

**ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES  
ITS 40th YEAR PROGRAMME**

**40th ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL  
31 MAY-29 JUNE 2012**

*The Istanbul Music Festival, the first festival of the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts (İKSV) is celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2012. The 40th year special programme of the Istanbul Music Festival, which hosted more than 40,000 artists from Turkey and abroad with nearly 3,000 performances in 40 years, is announced at a press meeting.*

The **Istanbul Music Festival** celebrates its 40th year together with the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts. **Sponsored by the Borusan Holding** since 2006, the Festival's 40th edition will be held between **31 May and 29 June**. The **40th Music Festival** will host more than 750 local and foreign artists in Istanbul and will present a month full of music.

The 40th Istanbul Music Festival will host stars of classical music in Istanbul including **Hélène Grimaud, Anne-Sophie Mutter, Milos, Gidon Kremer, Chamber Orchestra Vienna-Berlin** and **Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra** and will feature **two special** performances of the **Zurich Ballet** as part of the farewell tour of **Heinz Spoerli**, one of the leading choreographers of Europe. Along with concerts, the festival will also present talks, educational workshops and speeches.

The **Istanbul Music Festival** will continue to contribute to the contemporary music repertory with its commissions to two world-renown composers. One of the most productive artists of our time, the genius pianist **Fazıl Say** who gets standing ovations at every concert, and one of most valuable composers of Georgia, **Giya Kancheli** will have **the world premieres of their new works** commissioned by the Istanbul Music Festival within the scope of the festival.

Since 2011, the festival has started to build its programme around a theme. The theme of this year's **Istanbul Music Festival** will be "**Hope and Heroes**." The festival programme, as a result of an accurate repertory research, presents a range of specific works and special concert projects selected within the scope of two intertwined themes such as heroes and hope. Along with these, special projects entitled "**Istanbul Music Festival in Search of Its Young Soloist**," "**Young Masters and Their Heroes**" and "**Open Conservatory**", which will be held in Karaköy Greek Primary School, will be carried out as well.

Presenting 2 world premieres and 3 Turkish premieres, the 40th Istanbul Music Festival features 23 concerts including **symphonic and chamber orchestras, vocal concerts, chamber music and recitals**. The festival concerts will be held in 8 different venues including **Hagia Eirene Museum**, which continues to host the festival for the last 40 years, along with **the Haliç Congress Center, Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Center, Garden of the Netherlands Consulate General, Süreyya Opera House, Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall, Istanbul University Rectorate Building** and **Istanbul Archaeological Museum**.

The programme of the 40th Music Festival was announced in a press meeting held at **the Four Seasons Hotel Istanbul at the Bosphorus**, giving venue and catering support to the festival's press meeting for the last three years. **İKSV Chairman Bülent Eczacıbaşı, Borusan Culture and Arts Chair of the Board of Directors Zeynep Hamedî** and **the Istanbul Music Festival Director Yeşim Gürer Oymak** delivered speeches during the press meeting.

**İKSV Chairman of Board of Directors Bülent Eczacıbaşı** remarked that the Music Festival, which celebrates its 40th year together with the foundation's, faces difficulties due to a lack of venues and said "***In light of Istanbul's aspiration to be an international capital of culture and the arts, it is disappointing that no new venues have been generated for the Istanbul Music Festivals since the first one 40 years ago. Unfortunately, none of the venues we use today are purpose-built concert halls. To this end, we are continually trying to develop new solutions that can be realized with the support of private organisations, local governments***

**and public institutions.”** Eczacıbaşı pointed out that the Istanbul Music Festival will continue and increase the number of its projects targeting youth in its 40th year and said **“Our hopes, as the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts, lie with the youth; they are our heroes. For this reason, we are expanding our activities for young people this year. We will continue our program “BiTamBiÖğrenci”, which we revitalised on our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary to ensure that more young people selected by non-governmental institutions can attend our concerts. We will also continue our master classes for young talent with the aim of contributing to their musical education. I would like to take this opportunity to express my hope that audiences enjoy the concert program that we prepared for the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Istanbul Music Festival and to extend our warmest appreciation to the Four Seasons Hotel at the Bosphorus, which has hosted our festival’s press conferences for the last four years including today, and to all the institutions and organisations that have provided us continual support, most notably our festival sponsor Borusan.”**

**Borusan Culture and Arts Chair of the Board of Directors Zeynep Hamedı said “As Borusan, we see culture and arts as the fifth sector that we operate in. We think that culture and arts have a leading role in integrating Turkey to the rest of the world. Through the activities we support and the Borusan Culture and Arts which celebrates its 15th year in 2012, we are determined to continue our activities in this field and committed to carry them further.”**

**The Istanbul Music Festival Director Yeşim Gürer Oymak pointed out that the festival built its programme around “Hope and Heroes” theme and said “Artists, just like heroes, follow their dreams for a lifetime. They fight for the community - sometimes even running the risk of opposing the community itself, only with the hope that they might one day be appreciated. They light our darkest hours; they inspire us; they instil hope into our exhausted souls and hearts. We invite the music lovers to an acoustic realm where hope and heroism reign in the wonderful works of great composers. (...) Besides the performances relating to the theme of this year’s festival, we will be hosting the world premieres of our two commissions: Georgian composer Giya Kancheli’s symphonic work dedicated to the cellist Benjamin Sönmez who passed away last year at a very young age and Fazıl Say’s much anticipated “Mesopotamia” Symphony. With also many Turkish premieres, glamorous concerts, lectures, and educational projects, we wish this festival to be an inviting and hope-inspiring event.”**

## **THE PERFORMANCE SPONSORS OF THE ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL**

The 40th Istanbul Music Festival is organised with the contribution of many performance sponsors along with the festival sponsor **Borusan Holding**.

- Mercedes-Benz Türk A.Ş.
- Borusan Holding
- Boeing Commercial Airplanes
- Türkiye İş Bank
- Pak Group
- Tekfen Foundation
- Işıklar Holding AŞ.
- TSKB
- Milli Reasürans T.A.Ş
- Berrin Erengül
- Istanbul Chamber of Commerce
- Murat Barlas

The 40th Istanbul Music Festival is also supported by the **Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Turkey, Istanbul Governor’s Office of the Republic of Turkey, Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Turkey, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, Beyoğlu District of the Republic of Turkey, Beyoğlu Municipality.**

The festival concerts are realised with the collaboration of **Ernst Von Siemens Music Foundation, Istanbul University Rectorate and State Conservatory of the Republic of Turkey, Kadıköy Municipality, Netherlands Consulate General in İstanbul and Consulate General of Poland in İstanbul.**

Sponsors that support all festivals of the **Istanbul Foundation of Culture and Arts**, the leading sponsor **Eczacıbaşı**, the Official Airline **Turkish Airlines**, the Official Communication Sponsor **Vodafone**, the Official Carrier **DHL Express**, and service sponsors **Ergo Insurance, Fida Film** and **GFK** also support the music festival this year.

**Alametifarika** prepared the **publicity campaign** of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival. **Bülent Erkmen** designed the Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts logo, specially designed for its 40<sup>th</sup> year.

### **THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL THEME: "HOPE AND HEROES"**

Numerous surprise projects await music enthusiasts in the programme of the Istanbul Music Festival built around the theme "Hope and Heroes". The festival will begin with a concert on **Thursday 31 May**, where young artists from Turkey who have long conquered classical music stages all around the world **Simge Büyükedes, Ezgi Kutlu, Cenk Bıyık, and Burak Bilgili** will perform the **9<sup>th</sup> Symphony of Beethoven**, a monumental piece conveying "freedom, equality, and brotherhood", together with **Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism State Polyphonic Choir** and **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of **Sascha Goetzl**. On a special evening on **Friday 8 June**, entitled "**Women Heroes of Music**," one of Turkey's leading violists **Cihat Aşkın** and **Istanbul Chamber Orchestra** led by **Hakan Şensoy**, will perform works from leading female composers from Turkey and the world.

Another special concert, which will be held within the scope of the theme on **Saturday 16 June**, presents **Hüseyin Sermet** accompanied by **Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin**. The concert will feature Ravel's "**Piano Concerto for Left Hand**", which he wrote for Paul Wittgenstein who "never lost his hope" even though he had lost his right arm during the 1st World War, and Beethoven's 3rd Symphony "**Eroica**" which depicts heroism for its tragedy as much as its victory.

On the evening of **Wednesday 20 June**, **The Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra** and **Daniel Müller Schott** will venture into faraway lands in search of "heroes" by performing "**Don Quixote**" composed by **Strauss** based on Cervantes' famous novel and "**A Life of a Hero**" in which Strauss depicts himself.

Another concert within the theme will be performed by composer and pianist **Fazıl Say**, accompanied by **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of **Gürer Aykal**, in which Say will present Beethoven's epic piano concerto, "**The Emperor**".

The festival also features many special projects targeting the young musicians who give us hope for the future. The festival launched a project titled "**The Istanbul Music Festival is in Search of its Young Soloist**", inviting young musicians to take part in auditions on **21 March**. The selected soloist will perform with **The Istanbul University State Conservatory Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of conductor **Ramiz Malik Aslanov** on **Friday, 15 June**. Also, the festival will host a concert titled "**Young Masters and Their Heroes**", presenting the 14-years-old but already accomplished pianists **Ece Bozkurt, Iraz Yıldız** and **Cem Esen**, who will play together with the piano doyens of today, **Gülsin Onay, Hüseyin Sermet** and **Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu**, who themselves were "child prodigies" once.

## **COMMISSIONED WORKS FOR THE FESTIVAL'S 40th ANNIVERSARY**

Last year, the **Istanbul Music Festival** has begun commissioning works from composers from Turkey and abroad, taking an important step towards enriching the contemporary classical music repertory. Continuing these efforts, the festival will present two world premieres this year.

One of the most distinguished composers of our time and a leading figure in the world of contemporary music, Georgian composer **Giya Kancheli** composes a symphonic work for the festival, which will be performed for the very first time on **Monday, 11 June at 20.00** at the **Hagia Eirene Museum**. This concert will be realised in memory of a young talent, the late cellist **Benyamin Sönmez**, who was to be the soloist of this world premiere until his passing away in December 2011. In the performance, the work of Kancheli will be performed by the **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** led by conductor **Andres Mustonen** and **Warsaw Philharmonic Choir**. The soloists of the concert will be Georgian countertenor **Mamuka Gaganidze**, cellist **Giedre Dirvanauskaitė**, and the legendary violist **Gidon Kremer**, who received the Festival's Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011.

The second work commissioned by the festival is composed by **Fazıl Say**, who is among the most prominent artist of today with his compositions, and his concerts all over the world. The pianist will perform the world premiere of his Symphony No.2, "**Mesopotamia**", which he regards as "a masterpiece", with the **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of **Gürer Aykal** on **Saturday, 23 June at 20.00** at the **Haliç Congress Center**.

## **LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AND HONORARY AWARDS OF THE FESTIVAL**

The **Honorary Award** of the **40th Istanbul Music Festival** will be presented to prominent pianist **Hüseyin Sermet**, who is renowned not only for his successful interpretations but also for his compositions. Sermet, who has been performing with prominent orchestras and conductors all around the world, and whose recorded albums have been presented with important awards such as Diapason d'Or and MIDEM Classical Award, will receive his award on **Thursday, 31 May** at the **Opening Ceremony** of the Festival at **Haliç Congress Center**.

The **Lifetime Achievement Award** of the festival will be presented to composer **Giya Kancheli**, on **Monday, 11 June** at the **Hagia Eirene Museum**, before the world premiere of his work commissioned by the Istanbul Music Festival.

## **THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OPENING CONCERT**

The **40th Istanbul Music Festival's opening concert** will follow the opening ceremony on **Thursday, 31 May** at the **Haliç Congress Center**. The concert will feature **Turkey Ministry of Culture and Tourism State Polyphonic Choir** and İKSV's resident orchestra, **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic** led by conductor **Sascha Goetzl**. The soloists of the concert will be soprano **Simge Büyükedes** who takes leading parts in several operas around the world, alto **Ezgi Kutlu**, tenor **Cenk Bıyık**, and bass **Burak Bilgili**. Tickets will be available for the opening night, for music enthusiasts who would like to participate in the reception, the ceremony and the concert.

## **WHEN AND FROM WHERE TO GET THE TICKETS?**

The tickets of the **40th Istanbul Music Festival, Opening Ceremony and Opening Concert** will be sold beginning from **10:00** on **Saturday, 4 February** through:

- **Biletix retail outlets**
- **Biletix Call Centre** (0216 556 98 00)
- **www.biletix.com**
- **IKSV building** (*Nejat Eczacıbaşı Building Sadi Konuralp Cad. No:5 Şişhane, between 10.00-18:00, except Sunday*)

And during the festival, the tickets can be bought from the **Hagia Eirene Museum**.

## **PRICES AND DISCOUNTS**

The ticket prices of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival **range between 30 TL and 400 TL**. Student tickets can only be bought from IKSv box office, with the presence of a student ID.

**20-25% “Special Discount for Tulip members”** for the festival tickets, will be available for the **Tulip Card holders**. Tulip members will also have the priority purchase opportunity. Tulip members can buy their priority tickets from **Biletix Call Centre** (0216 556 98 00), **www.biletix.com** and **IKSV building** (between 10:00-18:00, except Sunday).

The booklet of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival can be ensured from the **IKSV building** (*Nejat Eczacıbaşı Building Sadi Konuralp Cad. No:5 Şişhane*) and **Biletix sales points**.

For detailed information: [muzik.iksv.org/en](http://muzik.iksv.org/en)  
<http://www.facebook.com/istanbulmuzikfestivali>  
<http://www.twitter.com/muzikfestivali>

For high resolution visuals of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival:  
[www.iksvpress.com/muzik2012](http://www.iksvpress.com/muzik2012)

The 40th Istanbul Music Festival Presentation Film and 40th Year Celebration Film:  
<https://www.onlinefilefolder.com/3fdXrJ4hsEMdoa>

(*IKSV 40<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration Film produced by İKSV Studio team, manager Selçuk Metin and Erman Pehlivan*)

## **THE 40th ISTANBUL MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAMME**

### **OPENING CONCERT**

**31 May Thursday | Haliç Congress Center | 19.00**

The **40th Istanbul Music Festival** opens with a magnificent concert which brings together the new generation of Turkish singers thriving on the international stage with Turkey's leading symphonic ensemble, **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of its artistic director **Sascha Goetzl**, in Beethoven's monumental 9th Symphony, which testifies the high ideals of "freedom, equality and brotherhood". This year's opening concert features the celebrated discoveries of the festival in previous years either as young soloists or through winners of the Leyla Gencer Voice Competition: **Simge Büyükedes, Ezgi Kutlu, Cenk Bıyık** and **Burak Bilgili**.

### **CHAMBER ORCHESTRA VIENNA-BERLIN & ANNE-SOPHIE MUTTER**

**1 June Friday | Lütüfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre | 20.00**

The two unquestionably best orchestras of the world, the Wiener and Berliner Philharmoniker would produce nothing less than the **Chamber Orchestra Vienna-Berlin**. The ensemble conducted by **Michael Francis** will accompany one of the greatest virtuosos of our times, **Anne-Sophie Mutter**, who grows prodigiously on the violin with her precision, masterful approach and stage charm, to mark one of the highlights of the entire season.

### **ZURICH BALET**

**4 June Monday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

Europe's leading choreographer **Heinz Spoerli** visits the festival on his farewell tour to stage with two productions; a chef-d'oeuvre project truly enchanting for the lovers of ballet and Bach. "... **und mied den Wind**" benefits Spoerli's boundless creativity as well as Zurich Ballet's artistic proficiency and dynamism, and brews in Bach's Cello suites to yield an unforgettable show, welcomed with standing ovations world-wide, now for Istanbul audiences.

**5 June Tuesday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

Acclaimed for performing to perfection a vast repertoire spanning from the classics to contemporary works and especially renowned for staging the most dramatic ballets ever, Zurich Ballet this time presents a very special project to Bach's Cello Suites: "**In den Winden im Nichts**". The troupe's dancers, distinguished for their polished technique Spoerli, who says that choreography is a dialogue with the music, will be at the Hagia Eirene Museum for his final show, which will create long-lasting repercussions in the hearts and minds of both ballet and music lovers.

### **DANCES OF THE WORLD**

**6 June Wednesday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

**L'Arpeggiata** ventures into the unexplored depths of the world of sounds and gets out with the most elaborate samples of classical repertoire besides traditional works with the most passionate rhythms. The ensemble and its music director **Christina Pluhar** will captivate the audience in the glittering atmosphere of their show that features some of the best songs and dances from around the world.

## **AMSTEL QUARTET**

**7 June Thursday | The Garden of Netherlands Consulate General | 21.00**

The most colourful saxophone quartet in the world, **Amstel Quartet** is renowned for their interpretations that know no technical limitations and cross musical boundaries, adding value to everything they play. The ensemble will perform their own arrangements of the works of Mozart, Brahms, Pärt as well as the music of Nyman, Barber, and Dun at this concert, which invites the music lovers to an enthralling musical adventure.

This concert is organised **within the framework of the celebrations of 400 years of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Turkey.**

## **WOMEN HEROES OF MUSIC**

**8 June Friday | Sureyya Opera House | 20.00**

A tribute to the pioneering, daring and extraordinary women in the music world, this concert takes you on a musical voyage laid on the most sentimental and sincere musical path in both Turkish and Western history. You will discover and rediscover the precious works of **Dilhayat Kalfa** and **Kevser Hanım**, alongside **Clara Schumann** and **Lili Boulanger** amongst many more.

## **TEKFEN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**

**9 June Saturday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

**Tekfen Philharmonic Orchestra** is also known as The Voice of 3 Seas; a name that defines the geographical expansion of the orchestra's formation, which comprises musicians from 23 countries, as well as professing its philosophy. It sets out to prove that differences can co-exist and they even reinforce peace, and that music in fact voices peace. Standing out for the quality of its recordings and its successful tours abroad, the symphonic ensemble has been performing under the baton of **Saim Akçıl** to enrich the cultural life of Turkey since its inception 20 years ago. The Tekfen Philharmonic performs the music written for traditional instruments of the geography it represents, alongside the warhorses of the classical repertoire as well as producing very special projects to fulfil its objectives. The orchestra offers the audience yet another fresh musical experience at this concert, which features **Yurdal Tokcan**, **Ercan Irmak** and **Göksel Baktadır**; virtuoso players of oud, ney and qanun, respectively.

## **GIYA KANCHELI: A WORLD PREMIERE "In Memory of Benyamin Sönmez"**

**11 June Monday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

The Festival is proud to provide another exquisite work for the world's musical heritage. Giya Kancheli, a true romantic who embroiders in his works all the elegant feelings and ideals of his homeland Georgia and who has a profound influence on the musical world, will premiere his eagerly anticipated symphonic work commissioned by the festival. This concert is dedicated to cellist Benyamin Sönmez who was scheduled to perform tonight before he passed away in late 2011.

## **ÇELLİSTANBUL & PERVİN ÇAKAR (Guest Artist: Jiri Barta)**

**13 June Wednesday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

Drawing constant international attention by her critically acclaimed festival appearances and her performances at the Teatro alla Scala, **Pervin Çakar** will be on stage with **Çellistanbul** and distinguished cellist **Jiri Barta** at this concert.

## **GATE OF FELICITY**

**(Kudsi Erguner Ensemble ve Douce Mémoire Ensemble)**

**14 June Thursday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

**Kudsi Erguner Ensemble** and the **Douce Mémoire** under the artistic direction of **Denis Raisin-Dadre** invite you to open the gates at the threshold where history and music meet.

## **THE FESTIVAL PRESENTS ITS YOUNG SOLOIST**

**15 June Friday | Sureyya Opera House | 20.00**

Would you like to witness a star born? Celebrating its 40th anniversary, the festival has launched a project entitled “**Istanbul Music Festival in Search of its Young Soloist**” with a view to discover and encourage the young talents throughout the country. A soloist will be selected at the national auditions to be held on 21 March and will be entitled to perform at the festival with the **Istanbul University State Conservatory Symphony Orchestra** under the baton of **Ramiz Malik Aslanov**. This concert will also present a precious opportunity for the young talent to achieve international recognition.

## **DEUTSCHES SYMPHONIE ORCHESTER BERLIN**

**16 June Saturday | Lütfi Kırdar International Convention and Exhibition Centre | 20.00**

Ravel’s flamboyant yet noble **Piano Concerto for Left Hand**, which he had written for his pianist friend Paul Wittgenstein, and Beethoven’s **Symphony No.3**, which depicts heroism for its tragedy as much as its victory, will make a musical feast. At this concert, the **Deutsches Symphonie Orchester Berlin** under the baton of Sir Roger Norrington will accompany the piano virtuoso **Hüseyin Sermet**.

## **FESTIVAL ENCOUNTER**

**(Violin: Renaud Capuçon, Cello: Daniel Müller-Schott, Piano: Anika Vavic)**

**18 June Monday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

A genuine and one-off festival project, the Festival Encounter brings together three young virtuosos - French violinist **Capuçon**, German cellist **Müller-Schott** and Serbian pianist **Vavic** for a delightful night of Haydn, Shostakovich and Brahms.

## **YOUNG MASTERS AND THEIR HEROES**

**19 June Tuesday | Cemal Reşit Rey Concert Hall | 20.00**

Representing our hopes for the future, the very young but already accomplished pianists **Ece Bozkurt**, **Iraz Yıldız** and **Cem Esen** will play together with the piano doyens of today, **Gülsin Onay**, **Hüseyin Sermet** and **Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu**, who themselves were child prodigies once.

## **DON QUIXOTE FROM ISSO & DANIEL MÜLLER-SCHOTT**

**20 June Wednesday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

Strauss’ virtuosic work will be treasured in the hands of the new star of the music world **Daniel Müller-Schott**, known for his perfect technique, plush tone and rich expression. He will be accompanied by the **Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra** conducted by **Christoph Altstaedt**.

## **HÉLÈNE GRIMAUD**

**22 June Friday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

**Grimaud** is a guest at the festival with a pleasant recital where she will display all her elegance and power that have carried her to the peak. The evening will start with Mozart, continue with **Berg's** Piano Concerto which is vibrant with the possibility of endless changes, and culminating in the Romanian Folk Dances by **Bartók**, one of the greatest representatives of modern music, it will end with Liszt's work of divine nobility.

## **A WORLD PREMIERE BY FAZIL SAY**

**23 June Saturday | Haliç Congress Center | 20.00**

The genius pianist who gets standing ovations at every concert all around the world and a most productive composer of our era, **Fazil Say** will premiere his much anticipated work, already promising a tremendous impact, commissioned by the festival on its 40th anniversary. The world premiere of "**Mesopotamia**" will be given by Turkey's eminent symphonic ensemble, **Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra** under the baton of **Gürer Aykal**.

## **SAY, I AM YOU - MEVLANA**

**24 June Sunday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 21.00**

The festival hosts the **world premiere** of the distinguished composer **Michael Ellison's** modern musical play "**Say, I am You**" in cooperation with the Rotterdam Operadagen to mark the **400th anniversary of the Netherlands-Turkey diplomatic relations**. Based on the timeless story of Rumi and his spiritual mentor Shams-i Tabriz, this inspirational project throws boundaries of theatrical, intercultural, and musical clichés aside, creating a lively theatrical immediacy in probing Mevlana's relationship with his mentor. Michael Ellison's unique musical language blends the modern and the classic in the traditional and it culminates in this powerful and absorbing work.

This concert is organised within the framework of the celebrations of 400 years of diplomatic relations between the Netherlands and Turkey.

## **MILOS**

**25 June Monday | Istanbul University Rectorate Building | 20.00**

Possessing with a dynamic and phenomenal stage charm, young guitarist **Milos** almost shines like a brilliant light on the entire heritage of guitar. Having taken home recently not just one but two Gramophone Awards, which are often referred as the Oscars of classical music, he comes to Istanbul to enchant the music lovers with the most distinguished works of guitar repertoire.

## **MAP OF THE HEART (Fadista: Ana Moura)**

**26 June Tuesday | Courtyard of Archaeological Museum | 21.00**

Akin to the blues in its heroically stoic response to suffering, loss, longing and the vicissitudes of fate, the Portugese fado will make its way to the hearts and minds of the audience at this concert from **Ana Moura's** passionate singing that penetrates into the unexplored depths of the soul.

**MILOS & MİLLİ REASÜRANS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
**28 June Thursday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

**Concierto de Aranjuez**, which incorporates Rodrigo's deepest hopes on life, will gain its real worth in the hands of Milos`. **Milli Reasürans Chamber Orchestra**, conducted by **Hakan Şensoy** will also perform the works of **Bizet-Shchedrin** and **Ravel** at this concert, which will definitely befit the enchanting atmosphere of **Hagia Eirene**.

**VIENNA CHAMBER ORCHESTRA**  
**29 June Friday | Hagia Eirene Museum | 20.00**

A pre-eminent ensemble, a prestigious conductor, a violin virtuoso who, despite her young age is lauded by critics at every concert... A distinguished ensemble of "The City of Music", the **Vienna Chamber Orchestra** will perform under the baton of **Stefan Vladar** at this concert, accompanying the young star of the violin world, **Alina Pogostkina** who has launched on an international career upon winning the Sibelius and Queen Elisabeth competitions in 2005 and 2011 respectively.

## History of the Istanbul Music Festival

The Istanbul Music Festival is a prestigious event that has played a major role in the establishment of classical music in Turkey. Acclaimed nationally and internationally with its creative programmes and innovative structure, the festival strives to create opportunities for artists to share their inspiration and artistic experience with one another and contribute to the enrichment of the national and international classical music repertoire.

The first Istanbul Festival took place in 1973, as part of the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. In its early years, the festival programme focused mostly on classical music, but over time other artistic fields were added. Gradually, different disciplines were spun off into the film, theatre, and jazz festivals and the Istanbul Biennial.

A member of the European Festivals Association since 1977, the Istanbul Music Festival has presented Lifetime Achievement Awards since 2003 and Honorary Awards since 2006, the year that the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic Orchestra became the festival's resident orchestra.

In 2011, the festival adopted a new format whereby each year's programme centres on a particular theme and features original works commissioned from composers from Turkey and abroad, with the aim of enriching the national and international classical music repertoire. In addition to concerts, the Istanbul Music Festival organises events aimed at increasing the public's appreciation of classical music. These "Pre-Concert Lectures" deepen the concert experience by offering audiences the opportunity to hear the ideas and views of performing soloists and classical music experts. The festival also contributes to the education of future audiences and musicians through school visits, master classes and educational events that bring young audiences together with festival performers.

Among the world's leading conductors, orchestras and soloists hosted since 1973:

### Orchestras & Ensembles

New York Philharmonic  
Concertgebouw  
Filarmonica Della Scala  
Kirov Opera and Ballet  
Bavarian Radio Symphony  
Vienna Philharmonic

### Conductors

Gürer Aykal  
Yuri Temirkanov  
Riccardo Muti  
Valeri Gergiev  
Lorin Maazel  
Mariss Jansons  
Daniel Barenboim  
Christoph Eschenbach

### Soloists

Leyla Gencer  
Elizabeth Swarzkopf  
Montserrat Caballé  
Kathleen Battle  
Kiri Te Kanawa  
Cecilia Bartoli  
Angela Gheorghiu  
Elina Garanca  
Juan Diego Flórez  
Renée Fleming  
İdil Biret  
Aldo Ciccolini  
Hüseyin Sermet  
Ivo Pogorelich  
Fazil Say

Andre Previn  
Radu Lupu  
Lang Lang  
Ayla Erduran  
Suna Kan  
Yehudi Menuhin  
Emil Gilels  
Igor Oistrakh  
Gidon Kremer  
Mischa Maisky  
Joshua Bell  
Maxim Vengerov  
Itzhak Perlman  
Shlomo Mintz  
Anne-Sophie Mutter  
Hilary Hahn  
Jean-Pierre Rampal

## The Istanbul Music Festival's 40 Years in Numbers

**3,360,000 people** attended **2,835 performances** of over **40,000 artists** at the Istanbul Music Festival during 40 years.

More than **3,000 works** of nearly **1,000 composers** have been performed at the festival.

Alongside **Borusan Holding**, which took over the festival sponsorship from **Eczacıbaşı Holding** in 2006, **331 people, corporations and institutions** supported the festival performances during 40 years.

The budget of the 1st Istanbul Festival, organised in 1973, was **8,000,000 Liras** (as 1 US Dollar was worth 14 Liras, the total budget was **\$571,428**). The Istanbul Music Festival's **2012** budget is **5.785.484 TL** (approximately **\$3,2 million**).

The festival presented "**Lifetime Achievement Awards**" to **10 artists** since 2003: **Arvo Pärt, Daniel Barenboim, Gidon Kremer, İlhan Usmanbaş, John Tavener, William Christie, Jordi Savall, José Antonio Abreu, Leyla Gencer, Nevit Kodallı**. The "Lifetime Achievement Award" of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival will be presented to **Giya Kancheli**, Georgia's most distinguished living composer and a leading figure in the world of contemporary music.

The festival presented "**Honorary Awards**" to **Ayhan Baran, Ayla Erduran, Ayşegül Sarıca, Gürer Aykal, İdil Biret, Muammer Sun, Suna Kan and Yalçın Tura**, since 2006. The "Honorary Award" of the 40th Istanbul Music Festival will be presented to pianist **Hüseyin Sermet**.

The festival hosted **48 leading symphony orchestras** from abroad, in its 40-year programme:

Mediterranean Youth Orchestra	Lyon National Orchestra
Austria-Hungary Haydn Orchestra	The Mariinsky Theatre Kirov Opera Orchestra
BBC Philharmonic Orchestra	Moscow State Symphony Orchestra
BBC Symphony Orchestra	Moscow Radio-TV Great Symphony Orchestra
Belgrade Philharmonic Orchestra	Munich Radio Orchestra
Berlin Symphony Orchestra	New York Philharmonic
Budapest Philharmonic Orchestra	Orchestre de la Suisse Romande
Capitole de Toulouse National Orchestra	Orchestre de Paris
Cluj-Napoca Philharmonic Orchestra	Orquesta da Valencia
Czech Philharmonic Orchestra	City of Oxford Orchestra
Dresden Philharmonic Orchestra	Polish Radio National Symphony Orchestra
Filarmonica Arturo Toscanini	Prague Symphony Orchestra
George Enescu Philharmonic Orchestra	Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra
Hamburg Symphony Orchestra	Salzburg Mozarteum Orchestra
Scottish National Orchestra	Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra
Krakov Philharmonic Orchestra	Singapore Symphony Orchestra
Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	Sofia Philharmonic Orchestra
Filarmonica Della Scala	Soviet Philharmonic Orchestra
Leningrad State Philharmonic Association Symphony Orchestra	USSR State Symphony Orchestra
Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra	St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra
Liverpool Royal Philharmonic Orchestra	The English Concert
London Symphony Orchestra	The Philharmonia Orchestra
	Utrecht Symphony Orchestra
	Venice Baroque Orchestra