

ISTANBUL

THE MUSIC OF THE CITY

ÇAĞLAR FİDAN
ERHAN BAYRAM
NIKOS PAPAGEORGIOU





Istanbul: The Music of the City

Caglar Fidan: Vocal, Qanun

Erhan Bayram: Istanbul Kemenche

Nikos Papageorgiou: Tanbur, Lute

The trio, composed of Caglar Fidan, Nikos Papageorgiou, and Erhan Bayram, performs a repertoire rooted in the songs of old Istanbul. Their music is inspired by melodies that once echoed through the city's coffeehouses, taverns, public gardens, theatres, and moonlit boat gatherings along the Bosphorus.

Çağlar Fidan

Primarily interested in the music of late Ottoman and early Republican Istanbul, Çağlar Fidan draws inspiration from the city's spaces and character portraits in his work.



Born in 1994, Çağlar Fidan graduated from the Istanbul Technical University Turkish Music State Conservatory, Department of Vocal Training. In 2016, he joined the Istanbul Radio of TRT (Turkish Radio and Television Corporation) as a vocalist. He completed his thesis titled *The Music and Social Topography of Coffeehouses in Ottoman Istanbul* with Professor Namık Sinan Turan as his thesis advisor in the Istanbul Research Studies graduate program at Istanbul University.

In 2022, he released a four-track EP titled *I (One)* on digital platforms. That same year, he performed as the project creator and vocalist in the concert *Istanbul: The Music of the City*, held at the Şerefiye Cistern as part of the *50th Istanbul Music Festival* by IKSİV (Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts). In the 2023-2024 season, he curated and performed a concert series titled *The Music of the Istanbul Encyclopedia*, based on the musical content of historian Reşat Ekrem Koçu's iconic *Istanbul Encyclopedia*. These concerts were staged at venues such as SALT Galata, Akbank Sanat, Metrohan, and Kumbaracı50 Theatre.

In the fall of 2024, he released his first music album, *Intra Muros Istanbul*, presenting Ottoman-era music from intramural Istanbul, the area defined by the walls built during the reign of Eastern Roman Emperor Theodosius II. Each track in the album references characters and locations from intramural Istanbul.

Currently, he is the curator and performer of the concert project *Island*, presented as part of the *53rd Istanbul Music Festival* organized by IKSİV. The *Island* concert, which will take place on June 25, 2025, at the Hristos Greek Orthodox Monastery on Kınalıada, highlights the shared cultural heritage of the Turkish and Greek peoples through some of the most beautiful songs from Crete, Kastellorizo (Megisti), Lesbos, Imbros, and Istanbul's Princes' Islands.



Erhan Bayram

Erhan Bayram was born in 1986 in Ankara. He completed his undergraduate studies in Instrument Performance at the Istanbul Technical University Turkish Music State Conservatory. In 2008, he studied music in Greece through the Erasmus exchange program.

He pursued a master's degree in Musicology and Music Theory at the same university, where he is currently continuing his doctoral studies. His academic work focuses on comparative organological research between Turkish and Greek musical traditions.

Since 2012, he has been a lecturer at Sakarya University State Conservatory, where he teaches undergraduate courses in Musicology and Instrument Performance, works closely with students, and continues his research.

In 2022, he served as the music director of the 13-episode television program "İstanbul'un Müziği" (The Music of Istanbul), broadcast on TRT 2. The program explored the rich musical heritage of Istanbul.

Since 2010, he has performed concerts in Turkey, across Europe, and in several Arab countries. He specializes in the Istanbul kemenche and Turkish classical music.

In 2015, he co-founded the Tanburi Cemil Bey Association and has served as its president ever since. The association is dedicated to preserving and promoting the musical legacy of Tanburi Cemil Bey.

In addition to Turkish, Erhan Bayram speaks advanced English and beginner-level Greek.



Nikos Papageorgiou

Nikos Papageorgiou was born in 1996. From a young age, he began studying the lavta and music under Evgenios Voulgaris, while also delving into Church music with his father, Georgios Papageorgiou. In 2011, through the "Labyrinth Workshop," he met Murat Aydemir and began studying the tanbur. During this time, he had the opportunity to learn from and collaborate with renowned musicians such as Ross Daly, Sokratis Sinopoulos, Erkan Oğur, Ömer Erdoğdular, Ahmet Erdoğdular, and Derya Türkan.

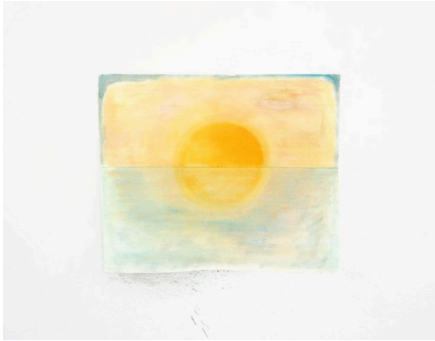
In 2019, he graduated with a degree in Education from the University of Patras. Since 2018, he has been based in Istanbul, where he has studied with Panagiotis Neochoritis and Özer Özel. He has taken part in numerous concerts and projects, collaborating with a wide range of musicians. He currently serves as a chanter at the Greek Orthodox Church of Panayia Kumariotissa in Yeniköy.

Since 2020, he has been conducting a research project on Zaharya Hanende, through which he has organized concerts and published related works. In addition, he continues to perform with Fotini Kokkala in their duet project "NikoTeini," with two album releases planned for this year.

As of 2024, he is pursuing a master's degree in Turkish Art History at Istanbul University. Alongside his academic work, he remains active in the music scene through various collaborations and artistic projects.

Videos & Music Links

**Çağlar Fidan, Nikos Papageorgiou,
Erhan Bayram - Gel Ey Denizin Nazlı Kızı**



**Çağlar Fidan - Sevgililer Çağı'na Bir
Şarkı (Official Music Video)**



**In a 16th-Century Hammam of Istanbul:
The Music of Ottoman Istanbul**

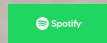


Karcıgar Faslı - Concert Teaser



Social Media Links

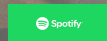
Çağlar Fidan



Erhan Bayram



Nikos Papageorgiou



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