



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 whatever amount he wishes! “**Toker Messing Around**” is his crossover album which consists of his arrangements of world classics in jazz, Latin, Baroque and Turkish styles; to be released in 2019 by Parma Recordings (USA). The artist plays some of these arrangements during the first part of his concert, then improvises on requests coming from the audience in the second part.

Click to view/listen:

[Elise’s Got The Blues](#) (album, solo)

[Take Five or More](#) (album, solo)

[When My Ma’ Sings To Me](#) (concert, combo)

[Istanbul Not Quite Constantinople](#) (album, large band)

[Sous le Ciel de Versailles](#) (rehearsal, harpsichord)



About Hakan A. Toker...

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.

He livestreams interactively over his Facebook account every Wednesday at 9pm Turkey time.

Alternate Versions of The Project and Requirements:

A – SOLO PIANO VERSION

Rider: 1 acoustic grand piano with its adjustable bench. Electric or upright unacceptable. The instrument must be tuned the day of the concert.

B –SMALL COMBO VERSION (Piano, Bass, Drums, Percussion)

Rider:

- 1 piano (as indicated above)
 - 1 good quality acoustic drum kit in good condition, along with its adjustable bench
 - 1 good quality acoustic double bass in good condition, along with a bar stool
- NOTE: If bass is unavailable, please provide for the transportation of one
- 3 music stands

Sound System:

- 1 speaking mic, next to piano
- 2 overhead mics for piano
- 1 line-in or mic for double bass
- a set of mics for drum kit
- 2 mics for percussion
- At least 2 main speakers, depending on size of hall
- 4 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)

C –LARGE COMBO VERSION (Piano, Clarinet, *Kanun*, *Ud*, Bass, Drums, Percussion)

Rider:

- 3 more mics, monitors and music stands in addition to the above B version (7 people total)
- 1 small podium (min. 2x2m) with a small rug over it, for the table player to sit on.

OPTIONAL

If there is a harpsichord at the venue in good condition and in tune, it could be used in some numbers as an additional color. This could be included in any of the three versions above.

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