



TOKER TRIO

Hakan A. Toker, piano
Murat Sng, cello
Erdem Gymen, drums

Lisztian piano school blended-in with blues and Middle Eastern makam, a 5-string cello that mimics the bass, drums that can imitate traditional hand-percussion... Toker Trio is three masters with 5 continents, 75 countries, 2000 albums' load of experience and stylistic mastery spanning from Irish to Hindu genres. Their repertoire consists of Toker's originals and arrangements fusing jazz with Turkish music. Their first album "Taurus Mountains" was selected one of the best jazz albums of 2019 by Aık Radyo, Turkey.

Listen to samples on YouTube:

[Gymnopedie Orientale](#)

[Tongue Twister](#)

[Dolphins](#)



Hakan A. Toker, piano, composer

Hakan's interest in music began at an early age, by messing around with a keyboard on his own and eventually picking-up tunes on it by ear. He studied classical music formally in Turkey and USA, while working on his own on his skills on improvisation and Turkish music. He graduated from Indiana University School of Music, double majoring in piano and composition (BM 2000).

Between 1997-2006 he was active in the USA, working with the bands Salaam, Silk Road, Orquesta Son, Qwertyt; also playing classical and improvised recitals, music for silent films etc.

In 2006 he went back to Turkey and worked with Tanini, Yıldız İbrahimova, Dilek Türkan etc. In 2013 he was given “Our Living Values” award by the 1st. Mersin Cultural Festival committee. In 2017 and 2019 he won the Global Music Awards Silver Medal for two different albums: “Vivaldi - 4 Seasons for 3 Pianos” with Matej Meštrović and Matija Dedić (Parma/Navona Recordings) and “Toker Messing Around” (Parma/Navona).

Toker has been well acclaimed for his work in the fields of world music and classical improvisation –the latter being an endangered tradition, kept alive by very few recitalists today. His albums “Turkish Music on Piano” (2005), “Alla Turca Alla Toker” (2012, MCC) testifies for his accomplishments in the former, while “Transformations” (2003, New World) and “Toker Messing Around” (2019, Parma/Navona) testifies for the latter. “Şehir Hayatı” (City Life - 2018, YeniKapi) is another album demonstrating his ability to mix the East and West in his original compositions.



Murat Süngü, 5-string cello

Coming from a family of life-long-supporting-musicians, Murat Süngü was born in Istanbul, 1973. He started to learn the violin at the age of 10. At 13 he started taking Western violin and music theory lessons from the famous Tayfun Gültekin, while at the same time taking Turkish music lessons from master musicians at The Üsküdar Music Society. Later he graduated from the Pera Fine arts Highschool cello department. He has served extensively at numerous orchestras and choirs, broadening his experience,

repertoire and knowledge. While at Pera he also got to work with master classical musicians such as Yeşim and Naci Madanoğlu.

He is known as the most new and reformist musician of the post-modern process of the cello being adapted to Turkish traditional art music as well as other ethnic musical genres and that of the cello adding depth to the traditional Turkish string section. Thanks to his interest and training, he has gained high respect in Turkey as well as abroad for his achievements in the area fusing multiple world music genres.

As a conductor, stage and studio musician, he has worked with some of the most famous singers of the Turkish scene such as Muazzez Ersoy, Sibel Can, Bülent Ersoy, İbrahim Tatlıses. He is also the member of two most prestigious string ensembles in Turkey: Şenyaylar and KEM-PA.

The custom-made 5-string cello that he uses in Toker Trio enables him to assume a dual role, providing the best of both worlds: a plucked bass sound that's just as rich as a doublebass, plus a much more present and agile singing function for the solos, compared to a doublebass.



Erdem Göymen, drums

Erdem Göymen began playing drums while he was a student at the Istanbul High School. He studied jazz drums in the Music Groups Program of Yıldız Technical University and graduated in 2009.

Since the beginning of the 2000s, he worked and took part in concerts with musicians such as Jehan Barbur, Tibet Ađırtan, Arto Tunç, Kudsi Ergüner, Selçuk Sun, Ayten Alpman, Önder Focan, Şenova Ülker, Hakan Vreskala,

Kolektif İstanbul, Kardeş Türküler, Şirin Soysal, Selen Gülün, Demirhan Baylan, Korhan Futacı, and Utku Yurttaş.

He found opportunities to play with many well-known international musicians like Haltli and David Kweksilber. With the support of The German Ministry of Culture, he takes part in different projects and concerts every year in Germany with Utku Yurttaş and other musicians based in Germany. He plays in concerts with the support of Ministry of Foreign Affairs in order to present Turkish jazz abroad.

He currently takes part in music and stage performances with Sezen Aksu, Korhan Futacı and Kara Orkestra, Bajar, Bilal Karaman Quartet, Evrim Demirel Ensemble ve many other jazz groups. Giving lectures in the School of Hisar Educational Foundation for 2 years, the artist works with many students and prepares end-of-the-year performances with them. He continues his private lessons in his own studio.

Rider

Equipment

- A good quality acoustic grand piano in good condition. Together with its adjustable bench. Must be tuned the day of the performance.
- A good quality drum kit in good condition. Together with its adjustable bench.
- 2 music stands
- 1 armless chair

Sound System

- 2 overhead piano mics
- 1 line-in for the cello
- a standard set of mics for the drum kit, if the venue is rather large. Otherwise, drums can be heard acoustically.
- at least 2 main speakers, depending on the size of the hall
- 3 stage monitors (preferably with separate mixes)
- A powered sound board

Please NOTE: The sound system must be set-up and ready before soundcheck. There needs to be experienced staff running it.

