Musical Programme: Bahar Büyükgönenç, violin / Igor Vlajnić, mag. mus., mag. oec., piano

The performance has been conceived as an intimate *carte postale* into the world of classical music of both Türkiye and Croatia, as well as of international composers whose work resonates with the cultural spheres of the two countries. A particular hommage is dedicated to contemporary Turkish composers who weave elements of popular and traditional music into the fabric of their classical language, alongside a tribute to the richness of the Croatian musical heritage.

Programme (approx. 30 minutes):

- **Antonio Vivaldi:** Sonata in A major, op. 2 no. 2
  Preludio e Capriccio / Corrente / Giga
- **Dora Pejačević:** Five Miniatures for Violin and Piano, op. 8
- **Ilyas Mirzayev:** *Sarı Gelin* (Azerbaijani Anonymous Song)
- **Ilyas Mirzayev:** *Üsküdar'a gider iken*
- **Melisa Uzunarslan:** *Bana...*

Artists' Biographies

Bahar Büyükgönenç

Born in Istanbul, **Bahar Büyükgönenç** began studying violin at the age of eleven at the State Conservatory of the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts. She completed both her undergraduate and doctoral studies at the State Conservatory of Istanbul University under the mentorship of Venyamin Varşavski. In 1997 she joined the Cemal Reşit Rey Symphony Orchestra, serving as concertmaster between 2002 and 2005. In 1999 she won the İstanbul Music Festival Award, and in 2003 successfully auditioned for the İstanbul State Symphony Orchestra. Since 2007 she has collaborated with the Aşkın Ensemble, first as second violin and later as concertmaster. Within the CAKA (Cihat Aşkın and Little Friends) project, she has been actively involved in the education of young musicians, leading the Küçükçekmece branch since 2012. From 2007 to 2018 she taught at the ITU State Conservatory for Turkish Music. Since the 2014/2015 season she has been concertmaster of the Cemal Reşit Rey Jazz Orchestra. She has performed throughout Türkiye and internationally, giving numerous solo recitals, masterclasses, and concert appearances, including at the CAKA Summer School in Italy. Her academic work includes participation in research projects, published articles, and contributions to professional symposiums. Since 2018 she has taught at the Conservatory of Maltepe University, where she was appointed Full Professor in January 2025. In 2020 she began work on her first solo album dedicated to globally recognised violin methods. Since 2023 she has been performing with the İstanbul Academic Trio.

Igor Vlajnić

Born in Osijek, **Igor Vlajnić** graduated in conducting in 2004 from the "Ino Mirković" School of Music in Lovran in the class of Maestro Miroslav Homen. He began his conducting career as répétiteur, assistant and conductor in various productions. In 2006 he became conductor and chorus master of the opera of the Croatian National Theatre Ivan pl. Zajc in Rijeka. Over fifteen years of professional engagement, he participated in 300 opera performances and more than 735 productions of various genres, touring over 30 countries across four continents. Since 2005 he has been a member of the UNESCO-affiliated association "Melody as a Dialogue among Civilisations", with which he has performed in France, the USA, Nigeria, Cuba and China. In 2008 he received the "Young Mozart" Medal for contributions to inter-cultural dialogue. He has performed with numerous orchestras, including the Rijeka Opera Orchestra and Chorus, the Osijek Opera Orchestra, the Rijeka Philharmonic, the Prague Philharmonic, the Cuban National Philharmonic, St Luke's Orchestra (New York), Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra and Hangzhou Philharmonic (China), the National Orchestra of Nigeria, and the "Melody" traditional instrument ensemble in Paris. He has conducted on significant occasions such as the 60th Anniversary of UNESCO, the UNESCO International Women's Day Celebration (2006), the 60th Anniversary of the First Space Flight, the 16th Asian Games in Guangzhou, the opening of the Hangzhou Water Protection Festival, and the Croatian National Day at Expo 2025 Osaka. He is the only permanent court expert in musical arts in the Republic of Croatia, a member of several professional associations, a former member of the Cultural Council of the Primorje-Gorski Kotar County (2017-2025), and a current member of the City Council of Rijeka. In addition to conducting, he holds degrees in singing (University of Zagreb, Academy of Music) and economics (University of Rijeka). He currently teaches music at Nikola Tesla Primary School and Pećine Primary School in Rijeka. Since 2024, he has been the vice president of the Croatian-Turkish Society Rijeka.



