

## Ottoman Art and Entertainment Musics:

### *Beyzadeler, Muganniler ve Raks*

Saturday, December 7, 2013, 6:00, Harvard University, Holden Chapel

#### *Dünya Ensemble*

*featuring*

**Burcu Güleç**/voice **Robert Labaree**/çeng **George Lernis**/percussion  
**Cem Mutlu**/voice, percussion and **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**/voice, ud, saz, ney

*A concert exploring works by Greek-Ottoman composers, transcriptions by Greek Orthodox cantors and urban entertainment music from 17<sup>th</sup> through 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

### PROGRAM

#### I. Beyzadeler / Phanariots

Our program focuses on three intertwined aspects of urban music in Istanbul between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. In this first part we feature what may have been the kind of secular art music the aristocratic Greek families of the Fener (*Phanar*) district enjoyed including compositions by Ottoman-Greek composers in Turkish as well as Greek.

*Çeng Taksim* (improvisation)

*Buselik Aşiran Peşrev* (instrumental)

Anonymous, transcribed by Ali Ufki

*Buselik Aşiran beste: Lal'in emdir hikmetin sorma*

Zaharya (18<sup>th</sup> c.)

*Lalin emdir hikmetin sorma dil-i şeyda bilir*

*Çektiği cevr-i cefay-ı aşkı bir mevla bilir*

Let me suck your lips but, do not ask why; my mad heart knows,

The pain of cruel and unjust love only the Master knows.

*Hisarbuselik Tragoudi*

Gregorios Protopsaltes (1778-1821)

*Έλπιζα και πάλι ελπίζω με ελπίδα σταθερά*

I hoped, and I still hope steadfastly

*επειδή και η καρδιά μου ήταν πάντα καθαρά*

Because my heart was always pure

*Nişaburek Makam Yürük Semai*

Music and Text: Georgios Soutzos (ca. 18<sup>th</sup> c.)

*Istrapte sto prosopon sou kalloni angeliki dia touto ki' i morfi sou me angelous katoikei.*

Angelic beauty shone on your face and that's why your shape resides with the angels

#### II. Muganniler / Cantors

The second part of our program features classical Ottoman vocal music by famous Turkish composers, preserved in Byzantine notation by leading Greek Orthodox cantors of the 19<sup>th</sup> c.

*Ney Taksim*

*Terennümlü Rast Peşrev ve Semaisi*

Music: Benli Hasan Ağa (1607-64)

A classical instrumental piece by a famous Turkish composer, preserved in Byzantine notation as a textless vocal piece, sung on the syllables “le”, “ne” and “re”.

*Rast-ı Cedid Beste*

Music: Hammamizade İsmail Dede Efendi (1778-1846)

*Navek-i gamzen ki her dem bağrımı pürhun ider*

The arrow of your dimple always puts blood on my chest

**Tempolu Gazel** (vocal improvisation over ostinato) Text: Necati (d. 1509)

*Güller çemende kendilerin nazenin tutar*  
*Naz ile gülse ağzına gonca yenin tutar*  
Roses behave coyly in the fields  
If he/she was to smile his/her mouth would become the rosebud

**Hicaz Yürük Semai**

music: Acem Salih Ağa (d. 1725)  
-this version is from *Everterpi* (1830)

*Seyreyle o gülruyu ki nev-afet-i candır, ebrusu güzel, çeşmi siyah, kaddi fidandır*  
Watch this rose-faced one since he/she is a young ravishing beauty with gorgeous eyebrows, black eyes, sapling like figure

### III. Köçekler ve Çengiler / Dancing boys and girls

The last part of our program features lighter urban entertainment music some of which clearly featured dancers.

**Pişrev-i Varsağı** (instrumental prelude)

music: anonymous

**Hüseyini Varsağı**

*Kimi güler, kimi kahır*  
*Kimi baydır, kimi fakır*

text and music: anonymous  
Some laugh, some grieve  
Some are rich, others are poor

**Türki şikayet ez felek “müsenna”**

Text: Katib (17<sup>th</sup> c.), Music: Anonymous

Alone of all the pieces in his collection, Ali Ufki actually describes, in the manner of an ethnomusicologist, the different styles of vocal improvisation that goes with each line of this text.

*Çarh-ı felek benim hatırım yıkdıñ*  
*Seniñ dahi hatırcığüñ sına hey*

O destiny, you have offended me  
I hope your feelings are offended too

**Muhayyer Türki**

Text: Ali (17<sup>th</sup> c.), Music: Anonymous

Possibly a Sufi dervish describing his love for a young apprentice.

*Dede külahu başında,*  
*henüz on onbir yaşında*

Wearing the hat of a Master  
only ten, eleven years old

**Türki Cansiner Halife beray-ı medh Hasen**

Text: Meftuni (17<sup>th</sup> c.), Music: Anonymous

*Güzelliğün ermiş kemale beğim*  
*Hüsanıñ ser çeşmesisin meleğim*

Your beauty has ripened mister  
You are the first fountain of Hüsa my angel

**Sultan İbrahim'in huzurunda oynanılan Raks** / The dance performed before Sultan Ibrahim (1615-1648)

text and music: anonymous

Because of its many explicit sexual references, we have been selective in translating the words of this song, addressed to a dancer known as “Saçbağı” (lit. hair band).

*Saçbağı takar saçına*  
*Gider sarayıñ içine*  
*Güzel seveniñ suçu ne*  
*Saçbağı devran seniñdir*

She puts on a hair band  
And goes to the palace  
What's the guilt in loving someone beautiful?  
O Hair Band, this is your time

**Hüseyini Türki Mahabbet**

Text: Mustafa (17<sup>th</sup> c.), Music: Anonymous

*Mustafa der benim Alim, niçin sormaz garib halim?* Mustafa wonders why my Ali won't ask how sad I am

**Hüseyini Raksiyye**

text and music: anonymous

*Sen oynadıkça kademi, sevindirirsin ademi*

You make men happy as you dance on your feet