

PRESS RELEASE, August 1st 2023

10th Klasik Keyifler Music Festival - Şirince Selçuk

Klasik Keyifler is bringing together an acclaimed group of international musicians for their 10th music festival held between **August 27th** and **September 10th** in Şirince and Selçuk.

Located close to the ancient Roman city of Ephesus, Turkey this summer's concerts and seminars will be held in an, the main village square, the Nesin Mathematics Village amphitheater and library, the Stoa courtyard, Kayserkaya hotel, the Arkhé campus and in the Selçuk Town museum.

All events are free and open to the public.

This 10th festival is co-directed by **Ellen Jewett**, an American violinist formerly a member of the Audubon Quartet, and cellist **Mehmet Gökhan Bağcı**, a member of the Antalya State Symphony and Hezarfen Ensemble-Turkey's premiere new music ensemble.

Baroque programs will feature noted Hungarian harpsichordist **Márton Borsányi** and Ankara Presidential Symphony Orchestra members **Özge Özerbek** and **Emre Akman**.

In honor of the centennial of the Republic of Türkiye in 2023, KK will present chamber music composed in the early republic, beginning with the August 30th holiday concert of Erkin's Piano Quintet. Performers will be pianist **Eser Öykü Dede**, who is an artist-in-residence at the Nesin Art Village, and violinist **İmge Tilif**, a member of Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra. KK will be exploring some mostly unknown string quartets written by the first generation of composers who came of age in the early Turkish Republic such as Rey, Canselen, İlerici, Koral and Ün. This project is partially supported by Tekfen Philharmonic's chamber music project "**O da Tekfen**" ("This too is Tekfen") with the collaboration and participation of their members **Yağız Erarslan**, **Yiğit Uğurlu**, **Hüseyin Mehmetoğlu** and **Serdar Mamaç**. Other special performers for this project will be the young violin virtuoso **Naz İrem Türkmen** and her professor from the Istanbul State Conservatory, **Ash Erdal**, along with Portuguese violist **Caterina Marques** currently based in Switzerland, and cellist **Özgür Kaya** a student at the Royal College of Music in London.

With the friendly support of the prestigious Ernst von Siemens Music Foundation, KK is presenting the 'Composers Cauldron' which is a series of seminars and concert events profiling the work of living composers. In 2023 KK resident artists will premiere new works by 8 selected young composers from Türkiye, Zimbabwe, Azerbaijan and Iran. Other performers joining these collaborations with the young composers will be **Olgu Kızılay**, a violinist with the Antalya Symphony Orchestra, violinist **Ceren Türkmenoğlu**, a member of the Ankara Opera Orchestra, American violinist **Sara Parkins** a member of the Eroica Trio, American violist **Laura Krentzman** a member of Bilkent Symphony, and **Ali Başeğmezler** a member of Başkent Chamber Orchestra. They will premiere works by **Afaq İsmeyeva***, **Amir Nabizad***, **Tia Nyamuda***, **Imge Yağmur Tiryarki***, **Berfin Deniz Çalkıoğlu***, **Ege Sayar***, **Yusuf Şahin***, **Sibel Edikli***.

This Ev Siemens award will also support live concert premieres from '**Sei Solo 2020**', a double-CD recording recently, and released by Ada Classical of solo works commissioned and written during covid. Violinist **Ayşen Ulucan**, lives in England and works with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra and BBC Symphony Orchestra among others. She performs *5 Fragments for Vocalizing Violinist* by **Camilo Mendez**, a Harvard graduate currently on the HKBU faculty in Hong Kong; and *What Makes an Ocean* by **Didem Çoşkunseven**, who is currently at IRCAM in Paris and is finishing a Ph.D from UC Berkeley. Violinist and conductor **Kerem Tuncer**, lives in Berlin where he was one of the first young artists to be accepted to the Barenboim-Said Akademie. He performs *Ephemeral Qualia* by **Can Bilir**, a Cornell graduate currently on a fellowship at Chulalongkorn University Bangkok; and *Economic Offering* by **Mert Morali** who studied at the Royal Academy of Music in London as well at the Hans Eisler Conservatory of Music in Berlin where he currently resides. Violinist **Muhammedjan Sharipov**, did his graduate work at the Mozarteum in Salzburg and performs regularly with the Balthasar Neumann Ensemble. He performs *Non Whispering* by **Mert**

Kocadayı, who lives in Salzburg and is a graduate student at the Mozarteum; and *Nearby* by **Engin Dağlık** who pursues his doctorate at Stanford and is also an active performer involved with sound art and installations. KK co-director **Gökhan Bağcı** performs *Some Melodies* by **Can Kazaz**, who is also a popular indie performer/writer living in Istanbul; and *This Feeling of Déjà Vu* by **Senay Uğurlu**, a graduate of Bilkent University recently on a fellowship at the Lucerne Festival Academy. **Gözde Yaşar** a cello professor at Mimar Sinan Music Conservatory in Istanbul performs *Latent* by **Aida Shirazi**, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of California-Davis and founder of the Iranian Female Composers Association. Cellist **Poyraz Baltacıgil** is associate principal of the Borusan Orchestra in Istanbul and recently completed a European tour as solist with the Turkish Youth Orchestra. He performs *Anamnesis* by **Hakki Cengiz Eren**, who holds degrees from Peabody Institute and the University of Southern California, and is currently on the faculty at Middle East University in Cyprus; and *Passage to Ghostland* by **Idil Özkan** who is a pianist, studied psychology at Bosphorus University and currently leads interdisciplinary seminars on music and the power of emotions.

Inspired by working in close proximity to the Nesin Village, a summer school for mathematics, the series titled ‘The Rule-Makers; The Rule-Breakers’ plays with the Turkish nickname for Suleiman the Magnificent ‘Kanuni’ meaning Rule-Maker (or Law-Giver). With general usages in Greek as well as Arabic, meaning measurement, standard or proportion, it is no surprise that the same name -kanun- is used for a string instrument. Programs will feature talks and concerts presented by a group of instrumentalists- kanun, santur, harp, a that are often considered the rule-makers of a musical ensemble, because they provide the foundational harmonic structure. and will also celebrate these musicians and composers who creatively break the rules of their individual traditions by blending styles and pushing the boundaries of their instruments. Kanun player **Esra Berkman** is a professor at Anadolu University and is very active in contemporary music performances and will give the Turkish premiere of **Meliha Doğuduyal**’s work for solo kanun, Iranian Canadian santur player **Amir Amiri** is also a composer, a cultural inventor and surrounds himself with collaborators from the worlds of jazz, classical and world music and **Çağatay Akyol** is the principal harpist of the Ankara Presidential Symphony Orchestra and founder of the popular group Arpanatolia.

KK will be joined by **Garth Knox**, a composer, violist and viola d’amore player at the forefront of the new music scene in many fields. As a member of the Arditti Quartet, he gave first performances by and worked with many leading composers including Ligeti, Xenakis, Stockhausen, Boulez, Kurtág, Sciarrino, and Henze. **Reza Vali**, an Iranian American faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University will offer lectures along with **Clint Bajakian**, a composer of the world’s most popular video games such as the God of War and World of Warcraft. **Erberk Eryılmaz** from Ankara Music and Fine Arts University will lead the ‘Composers Cauldron’ workshops this summer. He is a Turkish-American composer and performer recognized for bringing the energy of the folk music of his homeland to the concert stage. The ensemble he co-founded **Hoppa Project** features 2 brilliant Turkish performers, wind player **Buğra Kutbay** and bağlama player **Atakan Turaç**. They will partner with the beloved Turkish bard **Asım Kuzuluk** from Antakya, and the program will alternate new compositions with songs and dances from the Hatay and Çukurova regions.

Esteemed Canadian violinist **Emmanuel Vukovich** will join the festival as part of his *Parcival project; Bartok in Turkey*. Pianist **Başar Can Kıvrak** from Yaşar University School of Music will present a special recital of Schumann’s solo music.

Noted Alexander Technique teacher and teacher trainer **Ann Rodiger** from NYC will be in residence for the majority of the festival in order to work with musicians and audience members.

Thanks to the major financial support from Chamber Music Exchange, a US- based 501c3 NGO and the Engle Family Foundation, the majority of participants in KK’s educational activities are partially or fully funded.. This funding also supports *Musician to Musician*, a special campaign to provide mentorship and training to musicians affected by the recent earthquakes in Türkiye. This special project is managed by **Özge Erdem**, from Orchestra Academic Başkent, violinist and the festival is managed by KK founder **Hüsam Süleymangil**.

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