

DÜNYA presents

# A SPECIAL CD RELEASE CONCERT

directed by **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**

featuring

**Nektarios Antoniou**, voice **Eylem Başaldı**, violin **Ekin Cengizkan**, percussion  
**Beth Bahia Cohen**, yaylı tanbur, violin **Sam Dechenne**, trumpet  
**Engin Günaydın**, voice, percussion **Robert Labaree**, çeng, voice, percussion  
**Panayotis League**, kemençe/lyra, laouto, voice **Bertram Lehmann**, percussion  
**Cem Mutlu**, voice, percussion **Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol**, ud, zurna, ney, voice  
and **Noam Sender**, ney, zurna, voice

*Saturday, October 1, 2011 8pm, First Church in Cambridge*



*A journey in time through the music of the city's inhabitants.*

## **Hüzün / melancholy**

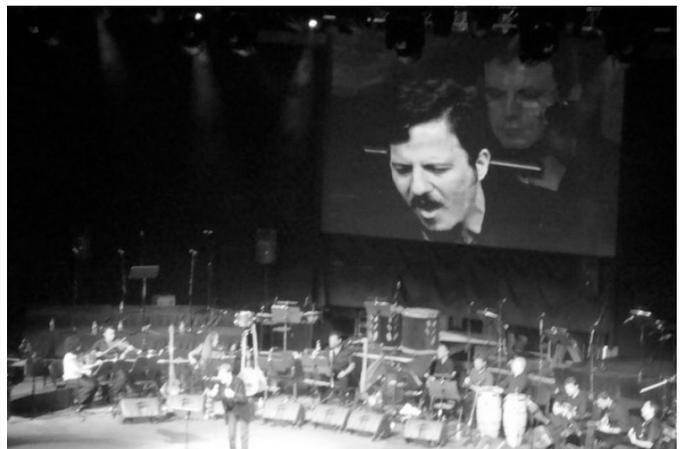
"To be caught up in the beauties of the city and the Bosphorus is to be reminded of the difference between one's own wretched life and the happy triumphs of the past."

Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City* (2006)

The city of Istanbul has been the capital of two great empires—for its first ten centuries Greek Byzantine, and beginning in 1453, for the next five centuries Ottoman Turkish. With the end of the Ottoman empire in 1923 the city lost its status as a capital, though it remains the centerpiece of a modern Turkish republic. Memories of its past—often different, frequently overlapping, sometimes conflicting—persist in the minds and in the music of its inhabitants, most of them with ties to different regions, cultures and histories of the Middle East and the Balkans. In his book *Istanbul: Memories and the City* the Nobel Prize-winning Turkish novelist Orhan Pamuk speaks of a collective melancholic awareness (*hüzün*) in the Istanbul of his own youth, a nostalgic yearning for the former days of imperial glory, in which the city's well-known landmarks—its mosques, churches and synagogues, its palaces and fortresses, and the Bosphorus itself—mingle with the yearning of a young nation striving to be modern. Pamuk's Istanbul is a city of loss.

After a siege of several months in the spring of 1453, the Ottoman sultan Mehmet II took the capital named a thousand years earlier for Constantine, the first Christian emperor. More than a century of Turkish yearning for "The City" was now replaced by a Greek yearning for what was lost: more than a millennium of Byzantine splendor and Christian rule. The city continued to be the destination for a wide range of immigrants and temporary residents—merchants of many regions, soldiers, Ottoman Arabs, Armenians, Slavs and Greeks, Jews exiled from Spain, European diplomats, soldiers and missionaries. The yearning of the descendents of this polyglot Ottoman mix now live with more recent memories, as well: the slow decline and humiliation of the Ottoman empire during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the change of the capital to Ankara, and the relocation to Istanbul of large numbers of poor people from eastern and central Anatolia.

This program attempts to evoke some of the variety and depth of Orhan Pamuk's vision of what has been lost by recalling the music which remains. The many layers of communal memory here include Greek-Orthodox music, Greek and Turkish folk music, Crusader songs, music of the Ottoman janissary bands, Ottoman court music, Sufi ceremonial music, Sephardic Jewish songs, urban music of the Armenians, and ends with modern urban popular music full of longing and protest. On their own, each piece may communicate celebration, devotion or military might, but taken together the melancholy is unmistakable.



DÜNYA was selected to bring a largely Boston-based cast of 34 musicians to perform this program at the 4000 seat *Açık Hava Tiyatrosu* in Istanbul in June of 2010 as part of a major project within the European Union-sponsored celebration of Istanbul that year as a European Culture Capital. This project also included the making of a DÜNYA recording of the entire program as a double CD. Tonight's concert will celebrate the release of this CD, entitled *A Story of the City: Constantinople/Istanbul*, which has been submitted for a Grammy award.

Tonight's version of the program features a smaller ensemble and a more informal presentation of the range of repertoire on the recording. We invite you to celebrate with us an important milestone in DÜNYA's history.

Dr. Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol and Dr. Robert Labaree