert. And finally I would like to thank Serap Kantarcı Sanlıkol, my dear wife, without whom I could never have found the energy and power to do this concert. Her support in establishing the right contacts and skills in public relations gave me the encouragement I needed.



This event is also a part of the Eighth Annual Boston Turkish Arts and Culture Festival which was organized in 1996 for the first time and has taken place every year ever since. The purpose of this month-long festival is to support Turkish artists and musicians in the region, to create a cultural bridge between the U.S. and Turkey, and to foster mutual understanding between the Turkish community and other communities in the New England area. This festival is supported in part by a grant from the Boston Cultural Council. Most of the events are free and take place in public places to better serve the diverse Boston Community. All are invited to the events of the Festival. A detailed program of the Festival can be found at <http://www.tacsne.org>

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