

Sponsored by The Graduate and Professional Student Association at NU

TURKEY IN JAZZ, JAZZ IN TURKEY

Cazda Türkiye, Türkiye'de Caz

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



directed by **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**, *piano*
tenor and soprano sax. **Aaron Henry**,
acoustic bass **Jose Pienasola**, and *drums* **Cem Mutlu**

Northeastern University, Raytheon Amphitheater, Saturday, January 31

7:00 pm opening reception, 8:00pm Concert

An exploration of the mutual influences of Turkish music and Jazz in
the work of a variety of Turkish and American musicians.

Turkey in Jazz, Jazz in Turkey

The story of this concert begins with the European marching band, formed more than three centuries ago in direct imitation of the military music of the Ottoman Turks (*mehterhane*). This is the “Turkey in Jazz” part of our title: the thrilling and original combination of wind instruments, drums and cymbals associated with Turkish armies became the commonplace sound of the American marching band, which then combined with the music of former African slaves to create the unique sound we now call jazz. “Jazz in Turkey” refers to the second part of the story when jazz found its way overseas and put down the roots of an independent tradition in the former Ottoman lands, tracing a path from Mehterhane to Duke Ellington, from John Coltrane to Aydin Esen.

Some of the important stages of this development are portrayed in the five movements of the *Turkey in Jazz, Jazz in Turkey Suite* which is at the center of this concert. The western attraction to exotic places and to an idealized “Orient” played an important role in the history of western classical music and during the swing era jazz bands continued this trend with pieces like Ellington’s well-known “Caravan”. Later on during the 1960s when jazz musicians started traveling to the East more the influences from these areas became more direct. For instance, during this so-called “modal” period musicians like John Coltrane started incorporating elements from the ‘davul-zurna’ (bass drum and shawm) combination they had heard in North Africa and the Middle East into their ensembles.

Towards the end of the 1960s in Turkey, some musicians who were heavily influenced by these later developments in jazz began to go beyond the American standards which they had inherited to incorporate Turkish melodies and rhythms in their performances. To these homegrown elements musicians like Okay Temiz added a broadened range of percussive sounds from Africa and India. Within 30 years these early developments of ‘Jazz in Turkey’ had established a tradition of their own. Now almost all jazz musicians in Turkey have their own ways of playing Turkish folk songs with jazz bands and composing jazz tunes with a Turkish flavor.

PROGRAM

Introduction by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol
director of the *Three Hundred Years of Turkish Music* concert series

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I. The Seventh Day Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol (b. 1974)

II. Niksar Turkish folk song arr. by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

III. 'Turkey in Jazz, Jazz in Turkey' Suite

Overture: *Mehter and the Marching Band*

The Exotic Images: *Ellington's Band*

Caravan

Juan Tizol (1900-1984)

The Modal Wave: *Coltrane's Band*

'Resolution' from 'A Love Supreme'

John Coltrane (1926-1967)

Echoes of 'something familiar': *Esen's Band*

The opening theme from 'Anadolu'

Aydın Esen (b. 1962)

Ending: *A Tradition of its own*

Lost Inside

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

IV. Can't Put You Aside

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

V. Dillirga

Cypriot folk song arr. by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

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Acknowledgements

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The Musicians

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol (keyboards) is continuing his studies in composition as a Doctor of Musical Arts student at the New England Conservatory. Sanlıkol has performed with Jazz stars such as Tiger Okoshi and Horacio "El Negro" Hernandez at International Music Festivals and the Blue Note Jazz club in New York. **Aaron Henry** (tenor and soprano sax.) Aaron has been awarded the Charlie Parker Scholarship for woodwind performance and is also the recipient of the World Scholarship Tour award. He has performed with Michel Camilo, George Garzone, and Joe Lovano. **Jose Pienasola** (acoustic bass) is well-known Brazilian musician who has performed with such artists as, Bob Mintzer, Robin Eubanks and Maggie Scott. **Cem Mutlu** (voice) performs jazz percussion and a variety of world musics with groups in the Boston area.