

# CITY LIFE

by Hakan A. Toker

Life in the metropolitan cities is very fast, very colorful; full of great opportunities and great dangers. These places are meeting points for many cultures, where all sorts of fusion is possible. Chinatown on one end, Gypsy district on the other, etc. Hakan A. Toker's "City Life" is an ethno-jazz project, depicting all these aspects of city life musically, through his original compositions interpreted by a virtuosic, versatile crew, each member being a master of at least 3 different music genres.

The concerts take place with a verbal introduction before each tune and artwork by Hilmi Şimşek projected on the screen during performance.

The album "Şehir Hayatı" has been chosen for the Spotify Playlist "Jazz from Turkey 2010's" by the Istanbul Jazz Festival Committee.

The band consists of:

- Clarinet
- Trumpet
- Saxes
- Piano (acoustic grand)
- Bass (bass guitar and double bass)
- Drum Kit
- Percussion (darbuka, def, tambourine, bendir, asma davul, finger cymbals, congas, bongos, timbales, samba whistle, tabla)

Watch / Listen:





## 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. In 2019 he won the same award for his solo album "Toker Messing Around ... with the classics;)" released by the same company.

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.

In 2022, he founded the world's first microtonal symphony orchestra, by bringing together Turkish musicians specializing in both traditional Turkish music and Western classical music. On May 17, he premiered his Turkish Rhapsody for 4 Microtonally Tuned Pianos and this orchestra, along with his song Işık Yüksелеcek (Light will Rise) for Voice and Microtonal Symphony Orchestra at the CRR Concert Hall in Istanbul.

As a performer, so far he has played in 29 countries, including international festivals such as the Istanbul, Ankara, Mersin, Side, Lvov (Ukraine) and Indianapolis Jazz (USA) festivals.

As a composer, he has studied deeply and written purely in many genres including Western classical, jazz and Turkish music. As a result, Toker's distinct voice is a rich blend of all these genres. His oeuvre, numbering over 500 works, include music for solo instruments, chamber music, orchestra, symphonic wind ensemble, choir; songs in Turkish and English, children's songs in both languages, electronic music, incidental music including two children' operas; music in traditional Turkish forms for Turkish instruments; instrumental and vocal music for jazz and popular music ensembles.

# Technical Rider

## Gear:

- 1 Piano (acoustic grand) with adjustable bench. Piano must be tuned the day of the concert.
- 1 Double bass
- 1 Drum kit with adjustable seat
- 1 Latin percussion set if available (2 congas, 2 bongos, 2 timbales, cow bell, tambourine)  
all other percussion will be brought-in by the band. The Latin kit may also be brought-in by the band, in which case, assistance with transportation will be required
- 1 small podium (min. 2x2m) with a small rug for tabla player to sit on

## Sound:

- 4 wireless clip-on mics for Clarinet, Trompet, Saxophone and Percussion  
Please note that these four instruments above will occasionally walk on stage and among the crowd while playing
- 2 mics for piano
- 1 portable talking mic next to piano
- Standard mic set for drum kit
- 2 overhead mics for tabla
- 3 dynamic mics for percussion
- 1 line in and an amplifier qualified enough to serve as a monitor for the bass
- 6 stage monitors, one for each musician, preferably with separate mixes
- A 24-channel mixer and a professional to run it (technical equipment must be set-up and ready when band arrives for soundcheck)

## Effects (if available):

- Analog Thin or Plate reverb for wind instruments
- Hall reverb for drums
- Water effect for tabla and all other percussion
- No effects for piano and bass

## Lights:

- 4 follow-up lights, if possible, for musicians walking among the crowd; in addition to standard white and colored stage lights, spot lights etc. whatever is available at the venue.

# Stage Plan

