



Hakan A. Toker
piano

TURKISH JAZZ PROJECT

“Turkish Jazz” is not just Turkish musicians playing jazz. It is the ultimate, climactic blend of Turkish music and jazz, leading to a new musical language through the original compositions and arrangements of pianist Hakan A. Toker, who is equally at home with Western classical music, jazz and Turkish traditional music, like no musician has ever been before! Hakan A. Toker is the creator and piano soloist of the project. He is accompanied on drums/percussion and bass by varying artists. He is open to travelling alone and performing with local bass players and drummers. Click to watch “Turkish Jazz” live:

[Beylikdüzü Jazz Festival \(Istanbul, 2018\)](#)

[Mersin International Music Festival \(Tarsus, 2019\)](#)



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.

Alternate Versions of the Project

Instrumental Trio

Piano, bass, drums

Instrumental Quartet

Piano, bass, drums, percussion

Vocal Quintet

Vocalist, piano, bass, drums, percussion

Solo Piano

Also possible

Rider (for full version)

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
- 2 to 4 music stands, depending on number of musicians

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
- 1 vocal mic for singer, if there will be one
- at least 2 main speakers, depending on hall size.
- one stage monitor per musician (preferably with separate mixes)
- A sound board

Required Assistance

- A person to set up and run the sound system
- NOTE: Sound system must be set-up in advance, before the artists arrive for soundcheck
- A backstage assistant

Sample Program

Istanbul not Constantinople	Nat Simon
Elif Türküsü (Turkish folk song)	Sadettin Kaynak
Yemenimin Uçları (My Vest)	Anonymous Folk Song
Perseverance	Hakan A. Toker
Maturation	Hakan A. Toker
Silifke Boogie	Anonymous Folk Song
A New Day	Hakan A. Toker
The Jolly Klutz	Hakan A. Toker
Kız Sen Geldin Çerkeş'ten	Faize Ergin
Interactive Improvisation	
Çalığışu (The Wren)	Yesari Asım Arsoy

CONTACT

Ayşe Sakallı, project manager

+90 (532) 568 35 71

cazfasli@gmail.com