

OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS

A PROGRAMME OF CONTEMPORARY TURKISH MUSIC
HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE

ULRICH MERTIN AND MICHAEL ELLISON, CONDUCTORS
NERMIN KAYGUSUZ, KEMENÇE



Hezarfen
ensemble

TURKISH MUSIC IN THE 21ST CENTURY

The richness and breadth of contemporary Turkish composition is remarkable. For much of the 20th century, most composers in Turkey's main aim was to sound 'Turkish' while being as 'Western' as possible, the formula being to use folk music as source material while composing in a modernist vein for thoroughly western ensembles and forms. This is no longer the case, and music of Turkey today boasts a depth, richness and creative energy equal to perhaps any other European country in its own right. For some years now, there have been independent Turkish composer enclaves in (especially) Rotterdam, Germany, Paris, and US, associated with leading institutions and teachers, with the typical pattern being for the ambitious young Turkish composer to go abroad, prove oneself, and return. Until quite recently the most that could be hoped for upon this return was the rare orchestral commission, but the scene has changed radically in the last ten years, with Istanbul turned into a veritable hotbed of contemporary music, with HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE leading the way.

Far from projecting a single identity, music from contemporary Turkey challenges listeners in its resistance to categorization. In *Of Light and Shadows*, HEZARFEN attempts to give a glimpse of this diversity. From *Tolga Yayalar's* subtl-microtonal, post-spectral landscapes, to *Onur Türkmen's* delicate reinterpretation of traditional makam and kemençe within his 'monophonic' concept of 'line (Hat)', to *Gedizlioğlu's* eruptive, post-Scelsian vision of what it means to be Mediterranean-blooded (AKDENIZLI), *Of Light and Shadows* demonstrates a bold young generation of Turkish composers each intent on using whatever tools necessary to create their own fresh, energetic and original musical voices. While by no means comprehensive, we hope this program gives some insight into the diversity and expressive potential of music in Turkey today.

OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS

premiered at MÄRZ MUSIK FESTIVAL, Berlin 23.03.2013

Akdenizli (2007)

ZEYNEP GEDİZLİOĞLU

Di luce e ombra (2005)

TOLGA YAYALAR

Hat for Kemençe and Strings (2011)

ONUR TÜRKMEN

String Quartet No 1 (2004)

FÜSUN KÖKSAL

"Performed by the fantastic
Hezarfen Ensemble,
Turkey's gold standard for
contemporary music."

- Gianluigi Mattiotti, Amadeus

INTERVAL

El Emeği (2012)

HASAN UÇARSU

Susma (2007)

ZEYNEP GEDİZLİOĞLU

Gnomus (2007)

AHMET ALTINEL

Programme duration:

70' plus interval

HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE

CEM ÖNERTÜRK, FLUTE
NUSRET İSPİR, CLARINET/BASSCLARINET
AMY SALSGIVER, PERCUSSION
MÜGE HENDEKLİ, PIANO
ÖZCAN ULUCAN, VIOLIN
NİLAY SANCAR, VIOLIN
ULRICH MERTIN, VIOLA
MEHMET GÖKHAN BAĞCI, VIOLONCELLO
NERMİN KAYGUSUZ, KEMENCE
ULRICH MERTIN / MICHAEL ELLISON,
CONDUCTORS/CO-DIRECTORS



OF LIGHT AND SHADOWS PERFORMANCES

- March 23rd 2013, MÄRZ MUSIC FESTIVAL, Berlin
- January 28th 2015, BILKENT CONCERT SERIES, Ankara, Turkey
- March 19th 2016, GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, Rome

HEZARFEN BIO 2016

Every concert by Hezarfen Ensemble is an adventure. Internationally recognized for its performances of contemporary music, it is above all the energy and vitality of this Istanbul-based group which has brought HEZARFEN increasingly widespread recognition as the ensemble enters its sixth season. With signature projects ranging from trio (*Turkish Trios in Trieste* and *Word and Sound*) to interdisciplinary chamber opera (*Deniz Küstü* and *Say I am You*) and *Music of Displacement*, the impact of HEZARFEN on music in Turkey has been profound, changing the face of contemporary music in its home country, while the infectious energy of its performances has brought acclaim for the ensemble in its appearances at festivals across Europe. Key performances abroad have included MÄRZMUSIK (Berlin, 2013), ROTTERDAM OPERADAGEN (2012), KLANGZEIT FESTIVAL MÜNSTER (2013), ESSEN CULTURAL CAPITAL (2010), GHI, ROME (2016) and at the TRIESTE PRIMA FESTIVAL (2015). At home, HEZARFEN regularly appears at ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL (2011, 2012, 2016), BORUSAN MUSIC HOUSE (2010-2016), AKBANK SANAT (2011), BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY (2013), BILKENT NEW MUSIC DAYS (2011/15) INSTITUT FRANCAIS (2011), SAYGUN CENTRE IZMIR (2012), KOÇ UNIVERSITY (2015) and in collaborations with GOETHE INSTITUTE (2011-16), Italian, Netherlands and Austrian Cultural Centres (2017, 2012 and 2016-17).

HEZARFEN has given countless Turkish premieres of works by composers from around the world in innovative formats, while presenting Turkish works to European audiences for the first time. HEZARFEN's interdisciplinary work ranges from modest integration of electronics, poetry and video (*Music of Displacement*) to major collaborations with dance, Music Theatre, live video art, and chamber opera. From 2015-2020, HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE forms the nexus of its ongoing transcultural initiative *Beyond East and West*, a groundbreaking EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ERC)-supported project that will facilitate HEZARFEN's long term goal of integrating Turkish traditional instruments and voices into contemporary music, while researching processes of combining of oral and written transmissions into evolving traditions.

In 2016-2017 HEZARFEN will perform for the first time in Malta, begin collaborations with KLANGFORUM WIEN and ICARUS ENSEMBLE, and continue its transcultural project *Beyond East and West*, with recordings of Turkish instruments and voices in Istanbul. Also this season, it will collaborate with world-class percussionists and musicians including vocalist Mariana Sodovska for the premiere of *Trommelsprachen* on the ACHT BRÜCKEN (Eight Bridges) FESTIVAL in Köln (May 2017), while contributing to a NRW transcultural initiative led by Matthias Mainz in nearby Bochum. A tour of HEZARFEN's acclaimed Total Music Theatre production, of *Deniz Küstü* (*The Sea-Crossed Fisherman*), is planned for 2017-18.



NERMIN KAYGUSUZ BIO

Nermin Kaygusuz was born in Ankara. She studied violin at the TURKISH MUSIC STATE CONSERVATORY with Erdoğan Saydam, completing her master's and doctoral degrees at ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY from 1989-1992 and learning 4-string Kemençe from Cüneyd Orhon. Nermin began teaching kemençe at the TURKISH MUSIC STATE CONSERVATORY and in 2001 received the title Associate Professor and Professor in 2007. She worked with Prof. Dr. Berthold Hoekner on musical aesthetics at the UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO in 2003. Kaygusuz has released three CDs: *Gönülden Damlalar*, *Kemençe ve Gitarla Saz Eserleri*, and *Telkâri*. She commissioned Onur Türkmen's *Hat For Kemençe And Strings*, the first concerto for kemençe., with a University grant. Also a singer, Nermin Kaygusuz, is one of Turkey's most eminent musicians to perform in both traditional Turkish music and new music genres. She has worked with ensembles such as ISTANBUL BAROQUE ENSEMBLE, AVAZE, ARAYIGLAR, GÖNÜLDEN DAMLALAR, MELODIAS EPICAS, BULUSMA. 2014 she performed with HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE at Berlin MAERZ MUSIK FESTIVAL and gave concerts, lectures in Europe with the microtonal guitar kemençe duo established with Tolgahan Çoğulu. In 2006, Kaygusuz published the book *Muallim İsmail Hakkı Bey ve Musiki Tekâmül Dersleri*. She is currently a professor at ITÜ Turkish Music State Conservatory.

ULRICH MERTIN BIO

Ulrich Mertin, born in Hoyerswerda/Sachsen in Germany, studied viola and violin in Würzburg and Berlin, Germany. As principle violist member of the EUROPEAN UNION CHAMBER ORCHESTRA and THE ENSEMBLE RESONANZ. He works with world renowned ensembles as KLANGFORUM WIEN, ENSEMBLE MODERN and MUSIKFABRIK KÖLN and holds masterclasses for interpreters and composers on contemporary chamber music, specific techniques and interpretation around Europe and is also teaching at the IMPULS ACADEMY in Graz/Austria. Since 2008 Ulrich lives and works between the "Orient and Occident". In Istanbul, the city of 1001 faces, he found the perfect platform for his heartfelt wish, intercultural dialogue and exchange projects. Ulrich is the Co-Founder and Co-Director of HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE, together with the American composer Michael Ellison.

MICHAEL ELLISON BIO

Singing melody, a mercurial sense of (often propulsive) rhythm, large-scale harmonic control, and above all a keen dramatic bent characterise Michael Ellison's work, which combines traditional (especially Turkish and Western) and contemporary sensibilities. Ellison's first opera, *Mevlana, Say I am You* (ROTTERDAM OPERADAGEN and ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVALS, 2012) broke new ground for contemporary music, achieving an unprecedented level of integration of Turkish traditional instruments — a direction his second opera, *Deniz Küstü* (ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL, 2016, Jones/Tanbay/NOHlab) extends. Ellison has been commissioned by BBC SYMPHONY, RADIO FRANCE, BERLIN SAXOPHONE QUARTET, GRENOBLE FESTIVAL, NEW YORK YOUTH SYMPHONY, and NEW MUSIC SOUTHWEST (UK), amongst many others, and is co-director of HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE.



HEZARFEN ENSEMBLE

Ilyas Celebi Sokak No D8
Kilicalipasa Mahallesi
Cihangir/Beyoglu
34433 Istanbul/Turkey

+90 (0)212 243 5762
info@hezarfenensemble.com

DIRECTORS

Michael Ellison
+90 538 065 3619
+44 791 043 7747
michael.ellison@hezarfenensemble.com

Ulrich Mertin
+90 530 490 8364
+49 177 280 5995
ulrich.mertin@hezarfenensemble.com

MANAGEMENT
Şafak Üstündağ
+90 533 9274762
safak.ustundag@hezarfenensemble.com

www.hezarfenensemble.com

 [facebook.com/HezarfenEnsemble](https://www.facebook.com/HezarfenEnsemble)

 [soundcloud.com/Hezarfen-Ensemble](https://www.soundcloud.com/Hezarfen-Ensemble)

 [youtube.com/hezarfenensemble](https://www.youtube.com/hezarfenensemble)

 Instagram: hezarfenensemble



distributed by A.K. MÜZİK İSTANBUL
and CAGSAV LABEL, available on iTunes

