

Zeynep Ubařaran



Pianist Zeynep Ubařaran started her music studies at age four at the İstanbul Conservatory. She has her Concert Artist Diploma from the Liszt Academy of Music, Budapest. After advanced studies at the Hochschule für Musik, Freiburg, Germany, she obtained her MA and DMA degrees in Piano Performance from the University of Southern California. Among other professional awards such as the American Liszt Society Award, Ucbasaran was a prize-winner in the 1996 and 2000 Los Angeles Liszt Competitions. She was designated a "woman of distinction in the year 2003" by the Daughters of Atatürk organization in the USA. She has given recitals and concerts in many countries. She made her Wigmore Hall debut in November 2004 and

issued CDs of the music of Liszt, Schubert, Mozart, Scarlatti, Beethoven, and twentieth century composers such as Saygun, Bernstein and Muczynski to critical acclaim. The Gramophone Magazine, remarked that "An agreeable elegance pervades pianist Zeynep Ucbasaran's playing".

Her recordings include the scherzos and polonaises of F. Chopin, complete piano sonatas of W. A. Mozart and the piano music of A. Saygun issued by Naxos International. As a part of her project of three-piano music of international composers, she has performed and realized the premiere recording of Saygun's Poem, Op. 73 for three pianos.

Her performance of works that Franz Liszt performed in Istanbul when he visited there in 1847 was broadcast by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU) to all of Europe in the 200th birthday celebrations of Liszt in October 2011. This season she will be releasing a CD of these selections under the title "Liszt in Istanbul". Further information can be found on her website www.zupiano.com

Cihat Ařkın

Born in Istanbul, Cihat Ařkın started his violin lessons at the age of 11 with Prof. Ayhan Turan, at the Turkish Music State Conservatory of Istanbul Technical University, graduating in 1989. He completed his studies in London, studying under Rodney Friend at the Royal College of Music (where he took all the major solo and chamber music awards), and Yfrah Neaman at City University (1992-96, doctorate programme).

Upon his arrival in Istanbul he was appointed as a violin professor in 1998 and founded the Advanced Music Research Center (MIAM) and became its first director in 2000 and appointed as an academic Professor in 2006 at ITU. He gave his first recital at the age of 12 and was able to play all Paganini Caprices before he was 15. After his recital in 1983 he was invited by the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra to play Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto. Since then Cihat Ařkın became a prominent figure in the music life and he has been a regular soloist for all the major orchestras of Turkey.

Among his many prizes may be mentioned, the Istanbul Philharmonic Society Award, The Best Bartók interpreter at the 1987 Yehudi Menuhin International Violin Competition, Outstanding Merit Prize at the 1990 London Carl Flesch International Violin Competition and Foyer des Artistes (Italy, 2002). Cihat Askin is currently Professor of Music at the Turkish State Music Conservatory, He uses a violin by Jean Baptiste Vuillaume (1846) in his concerts. Further information can be found on his website <http://www.cihataskin.net>

