

**Hakan A. Toker**

## **“LOVE WALTZES”**

**An informative concert about real love stories**

Violin: Olgü Kızılay

Cello: Selin Nardemir

Piano: Hakan A. Toker



Hakan A. Toker is an artist who has devoted his life and music to love. Love has taken a huge role in shaping his music, as well as his personality and world view. “Love Waltzes” is a concert program consisting of pieces he has composed for the women he fell in love with, sometimes mutually, sometimes platonically. The program features a variety of solo, duo and trio pieces, mostly in the classical waltz form, for violin, cello and piano. Before each piece, the composer tells the true story that inspired him to write it –some along with a visual presentation!

**Click to watch:**

[Nadezhda -Russian Mafia- Waltz \(violin, cello, piano\)](#)

[Honey-Butter Waltz \(violin, piano\)](#)

[Love in Springtime \(piano\)](#)

## About The Artists...



### **Hakan A. Toker, pianist, composer**

Pianist, composer, accordionist Hakan A. Toker is from Mersin, Turkey. He studied classical music in Turkey and the USA, graduating from Indiana University School of Music (BM), double majoring in piano and composition. Besides his formal education, he is mostly self-taught in the fields of improvisation, jazz and world music.

Up-to-date, he has performed in 28 countries; taken stage in many international festivals including the Indianapolis Jazz Festival (USA), Istanbul Music Festival (Turkey), Festival of Virtuosi (Ukraine). He has performed with many masters of Eastern and Western music including Munis Sharifov (Azerbaijani kamancha player) and Yildiz Ibrahimova (Turkish/Bulgarian ethno-jazz singer). He has collaborated with many symphony orchestras, ensembles, singers, dancers, poets, jugglers, acrobats, actors and actresses and he has been a member of bands including Salaam (Middle Eastern Music), Orquesta Son (Latin American Music), Silk Road (Central Asian Music) in USA; Tanini and Toker Trio (Turkish-Western-Jazz Fusion) in Turkey. He has performed many classical and improvised recitals, informative concerts, music for silent films, multi-media and musical-comedy shows.

He is the first and so far only known Turkish concert pianist to utilize microtonal tunings in his recitals featuring authentic Turkish traditional music.

He has been given the “Living Values” award in 2013 during the 1st. Mersin Cultural Festival.

Together with Matej Meštrović and Matija Dedić, he won the Global Music Awards silver medal for their album “Vivaldi - 4 Seasons for 3 Pianos” (2017, Parma Recordings).

He has compositions and arrangements in various genres, mainly Western classical music, Turkish traditional music and jazz. Check out his website for his albums, videos and sheet music:

<http://HakanAliToker.com>

## **Olgu Kızılay, violinist**

He was born in 1977 in İstanbul. In 1988 he began his violin studies at the Dokuz Eylül University İzmir State Conservatory under Prof. Hazar Alapınar and graduated in 1998 with honors. Between 1994-1998 he was admitted to the Mediterranean Youth Orchestra in France. That same year he began his graduate studies at the Strasbourg National State Conservatory under Prof. Joshua Epstein. Throughout his studies there he was the concertmaster for the school symphony and chamber orchestras. In 2000 he completed his master's degree and the chamber music program both with first prize honors, winning the gold medal for the latter. In 2001 he was given The Concert Artist's Diploma by the French Inter-Conservatorial Jury. In 2003 he completed his doctoral degree at the Strasbourg National State Conservatory, also winning the first prize.

Throughout his education in France, he took part in many chamber music concerts and album recordings by contemporary composers. Also, in the 1999-2002 concert seasons he worked with the Strasbourg Philharmonic Orchestra, Mulhouse Symphony Orchestra and The Bas-Rhin Opera House as a guest artist. In 2000 he became the concert master of the Strasbourg "Volutes" Chamber Orchestra and kept his position until his return to Turkey.

Between 2003-2005 he worked at the Antalya State Opera and Ballet Orchestra. He made solo appearances with this orchestra, as well as the Antalya, İstanbul, İzmir, Bursa State Symphony Orchestras, Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, Bilkent Symphony, Istanbul Chamber Orchestra, Istanbul Sinfonietta, Başkent Academic, Eskişehir Municipal and the Dokuz Eylül University State Orchestras. Between 2005-2010 he served as the principal second violin at the Borusan Istanbul Philharmonic, and between 2005-2018 he gave numerous concerts in Turkey and abroad with the Borusan Quartet.

In 2018 he recorded his first solo album.

Composers such as Christos Papageorgiou and Ilyas Mirzayev have written concerti for him, which he has premiered.

Olgu Kızılay plays on a 1874 Jean Baptiste Vuillaume violin.

## **Selin Nardemir, cellist**

She was born in 1993, İstanbul. In 2002 she began her cello studies under Prof. Sevil Gökdağ at the İstanbul University State Conservatory. Throughout her conservatory years she participated in masterclasses by Prof. Yovan Markovitch, İştvan Varga, Laressa Groeneveld, Henrik Brendstrup, Daniel Müller Schott, Anatoli Krastev, Erkki Lahesmaa, Alexander Hülshoff and Jiri Barta.

She has won the third prize at the 16th Edirne International Young Musicians' Chamber Music Competition (Turkey, 2014), second prize at the 18th International Dobrich Young Musicians' Cello Competition (Bulgaria, 2014), and another prize at the Yamaha Young Musicians' Competition. Together with her quartet Spettro, she won the first prize at the 18th International Young Musicians' Chamber Music Competition held at Trakya University in cooperation with the Rotary Club.

She has played the Elgar Cello Concerto with the İstanbul University State Conservatory Orchestra (2014), and she has performed at the Pera Music Woodwinds Festivals and the Aksanat Young Talents concert series.

She gained her first orchestra experience at the Doğuş Children's Symphony Orchestra. Since 2016 she has been a member of the Borusan Philharmonic Orchestra and the Cihat Aşkın Ensemble. In 2017 she performed at the Shining Stars concert series of İş Sanat, as well as the Aksanat concert series.

Nardemir has completed her highschool and undergraduate studies with first prize honors. She has received the Turkish Education Foudation Superior Success Scholarship throughout her undergraduate and graduate studies. Since 2017 she has been teaching and continuing her doctorate studies under Prof. Sevil Gökdağ.

## **Rider:**

### **Equipment**

-1 acoustic grand piano together with its adjustable bench. The piano must be tuned the day of the concert and the tuner must not leave the venue before the pianist checks the instrument. Upright or electronic pianos not acceptable.

-2 music stands

-1 overhead projector, connected to a computer

### **Sound System**

-1 vocal mic for announcements, preferably wireless.