



TOKER MESSING AROUND (with the Classics;)

Hakan A. Toker is a master of many genres, including Western classical, jazz and Turkish traditional music. Moreover, he is capable of improvising astonishing and humorous pieces, combining these genres in many different ways! **“Toker Messing Around”** is his crossover album which consists of his arrangements of world classics in jazz, Latin, Baroque and Turkish styles; released in 2019 by Parma / Navona Recordings (USA). In concert, the artist plays his arrangements (some solo, and some with his band), also he takes requests from the audience and improvises on them, they way F. Liszt used to do 200 years ago!

Here’s what it sounds like:

[Toker Messing Around with Chopin](#)

[Toker Messing Around with Beethoven](#)

[Toker Messing Around with Take Five](#)

[Toker Messing Around with Dvo řák](#)

[Album Release Concert](#)



Hakan A. Toker, Piano

Born in 1976, Southern Turkey, Hakan A. Toker studied partly at Bilkent University School of Music and Performing Arts, Ankara. He completed his education in the USA at Indiana University School of Music, double majoring in piano and composition (BM 2000). He also took courses in jazz and electronic music there. Along with his formal education, he taught himself how to improvise and play Turkish music; learned to play the *kanun* and accordion, after the piano.

Throughout the 9 years he lived in the USA, he gave many concerts. He broadened his spectrum by adding on ethnic world music genres while continuing his work in the classical field. He concertized, recorded albums and took part in many presentations in schools and colleges with the bands Salaam (Middle Eastern), Silk Road (Central Asian)

and Orquesta Son (Latin American music). During the same period he began to play for silent movies; and worked in creative projects with multi-media artists, dancers, poets, jugglers and acrobats etc.

In 2006 he went back to his homeland and became a founding member of bands Tanini and Abra, he performed with artists such as Yıldız İbrahimova and Dilek Türkan, and for a short while he performed musical comedy shows for children with the flutist Christian Plouvier (International Ankara Music Festival, 2009).

Toker has broken ground in the interpretation of Turkish traditional music on piano. He has been well acclaimed by listeners and colleagues alike for his albums “Turkish Music on Piano” (2005) and “Alla Turca Alla Toker” (2012). In 2011 for the first time in Turkey, he gave recitals of Turkish music on microtonally tuned pianos. He continues this work also with other keyboard instruments such as the clavichord, harpsichord and the Fluid Piano. In 2012 he made concerto-like arrangements of Turkish music called *Senfonik Fasil*. He performed with many orchestras including the Istanbul and Izmir State Symphony Orchestras.

He has been given “Our Living Values” award in 2013 during the 1st. Mersin Cultural Festival. In 2017 he won the Global Music Awards Silver Medal together with his Croatian colleagues Matej Meštrović and Matija Dedić for their album “Vivaldi - 4 Seasons for 3 Pianos” created by Matej Meštrović and released by Parma Recordings.

Toker has done research and given informative recitals on topics such as Unknown Composers, Turkish Composers, Female Composers etc. He is also one of few concert pianists in the world who continues the old tradition of improvisation in classical music.

As a performer, so far he has played in 28 countries, including international festivals such as the Istanbul, Ankara, Mersin, Side, Lvov (Ukraine) and Indianapolis Jazz (USA) festivals.

As a composer, he writes in many genres including Western classical, jazz and Turkish music in every scale. Among these are incidental music, two children’s operas and music for marching band which he wrote during his military service.



Naz Evren, Cello

She was born in Ankara in 1980. She began her musical studies in 1990 at the Hacettepe University State Conservatory cello department. In 2000 she transferred to the Gazi University Education Department School of Music Education. She graduated with honors in 2004. That same year she began to teach cello at Süleyman Demirel University. She completed her masters degree in 2007 under Prof. Erdal Tuğcular, with her thesis “The Effects of Muscular and Skeletal Ailments to Performance in Instrumental Education at Conservatories and Education Departments in Turkey”. That same year she began her research position at the Bülent Ecevit University in

Zonguldak. During this period she gave concerts on campus, as well as with the Balıkesir University Music Department Orchestra and Chorus, Bolu İzzet Baysal University Youth Orchestra, Balıkesir University Music Department Academic Orchestra as a guest artist.

She has worked with prominent Turkish conductors such as Hikmet Şimşek, Rengim Gökmen, Erol Erdinç, İbrahim Yazıcı etc.

She was the founder and editor of the conservatory magazine. She has articles published in this magazine as well as the university’s magazine and she is the author of 2 children’s books waiting to be published.

She is also a music therapist, certified by the Turkish Ministry of Health.

As of 2018 she has resigned from her position at Bülent Ecevit University and continues her educational activities and concerts in Istanbul and other cities in Turkey.



Hakan Çetinkaya, Drums and Percussion

Born in 1974, Bursa, Turkey; Hakan Çetinkaya graduated from the Bursa Municipality Turkish Music State Conservatory Percussion Department.

For many years he has been active as a drummer and percussionist, playing at the concerts and recording sessions of many famous Turkish singers of the popular music scene, such as Zülfü Livaneli, Orhan Gencebay, Seda Sayan etc.

He has composed many soundtracks for documentary films for Turkish Radio Television and many other institutions.

He is also a very experienced sound engineer, having worked in over 7 studios, recording, mixing and producing many recordings including his own album “Fa – Dokunmuş

Vuruşlar” and “Hasan Günyüz & Örgü Project”.

Hakan Çetinkaya is an active educator, working frequently with children, specializing in percussion workshops for mentally disabled children. In 2018 he was commissioned by the Istanbul Department of Education to train the teachers of mentally disabled children.

Since 2014 he has been working together with Hakan A. Toker, playing drums and percussion in his albums and concerts, as well as recording and mixing Toker’s albums, including “Toker Messing Around...with the classics;”) released by Parma/Navona Recordings in 2019. One of their albums together features music composed by both of them and cellist Murat Süngü: “Üç Gönül Hikayesi” (Tales of Three Hearts) released by H&H Productions (Hakan Toker & Hakan Çetinkaya’s own label).

Rider

- 1 acoustic grand piano with its adjustable bench. Electric or upright unacceptable. The instrument must be tuned on the day of the concert.
- 1 good quality acoustic drum kit in good condition, along with its adjustable bench
- 2 music stands
- 1 small rug to place percussion on; preferably on a raised platform (2x2 m).
- 1 speaking mic, next to piano
- 2 overhead mics for piano
- 1 mic for cello
- a set of mics for drum kit
- 2 mics for percussion
- At least 2 main speakers, depending on size of hall
- 3 stage monitors (preferably with separate mixes)
- 1 soundboard
- Experienced staff to set-up and run the sound system (system must be set-up before artists arrive for sound check)

OPTIONAL

If there is a harpsichord available at the venue in good condition and in tune, it could be used in some numbers for additional color.

Requirements

- 4 round-trip flights from Istanbul, Turkey and back (1 for cello, the instrument).
- Transfers between airport, hotel and venue
- 1 single room, 1 double room
- 2 meals-a-day
- Fee: Negotiable. Please get in touch.

CONTACT

Hakan A. Toker
+90 (536) 208 5332
htoker@yahoo.com