

# Mehmet Ali Sanlikol

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## EDUCATION

**Harvard University** Center for Middle Eastern Studies, Postdoctoral Fellowship in Ottoman classical vocal music written in Byzantine neumes. 2013-15

**New England Conservatory of Music**, Doctor of Musical Arts, Composition and Jazz Studies. 2004

**New England Conservatory of Music**, Master of Music, Jazz Composition. 2000

**Berklee College of Music**, Bachelor of Music, Jazz Composition and Film Scoring. 1997

## APPLIED & PRIVATE STUDY

Cemal Kafadar; *Ottoman/Turkish history and language* - Harvard University, 2003-2004 & 2013-2015

Robert Labaree; *ethnomusicology* - New England Conservatory, 2002-2003

Lee Hyla; *composition* - New England Conservatory, 2001-2004

Nilgün Doğrusöz; *classical Turkish music performance, musicology* - İTÜ Turkish Music State Conservatory 2000-2001

Nektarios Antoniou; *Byzantine music and notation* - Hellenic College/Holy Cross 2000-2001

John Abercrombie; *Jazz performance* - New England Conservatory, 1999-2000

Bob Brookmeyer; *composition* - New England Conservatory, 1998-2004

George Russell; *lydian chromatic concepts* - New England Conservatory, 1998-2000

Paul Bley; *Jazz piano* - New England Conservatory, 1998-1999

Manny Albam; *writing for the Jazz Orchestra* - BMI Jazz Composers Workshop, 1998

Herb Pomeroy; *Line Writing & Music of Duke Ellington* - Berklee College of Music, 1994-1995

Ray Santisi; *Jazz piano* - Berklee College of Music, 1993-1996

Aydın Esen; *Jazz piano & composition* - Istanbul, Turkey, 1992-1993

Fethiye Sanlikol; *western classical piano* - Bursa, Turkey, 1979-1991

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA, 2017 – Present

**Full-Time Faculty, Music History Department.** Courses include “Topics in Improvisation” and “Exoticism in Western Music”

**Emerson College**, Boston, MA, 2007 – 17

**Senior Faculty, Performing Arts Department.** Courses include “Perspectives in World Music” and “History of Jazz”

**New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA, 2011

**Adjunct Faculty, Music History Department.** Courses include “History of Jazz” and “Music of Turkey”

**College of the Holy Cross**, Worcester, MA, 2011 – 16

**Adjunct Faculty, Music Department.** Created the “Introduction to Composition in Jazz and Pop” course. Other courses included “Introduction to Music” and “Fundamentals of Music”

- Brown University**, Providence, RI, 2011 – 13  
**Adjunct Faculty, Music Department.** Coached the Middle Eastern Ensemble.  
 Offered private lessons. Courses included “Music of Turkey”
- Rhode Island College**, Providence, RI, 2007 – 13  
**Adjunct Faculty, Music Department.** Coached the Middle Eastern Ensemble.  
 Courses included “Non-Western Music Cultures” (voted by students among the top 25 classes at Rhode Island College)
- Berklee College of Music**, Boston, MA, 2005  
**Adjunct Faculty, Contemporary Writing and Production Department.** Courses included music theory and arranging.
- Tufts University**, Medford, MA, 2004 – 07  
**Adjunct Faculty, Experimental College and Music Department.** Offered private lessons. Courses included “Ottoman/Turkish Music Performance”.
- New England Conservatory**, Boston, MA, 2002 – 04  
**Teaching Fellow, Music History and Music Theory Departments.** Courses included Music History “Survey III” and “Fundamentals”

## AWARDS/DISTINCTIONS

- Massachusetts Cultural Council Traditional Artist Apprenticeships** Master Artist, 2021, 2022
- South Arts Jazz Road Creative Residency Grant**, 2021
- New Music USA Project Grant**, 2020
- The Aaron Copland Fund for Music Recording Program Grant**, 2020
- Massachusetts Cultural Council Artist Fellowship Finalist**, 2019
- TEDx Talk**, 2019
- Live Arts Boston Grant from The Boston Foundation**, 2018, 2019, 2020
- Creative City Grant from New England Foundation for the Arts**, 2017
- The Aaron Copland Fund for Music Performance Program Grant**, 2016
- Paul R. Judy Center for Applied Research Grant** from Eastman School of Music, 2015
- Grammy award nomination** with A Far Cry string orchestra, 2014
- Associate of the Music Department** designation at Harvard University, 2013
- Fellowship in Turkish Culture and Art** granted by Turkish Cultural Foundation, 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Books*

- Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, *Reform, Notation and Ottoman music in Early 19th Century Istanbul: EUTERPE*. New York & London: Routledge, 2023.
- Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, *The Musician Mehters*. Istanbul: The ISIS Press, 2011.
- Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol, *Çalıcı Mehterler*. Istanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları, 2011.

### *Articles*

- Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. “Ottoman/Turkish Music in Byzantine Neumes: *Euterpe* and the Cultural Differences Between Ottoman/Turkish and Byzantine Musics”. In *Media of Performance and Intersecting Identities of Music in Istanbul*. Istanbul: Suna ve İnan Kıraç Vakfı İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, 2021. Forthcoming.
- Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. “Caz Müziği Notalarında Klasik Türk Müziğindeki Vezin Mefhumu Arayışı: Osmanlı/Türk Müziği ve Caz arasında ölçü, hissiyat ve gider bazında benzerlikler” (Looking for the Middle Eastern Vezin in the Jazz Lead Sheet: resemblances between meter, feel and tempo in Ottoman/Turkish music and Jazz). In *Osmanlı-Türk Musikisine Bakışlar: Tarih, Teori ve İcra*. Ed. Fikret Karakaya. Istanbul: Arkeoloji ve Sanat Yayınları, 2021.
- Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. “Re-evaluating Bimusicality in and for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: *an immigrant’s perspective*”. *Etnomüzikoloji Dergisi*, year: 3, issue: 1, 2020.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Mehter in the Ottoman Istanbul". *History of Istanbul*. Vol. 7. Istanbul: 2020.

#### *Conference and Symposium Presentations*

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Ottoman/Turkish Music in Byzantine Neumes: Evterpi and the Cultural Differences Between Ottoman/Turkish and Byzantine Musics". Paper presented at *Media of Performance and Intersecting Identities of Music in Istanbul* conference organized by the Suna ve İnan Kıraç Vakfı İstanbul Araştırmaları Enstitüsü, İstanbul, Turkey, 2019.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Reconstructing a Turkish Identity in Boston: Mehter, Byzantine Music, Jazz, and More". Paper presented at *Musics Abroad* seminar as part of the Mahindra Humanities Center at Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2015.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Reform and Notation in Early 19<sup>th</sup> Century Istanbul". Paper presented at the Second Boston Byzantine Music Festival, Brookline, MA, 2014.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Cultural Translations of Ottoman/Turkish Music in Byzantine Neumes: documenting musical evolution of usul and makam". Paper presented at the 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of Society for Ethnomusicology, Indianapolis, IN, 2013.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Karamanlidika Publications: Understanding the Cultural Differences Between Ottoman/Turkish Music and Byzantine Music". Paper presented at the Mostly Orthros Conference presented by the Axion Estin Foundation, New York, NY, 2012.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Karamanlica Publications: Cultural Translations of Ottoman/Turkish Music into Byzantine Notations". Paper presented at the Second International Conference on Analytical Approaches to World Music, Vancouver, Canada, 2012.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "Ottoman/Turkish Music in Byzantine Neumes: Documenting Musical Evolution in Oral Tradition". Keynote address presented at the Northeast Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology, Medford, MA, 2012.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "The Multi-layered Identity of the Bektāşi Sufi Order and its Music". Paper presented at the *Islam and Music* symposium at Tufts University, Medford, MA, 2012.

Sanlıkol, Mehmet Ali. "The Many Worlds of Islam and the Role of Music in Them". Paper presented at the Massachusetts Music Educators' Association All State Conference, Boston, MA, 2009.

#### **OTHER RELATED EXPERIENCES**

Director of the Intercultural Institute at New England Conservatory, 2017 – Present

Project director and curator of Nilüfer Municipality Dr. Hüseyin Parkan Sanlıkol Musical Instruments Museum.

"Musical Explorations in Orchestra and 'Coffeehouse Opera': Bektashi Sufism, Ottoman Eunuchs and Othello". Talk presented at City University of New York, 2016

Consultant for the Turkey exhibit at the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix, AZ, 2011 – 14

Featured as a panelist in "Contemporary Muslim Voices in the Arts and Literatures" presented by The Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Islamic Studies Program at Harvard University, 2009

"The Musician Mehters of the Ottoman Period: a presentation on their colorful repertoire and a new approach to contemporary mehter music". Talk presented at the *Sohbet-i Osmani* series at Harvard University's Center for Middle Eastern Studies, 2009

Co-founded *DÜNYA*, a musicians' collective and record label exploring a cosmopolitan view of the world through the lens of a wide range of Turkish traditions, along with Robert Labaree, www.dunyainc.org / 2003 – Present

## SELECTED PERFORMANCES

Carnegie Hall (New York, NY), Lincoln Center (New York, NY), The Metropolitan Museum of Art (New York, NY), Shalin Liu Performance Center (Rockport, MA), Public Theater (New York, NY), National Sawdust (New York, NY), Jordan Hall (Boston, MA), CitySpace (Boston, MA), Sanders Theatre (Cambridge, MA), Kennedy Center (Washington, DC), Theatre de la Ville (Paris, France), Arsenal de Metz (France), Aeschbachhalle (Aarau, Switzerland), Conza (Lugano, Switzerland), HEMU (Lausanne, Switzerland), X-tra (Zurich, Switzerland), NYU Abu Dhabi (UAE), Blue Note Jazz Club (New York, NY), Le Poisson Rouge (New York, NY), Scullers Jazz club (Boston, MA), The Regattabar (Cambridge, MA), International Famagusta Music Festival (Cyprus), International Istanbul Jazz Festival (Turkey), Ankara International Music Festival (Turkey), Bursa International Music Festival (Turkey)

## SELECTED RECORDINGS

**A Gentleman of Istanbul: Symphony for Strings, Percussion, Piano, Oud, Ney & Tenor** (Crier Records, 2023) A Far Cry, Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol & George Lernis

**The Rise Up: Stories of Strife, Struggle and Inspiration** (DÜNYA, 2020) Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol & Whatsnext? featuring Dave Liebman.

**Resolution** (DÜNYA, 2016) Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol & Whatsnext? featuring Anat Cohen, Dave Liebman, Tiger Okoshi and Antonio Sanchez. DownBeat magazine's September's Editor's Pick

**Whatsnext?** (DÜNYA, 2014) Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol. Included in JAZZIZ's Critics' Choice Top 10 list, 2014

**A Story of the City: Constantinople-Istanbul** (DÜNYA, 2010) Schola Cantorum, Ensemble Trinitas and DÜNYA Ensemble directed by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol.

**Music of Cyprus** (KALAN/DÜNYA, 2007) DÜNYA Ensemble directed by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol. First production to bring Greek and Turkish Cypriots and mainland Greeks and Turks together

## SELECTED WORKS

کن [Kûn] – violin and piano, 2021

*In Search/Arayış* – composed for jazz trio and ney (Middle Eastern end-blown flute), 2019

*The Rise Up* – Jazz Orchestra, Byzantine (Greek Orthodox) choir, ney, zurna (Middle Eastern double reed pipe) and soprano saxophone, 2019

*A Gentleman of Istanbul: Symphony for Strings, Percussion, Piano, Oud, Ney & Tenor*, 2018

*Devran* – choir; in 2 movements: I. “Ey gönül neylersin sen bu cihan”, II. “Mevlam senin aşıkların devran iderler Hu ile”, 2017

*Temmuz* – Jazz orchestra and zurna, ney, voice, 2017

*Harabat/The Intoxicated* – tenor & oud with orchestra, 2015

*Othello in the Seraglio: The tragedy of Sümbül the black eunuch* – a "coffeehouse opera" in 2 Acts composed for 4 singers and chamber ensemble featuring European period instruments, Turkish instruments and an actor, 2015

*Şu yalan dünya* – tenor, choir and piano, 2015

*The Turkish 2nd Line (New Orleans Çiftetellisi)* – Jazz orchestra and clarinet in Bb, 2015

*Concerto for Soprano Saxophone and Jazz Orchestra in C* – in 3 movements: I. Medium Funk “Rebellion”, II. Ballad “Reminiscence”, III. Up-tempo Swing “Resolution”, 2015

*A Jazzed up Devr-i Revan* – Jazz combo with Turkish instruments, 2014  
*The Blue Typhoon* – cello quartet, 2014  
*Vecd* – string orchestra, 2012  
*Byzantium* – chamber ensemble, 2008  
*Ergenekon: An Ancient Turkish legend* – children’s choir, tenor, soprano and mixed chamber ensemble with Turkish instruments, 2002  
*Misterioso* – clarinet in Bb and piano, 1999

### SELECTED COMMISSIONS

Carnegie Hall (New York, NY)  
American Composers Orchestra (New York, NY)  
A Far Cry String Orchestra (Jamaica Plain, MA)  
The Boston Cello Quartet (Boston, MA)  
Jazzaar Festival (Aarau, Switzerland)  
American Islamic Congress (Washington, DC)  
PALS Children’s Chorus (Brookline, MA)

### LANGUAGES

Turkish	High Advanced level: reading, writing and speaking
Ottoman Turkish	Mid Advanced level: reading and speaking
English	High Advanced level: reading, writing and speaking
Greek	Intermediate level: reading and speaking
German	Low Intermediate level: reading, writing and speaking
Arabic	Low Intermediate level: reading and speaking

### REFERENCES

Available on request