



presents,

# MUSIC OF CYPRUS



directed by **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**, *voice, ud, saz, zurna, ney*

*lyra, laouto* **Panayiotis League**, *violin* **Eylem Basaldı**, *voice* **Nektarios Antoniou**,  
and *percussion* **Karim Nagi**

Club Passim, Monday, May 15, 8:00pm

Co-produced by Arabesque Mondays

*A concert bringing together Greek, Turkish and Arab musicians to present*

*the musical traditions of the Greek and Turkish communities of the island of Cyprus.*  
MUSIC OF CYPRUS

Cyprus has a rich musical heritage which extends from the traditional *Zeybeks* and *Ciftetellis* to the sophisticated *Mevlevi* Sufi music (the great mystic of Islam Mevlana Celaleddin Rumi, d. 1273, is the spiritual father of the Mevlevi order of dervishes known in the West as the "whirling dervishes"). Tonight's program is designed to reflect this multi-cultural musical identity.

The entire repertoire that will be performed tonight is folk music (including the Sufi song). In other words the composers are anonymous. In our approach to orchestrating these tunes we tried to be as "authentic" as possible. But at times we took this concept a step further. Especially in Section IV, we tried to reach back to the kind of sounds that would have been heard in Cyprus a couple hundred years ago. By coupling the Turkish *cura saz* with the *lyra* we wanted to bring back the sound of the *tambura/lyra* duo which most probably was in use in Cyprus before the introduction of the violin, as was the case on many other Greek islands (as far as musicological evidence goes the Turkish *cura saz* seems to be the 'closest' extant relative of the ancient *tambura*).

We also wanted to reflect the sacred music heritage of Cyprus as well. Right in the middle of the northern part of Nicosia stands a big Mevlevi Tekke (dervish lodge). This tekke has remained a very important center throughout the history of the Mevlevi order. By coupling a well-known Sufi sacred song with a Greek-orthodox para-liturgical song we wanted to reflect on a more silent side of Cypriot music.

The rest of the night is composed of songs that are found mainly in Cyprus that are either instrumentally performed by Greeks and/or Turks, or sung in Greek and Turkish or both. There are only a few songs in tonight's program which can also be found on other Greek islands and the Aegean coast of Anatolia.

This concert is especially important to me since I am a Turkish Cypriot. I am very happy to host such a concert where Greek and Turkish Cypriots will be able to come together and enjoy themselves during a time of very important developments in the history of their homeland.



Pictures of the *Mevlevi Tekke* in Nicosia

PROGRAM

**PROLOGUE**

**Abdal Zeybegi, Aptalikos**

I. **MUSIC OF CYPRUS**

**Kozan Marsı, Syrtos  
To Tragoudi Tou Gamou**

II. **LOVE SONGS**

**Sabahın Seher Vahdında  
Dolama**

III. **SACRED MUSIC from CYPRUS**

**Agios Giorgis, Greek-Orthodox para-liturgical song  
Sem-i Ruhuna, Segah ilahi (Sufi sacred song)**

\*\*\*intermission\*\*\*

IV. **CYPRUS "re-constructed"**

**Kartal  
Kaneloriza  
Susta**

V. **DANCE SONGS**

**"Varys" Zeybekikos  
Sarhos Zeybegi**

VI. **MUSIC OF CYPRUS**

**Agapisa Tin Pou Karkias  
Feslikan, Syrtos  
Orak/To Mashairin  
Dillirga/Dilirgiotissa**

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**Acknowledgements**

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