



TOKER TRIO

Hakan A. Toker, piano

Volkan Topakoğlu, bass

Ekin Cengizkan, drums

This is a project that truly deserves to be categorized as “Turkish Jazz”, with the original compositions and arrangements of a pianist who is equally at home with Western classical music, jazz and Turkish traditional music, creating music that cross-breeds these genres in the most homogenous and organic ways imaginable. Is this a fair description? Please, see for yourself and decide:

(Click on titles to watch YouTube links)

[Beyaz giyme toz olur](#) (Turkish Folk Song)

[Silifkenin Yoğurdu](#) (Turkish Folk Song)

[Lamma bada yatathanna](#) (Andalusian Folk Song)

[Songs My Mother Taught Me \(Dvořák\) / Perserverance](#) (Toker)

[Istanbul Not Quite Constantinople](#) (Nat Simon)

[Worry](#) (Toker)



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 runs his own radio show at the Borusan Klasik station each Sunday at 8pm and livestreams over his Facebook account every Wednesday at 9pm Turkey time.
yapmaktadır. (Turkish Folk Song)

Technical Rider

Required equipment

-1 acoustic grand piano along with an adjustable piano bench. It must be tuned the day of the concert and the piano tuner must not leave without the pianist checking the instrument. Digital or upright piano not acceptable.

-1 standard good-quality drum kit, in good condition

-1 acoustic good-quality doublebass, in good condition

NOTE: If a doublebass is not available, an extra plane ticket or oversize/overweight baggage fee must be provided, depending on the requirement of the airline

-1 tall bar stool for the bass player

-2 music stands.

Sound System

-1 vocal mic for announcements, next to piano bench.

-2 overhead mics for piano.

-1 line-in for double bass

-multiple microphones for percussion and drums

-at least 2 main speakers, depending on hall size.

-3 stage monitors (preferably with separate mixes)

-A powered sound board

Required assistance

-A person to set up and run the sound system

NOTE: Sound system must be prepared in advance, before the artists arrive for soundcheck

-A backstage assistant

Fee

-2,000 Euros per concert

Travel expenses

-3 plane tickets taking-off from the Atatürk airport in Istanbul (4 tickets or appropriate oversize baggage fee if a double bass is to be transported)

-Transfers between airport, hotel and concert venue

-Official invitation letter, visa fee and assistance whenever a visa is required for an international concert

-3 single rooms in a minimum 3-star hotel

-2 meals a day or an adequate per-diem

Sample Program

Istanbul not Constantinople	Nat Simon
Elif Türküsü (Turkish folk song)	Sadettin Kaynak
Worry	Hakan A. Toker
Perseverance	Hakan A. Toker
Maturation	Hakan A. Toker
When My Mother Sings to Me	Antonín Dvořák
A New Day	Hakan A. Toker
The Jolly Klutz	Hakan A. Toker
Dolphins	Hakan A. Toker
Interactive Improvisation	Toker Trio
The Wren	Yesari Asım Arsoy

CONTACT

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