



# A MUSICAL JOURNEY FROM TURKEY TO THE AMERICAS

by

## MUSICA MUNDANA, CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

Ayşegül Kuş Durakoğlu, artistic director and pianist

Atis Bankas, violinist

Şebnem Mekinulov, soprano

Luke Pomorski, cellist



Presented by the Canadian & Turkish Women's Association of Ottawa (CATWAO)

Sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, Ottawa, Canada

Friday, November 21, 2008, 8:00 pm

Dominion Chalmers United Church, Ottawa, ON.

Welcome: Füsün Ören, President, CATWAO

[Message](#) from Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean,  
Governor General of Canada

to be presented by Madeleine Guindi, Vice-president, CATWAO

### PROGRAM

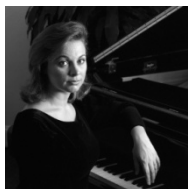
Aria from the Cantata in Old Style	Ahmed Adnan SAYGUN (1907-1991)
Bozlak: Epic Song from Eastern Anatolia	Ahmed Adnan SAYGUN
Ak Koyun Meler Gelir	Cemal Reşid REY (1904-1985)
Bugün Ayın Ondördü	Cemal Reşid REY
Camdan Sakız Akıyor	Ulvi Cemal ERKİN (1906-1972)
Three Piano Pieces from Anatolian Folk Songs	Cemal Reşid REY
Transformations for Violin, Cello, and Piano	İlhan BARAN (1934)

### INTERMISSION

Por Una Cabeza	Carlos GARDEL (1890-1935)
El Dia Que Me Quieras	Carlos GARDEL
Samba Classico	H. Villa LOBOS (1887-1959)
Seasons: Piano Trio – Autumn, Winter, Spring, Summer	Astor PIAZZOLLA (1921-1992)
Vocalize-Fantasy on a theme of a song “Katibim” from Istanbul <i>Arranged by Ayşegül Kuş Durakoğlu, piano</i> <i>Şebnem Mekinulov, soprano; Atis Bankas, violin; Luke Pomorski, cello</i>	Cemal Reşid REY

*Program Notes:*

*Turkish composers have emerged since the birth of the Republic of Turkey in 1923. It was the ideal of the great leader of Turkey, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, to renew the Turkish culture, fine arts, and music and place them in a universal context. The efforts of the first generation of Turkish composers were directed to create a polyphonic character based on the monophonic structures of Turkish melodies. Later, their work evolved into a more spontaneous style without the direct utilization of the original melodies. Tonight's program will feature works from the first generation of composers, such as: Ulvi Cemal Erkin, Cemal Reşid Rey, and Adnan Saygun, and later Ilhan Baran.*



**Aysegül Kuş Durakoğlu, pianist:** A native of Turkey, pianist Ayşegül Kuş Durakoğlu has concertized widely as soloist and chamber musician throughout Turkey, Russia, Europe,

and United States. She was featured as soloist in the International Istanbul Music Festival with James Galway, Contemporary Music Festivals in Russia, Musical Intersections and Niagara International Chamber Music Festival in Canada. Ms. Durakoğlu began her musical life in Istanbul and received her Bachelor of Music degree at the Istanbul State Conservatory. She received her Master of Music degree from the Juilliard School and a Ph.D. degree with notable distinction at New York University where she also served on the piano faculty. Her teachers included Adele Marcus, Gyorgy Sandor, and Gregory Haimovsky. As a member of the NYU Chamber Music Society she won the NYU's Chamber Music Special Award.

An active performer and researcher, Dr. Durakoğlu has presented lecture-recitals on the music of Turkish composers and piano music of Claude Debussy. In 1998, she established a Chamber Music Society, Musica Mundana, and continues to perform with her ensemble throughout the States. She is also teaching Piano, Music History, Eastern Mediterranean and Turkish Music classes at the Stevens Institute of Technology.



**Atis Bankas, violinist:** Mr. Atis Bankas studied at the School of the Arts in Lithuania, and the Lithuanian State Conservatory, where he graduated summa cum laude with a Master's degree in solo violin performance, chamber

music, pedagogy, and orchestral performance. He continued his post-graduate work at the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory, where he studied in David Oistrakh's department. First prize winner of the International violin competition in Tallin, Estonia, Mr. Bankas has performed as a soloist in the former Soviet Union, Europe, the United States, and Canada. Since 1982, he has been a violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Bankas is the founder and artistic director of the Niagara International Chamber Music Festival and Canadian Chamber Academy.



**Şebnem Mekinulov, soprano:** Şebnem Mekinulov is fast becoming one of the people to watch and to listen to. She was a leading soprano at the Istanbul State Opera before coming to the United States in 1991 to study in the Master's Degree program at Louisiana State University under full scholarship. In 2001, Şebnem was a top prizewinner in the Maria Callas International Voice Competition and the Grand Prizewinner of the Aldo Baldin International Competition.

Ms. Mekinulov has appeared in leading roles at the Istanbul Opera, the Juilliard Opera Center, the Westchester Hudson Opera Company, and as a soloist with the Juilliard Symphony Orchestra. Since moving to Buffalo in 2002, Ms. Mekinulov has appeared frequently as a soloist with the Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra and Ars Nova Chamber Orchestra. She is married to the principal cellist of the BPO, Roman Mekinulov.



**Luke Pomorski, cellist:** Luke Pomorski performs frequently on the cello throughout Canada. He is an innovator in promoting classical music through new media with the online video series, Cello Journey that is seen by thousands around the world. He plays with the Niagara Symphony and has performed solo concerts with the orchestra. He completed a Bachelor of Music degree and performer's Certificate at the Eastman School of Music. As a member of the Atlantic Trio he gave numerous concerts throughout the United States. He won First Prize at the Canada Music Competition and Second Prize at the Orford International Music Competition. He also performed in the Chataqua, Orford, Encore, and Bowdion music festival.