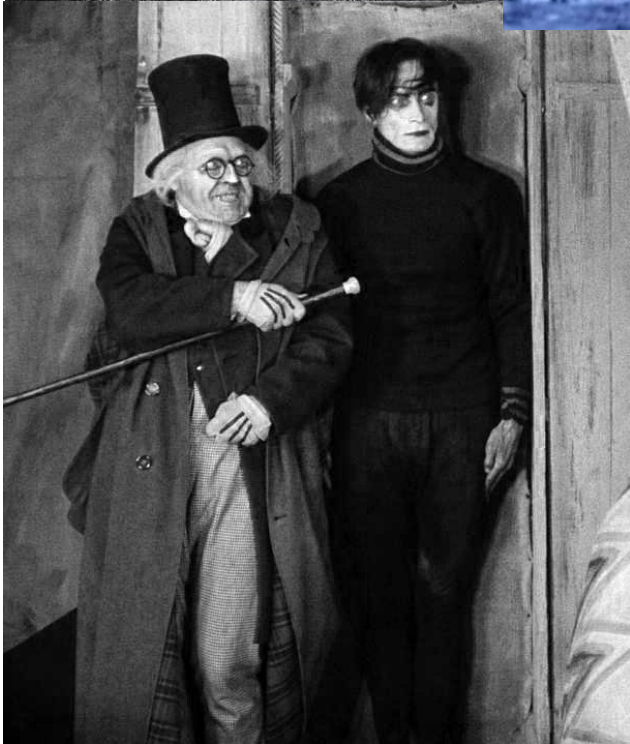


**Silent Movies  
with Live Piano Accompaniment  
by Hakan A. Toker**





## About Hakan A. Toker

Hakan A. Toker was born in 1976, Mersin, Turkey. His 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. After some private lessons and studying music in two different conservatories in

Turkey (IUDK and Bilkent), he completed his studies in the USA at Indiana University School of Music, double majoring in piano and composition (BM 2000). Alongside his formal education, he always kept improvising and learning many more things on his own, including Turkish music and other instruments.

While living in the USA (1997-2006) he gained experience playing with various world music bands such as Salaam, Silk Road, Orquesta Son; recording, concertizing and teaching with them. He also continued his solo activities playing improvised recitals, music for silent films and taking part in many more unique projects.

In 2006 he went back to his homeland and became a founding member of new bands such as Tanini, Abra and Toker Trio; again, concertizing, recording and teaching workshops with them.

In 2013 he was given “Our Living Values” award by the 1st. Mersin Cultural Festival committee.

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/Navona 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 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. He is also an outstanding master of fusion. “Şehir Hayatı/City Life” (2018, YeniKapı) and “Bosphorus Dreams” (2019 PB) are his albums demonstrating his ability to mix the East and West, giving birth to his unique voice in his original compositions.

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

As a composer, he writes and arranges in many genres including Western classical, jazz and Turkish music for all kinds of media.

<http://hakanalitoker.com>



### **About Hakan's approach to silent film...**

Hakan A. Toker is a very experienced silent movie accompanist backed with extraordinary skills. He has been playing for silent films since the early 2000's in the USA and Turkey. His extensive classical compositional training allows him to approach the movies in a high artistic manner, often rendering the music like an opera composer, while maintaining the entertainment aspect when called-for. Often he assigns a leit-motive to each character and explains these to the audience before the movie starts. His broad pianistic and improvisational skills makes his performances much more rich in texture, compared to usual silent movie accompaniment. His stylistic knowledge covering jazz and multiple world music genres in addition to classical music, also results in stylistically diverse music during his screenings, as he applies these styles to appropriate scenes in a manner much more adept than the usual orientalist approach of Western-trained pianists.

[Click to view excerpts from THE ADVENTURES OF PRINCE ACHMED \(1926\)](#)

