

EVREN KUTLAY (TÜRKİYE)

Istanbul Zaim University (Istanbul)

WPTA Turkey, President

Dr. Evren Kutlay graduated from Bogazici University Mathematics Department while studying piano at Istanbul University State Conservatory. Afterwards, she studied with full scholarship at University of West Georgia, where she received her MBA and MM in Piano Performance degrees with high honor. She completed her Ph.D. in Musicology at Istanbul University. She works as a Professor of Music at Istanbul Zaim University. In addition to her regular solo and chamber music concerts throughout Europe and the US, she continues her research in "Ottoman-European and Ottoman-American musical interactions." She produced numerous articles, book chapters, four books, and a solo piano CD recording. Throughout the years, she was awarded the "Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Scholars Award," "The Award of Excellence" at the GMTA piano competition, the "Star of the Year" award from MTNA, the WPTA Diploma of Excellence Accredited by the WPC, the Fellowship in Turkish Culture and Arts by the TCF, Special Recognition from the American Congress, and commissioned as "Honorary Texan" by the State of Texas. Moreover, November 8, 2013, was proclaimed "Dr. Evren Kutlay Day" by the Mayor of Houston, Texas. She was a Visiting Scholar at Rutgers University in 2019. She is the Newell Scholar of 2024 at Georgia College and State University. She was the President of WPTA-Turkey and is a permanently authorized WPTA International Piano Competition judge.

What If the Rulers Are Pianists? Piano Music as a Means of Diplomacy

This lecture-recital is about an archival piano album given to Queen Elizabeth of Romania (also known as Carmen Sylva) by the Ottoman Sultan Abdulhamid II as a gift for their shared interest in playing the piano. The album is significant as a means of cultural diplomacy. In this lecture-recital, the shared music-historical facts between the Ottoman Empire and Romania will be explained first. Then, an analysis of the content and the construction strategies of the piano album will be discussed, along with the performance of selected pieces from the royal collection. Recital Program: Ambassador's Peshrev-notated by Dimitri Cantemir; Azizie March by Callisto Guatelli; Osmanie March by Callisto Guatelli; *Nihavend Şarkı-i Duaiye* (Prayer) by Rifat Bey; Hamidie March by Ahmed Nedjib Pasha; «Bir Nihal-i Huzurum» *Muhayyer Sharki* by Nihad Bey; *Rast Military March* by Ahmed Nedjib Pasha; *Beste* by Numan Agha; *Peshrev Semai* by *Kanuni Merhum Omer Effendy*; «Bu Hüsnile Ey Gonca» *Sharki* by Hasan Bey; «Ziver-i Efşan Ata» *Sharki* by Shakir Agha.

Presenters



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