

Introduction to 'PEACE' – a piece for Chamber Orchestra
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Sometime before 1989, that I went to USA. Saadet İkesus Altan, one of the forerunners of the Turkish Republic's opera, singer, director, told me a short story. Her Home was in Moda with a beautiful view of Istanbul. She told me how her husband died when watching the sunset together.

On another occasion she had told me a story of a German musician who told her every and each music piece almost is about love and she told me 'Write something different please'.

I wrote many pieces more than 7 hours long in total duration now. My last work 'Peace' is a complex, mixed elaboration of feelings. I believe the first movement 'sunset' is strongly effected by Saadet İkesus Altan. The sunset is a very strong phenomenon with wild colors striking sunshine etc. It also reminds the ending of the day, the ending of something. IT does not matter whether it is the last day of a person in the death row for the death penalty or any normal human being with a normal life.

On the contrary the third movement opens up suddenly in the hot darkness of the second movement 'A Midsummer Night'. The Cicadas begin to sing. What is the thing that makes the song of Cicadas so enchanting. It is persistence. The persistence of life.

The last movement 'A Dream' is a Fugue. A figure of Lullaby (Nenni) is used as accompany of the main theme. In the central part a 'Tree of Life' appears suddenly. I was impressed by the 'tree of Life' at the door of Divriği Temple (Mosque and Hospital) complex. Actually, the tree of life figure is present almost in every culture. What charms me is, when people can not solve problems, when there are questions that they cannot answer they go to temples to prey. And the temples have a depiction of life somewhere on their walls. 'When there is a dispute, when there is a question, the answer is LIFE' it says. I believe.

I believe too, when there is a dispute social, political or whatever, the answer should be found by putting LIFE the first.

Note: I learned this from East and West German air traffic controllers who did not apply the military engagement rules for airplanes passing the borders because of bad weather.



The Tree of Life - Divriği Temple and Hospital



Harbinger