

By
Rhiannon Davies

THE SYNCOPATED BEAT

JAZZ



IN ISTAN BUL



To jazz, or not to jazz, there is no question! Louis Armstrong

Close your eyes and conjure up the rustle of brushes on symbols, a walking bassline, syncopated rhythm, improvised trumpet solos, and smoky voices. Feel your feet start tapping and let yourself be whirled away to an altogether more glamorous bygone era. We are, of course, talking about the Jazz Age, depicted so colorfully in Baz Luhrmann's summer blockbuster, *The Great Gatsby*.

Jazz is the big brother of Revolution. Revolution follows it around. Miles Davis

Jazz, the music behind it all, was developed in the USA in the early twentieth century and went on to permeate every genre of music that came later, as well as revolutionizing

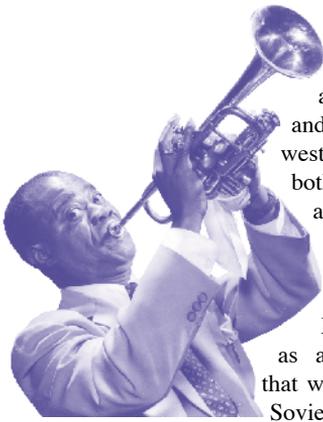
popular culture. However, it had a long way to travel before it reached Turkey: from the heart of Africa to the southern United States, then back across the Atlantic and right through Europe. It's no wonder it arrived a little late. Although there were jazz bands in Istanbul from the 1920s onwards, it wasn't until the late 1940s/early 1950s that it really took off.

Yet, it's not surprising that it took root here. Traditional Turkish music has much in common with jazz, such as a shared basis in improvisation, a rhythmic flexibility and intricate harmonic complexities. Istanbul's natural cosmopolitan atmosphere also fostered the development of jazz, and according to musician Emin Findikoğlu, it was the combination of Armenian, Jewish, Turkish, and foreign musicians who together built the jazz scene in Turkey.

JAZZ WASHES AWAY THE DUST OF EVERYDAY LIFE.

ART BLAKEY

By and large, jazz has always been like the kind of a man you wouldn't want your daughter to associate with. Duke Ellington



In Turkey, as in other parts of the world, jazz was more than just a genre of music. It was about individuality, creativity, and freedom. First known as 'light western music,' jazz represented both a break from tradition as well as a subversion of state sponsored ideologies. In *Jazz in Turkey*, a new documentary directed by Batu Akyol, jazz historian Dan Morgenstern even describes it as an effective 'cultural weapon' that was used in competition with the Soviet Union.

However, it wasn't universally accepted and despite the Turkish government's promotion of Western music, Jazz was frowned upon by some authorities, and there are even tales of students being beaten by their teachers for daring to play jazz tunes in class. In Akyol's documentary, jazz researcher Hülya Tunçağ explains that because of jazz's prevalence in nightclubs, rather than concert halls, the academic elite feared that students would end up in these supposed dens of debauchery, rather than the Royal Albert Hall.

Every now and then a clear harmonic cry gave new suggestions of a tune that would someday be the only tune in the world and would raise men's souls to joy. Jack Kerouac

Anyone who has ever read Kerouac or F. Scott Fitzgerald's descriptions of the Jazz Age will recall their vivid accounts of an exciting, adventurous time, where people felt they were part of something that was going to change the world. Although it was on a smaller scale, the scene in Istanbul was also full of exhilaration for this new way of life with musicians, composers and critics like Sevinç Tevs, Cüneyt Sermet, İsmet Siral, and Erdem Buri helping to spread Turkish jazz around the world. When Quincy Jones and Dizzy Gillespie visited Istanbul in the mid-1950s they

discovered the talents of Arif Mardin and he became the first recipient of the Quincy Jones Scholarship to attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston Massachusetts. He later became one of the 20th century's greatest music producers.

Two Turkish brothers also played a large part in spreading jazz on an international scale. Ahmet and Nesuhi Ertegun were the sons of the first Turkish ambassador in the USA, Mehmet Münir Ertegun. They became so enamored with Washington's jazz culture, that they stayed on after their father's death in 1944 and went on to co-found and run Atlantic Records, one of the labels responsible for releasing many jazz greats and helping to bridge the racial divide through music.

Where's Jazz going? I don't know? Maybe it's going to hell. You can't make anything go anywhere. It just happens. Thelonius Monk

While it's importance to recognize the history, symbolism and impact of jazz, it's also necessary to step out of the past, into the present, and look towards the future. As prominent jazz musician and Nardis Jazz Club owner, Önder Focan notes in *Jazz in Turkey*, "Young musicians add some momentum with their surroundings, and then it becomes sustainable. The best part of it is when younger and older generations come together in the same group. They feed each other in terms of music and energy."

For the past twenty years, the **Istanbul Jazz Festival** has helped to develop the Turkish jazz scene, inviting some of the world's biggest stars and creating events that bring together the best international and domestic, established and emerging artists; pushing things forward and showcasing decades of jazz history. This year's festival will see a whole host of stars from the well-established, international 'A-Listers' to up-and-coming breakthrough acts.

The 2013 Lifetime Achievement Awards Go To...

DURUL GENÇE

One of Turkey's greatest drummers and most successful conductors, he came to prominence with his 1970 record 'Sheikh Shamil'. As well as playing in 'Istanbul Express' and 'Asia Minor Mission', he also accompanied many famous musicians from Turkey and abroad.

HASAN KOCAMAZ

Known for opening Turkey's first jazz club, Hasan Kocamaz was one of the world's greatest harmonica players. He worked with many of the famous Turkish jazz era musicians and was key in the advancement of swing music in Turkey.

THE 20TH ISTANBUL JAZZ FESTIVAL LINE-UP*



ALICIA KEYS JULY 2

Parkorman

**DEE DEE BRIDGEWATER AND
RAMSEY LEWIS** JULY 3 – Imperial
Garden of Yıldız Palace

LÖPEZ – NUSSA FAMILY PROJECT
JULY 3 – Feriye Restaurant,
Ortaköy

ANTHONY STRONG JULY 4
Consulate General of Austria,
Austrian Cultural Office Garden

**URAZ KIVANER QUINTET FEAT.
MARCO TAMBURINI** JULY 4 -
Salon İKSV

MELODY GARDOT
JULY 5 – Embassy of Germany
Tarabya Summer Residence

TÜNEL FEAST JULY 6 – Tünel,
Beyoğlu



**DAVID SANBORN, BOB JAMES
FEAT. STEVE GADD, JAMES GENUS**
'QUARTETTE HUMAINE'

JULY 9 - Haliç Congress Center

E.S.T. SYMPHONY

Jacky Terrason, Michael Wolny,
Marius Neset, Dan Berglund,
Magnus Öström, Filarmonia
Istanbul JULY 10 - Haliç
Congress Center

**EVİRİM DEMİREL ENSEMBLE FEAT.
DAVID KWEKSILBER**
JULY 10 - Salon İKSV

**OZAN MUSLUOĞLU TRIO FEAT. IVO
NEAME** JULY 11 - Salon İKSV

'A STRANGE PLACE FOR JAZZ'
KAIROS 4TET/BOJAN Z
JULY 12 – Rahmi M. Koç
Museum

**ŞENAY LAMBAOĞLU FEAT. MÉDÉRIC
COLLIGNON**
JULY 12 - Salon İKSV

**CHINA MOSES & RAPHAEL
LEMONNIER/ANAT COHEN**
QUARTET JULY 13 – Sabancı
University Sakıp Sabancı
Museum

**JAZZ IN TURKEY - DOCUMENTARY
PREMIERE** JULY 14 – Istanbul
Modern

**STEFANO BOLLANI & HAMILTON DE
HOLANDA DUO** JULY 15 – Istanbul
Archaeological Museum

**LLOYD CHISHOLM SEXTET FEAT.
LUIGI GRASSO & NICOLAS DARY**
JULY 15 - Salon İKSV

'TEATIME AT THE SAVORY'
**DEUTSCHE PHILHARMONIE MERCK
FEAT. DEREM GÖRSEV** 16 JULY –
Cemil Reşit Rey Concert Hall

**CHANO DOMINGUEZ 'FLAMENCO
SKETCHES'** JULY 17 – Istanbul
Archaeological Museum

**ECE GÖKSU 'MASAL' FEAT.
GREGORIE MARET** JULY 17 -
Salon İKSV

'ENCOUNTERS WITH MASTERS'
**LENA CHMAMYAN FEAT. GÖKSEL
BAKTAGİR, ÖZER ARKUN, TULAĞ
TİRPAN TRİO** JULY 18 – Imperial
Garden of Yıldız Palace



JOHN LEGEND
JULY 29 - Cemil Topuzlu Open
Air Stage

*Please note that at the time of going to press, many events were being cancelled or postponed as a result of the Gezi Park protests. We therefore recommend you check our online Agenda for the most up-to-date news.

ISTANBUL'S BEST JAZZ BARS

Whilst many of the bigger concert venues like Babylon, İş Sanat, Ghetto, Roxy, Garaj Istanbul, and Salon İKSV all host some of the more celebrated jazz musicians, the following are smaller jazz bars where you can get a flavor of the local Turkish scene.

ALT.

A small, underground bar, located just off of İstiklal Caddesi that dedicates its program to the best local jazz acts with a full lineup that features live music six nights a week. The exposed brickwork, red curtains, and wooden floors all give it an authentic jazz vibe. *İstiklal Caddesi Acara Sokak No:5/B, Beyoğlu;* P: (0212) 244 85 67

ALTÖLYE KULEDİBİ

Located next door to the celebrated Nardis, Altölye Kuledibi has an altogether more grassroots feel. Entrance is free, and you practically have to walk through the performance, as the musicians sit in the corner around the doorway. If you're seeking a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere to enjoy jazz music without any pretensions, this is the place. *Galata Kulesi Sokak 4/1, Kuledibi, Galata;* P: (0212) 243 76 56

HAYAL KAHVESİ BEYOĞLU

A classic of Beyoğlu nightlife, and although not solely jazz, Hayal Kahvesi is a stylish yet laid-back bar where established and up-and-coming Turkish rock and jazz groups play for a select yet friendly crowd. *Meşelik Sokak No. 10, Beyoğlu;* P: (0212) 245 10 48



NARDİS

Named after one of Miles Davis' songs, Nardis Jazz Club is Istanbul's most famous and internationally-acclaimed jazz venue. Reservations are highly recommended on weekends because tables close to the stage fill up quickly with seats usually available upstairs. *Kuledibi Sokak No. 14, Galata;* P: (0212) 244 63 27



NUBLU

The music post from New York City carries on the club's decade old tradition of great music from great musicians from all around the world. Located on the basement floor of the Gradiva Hotel, this space with a dark red glow is the place to really enjoy some live music. *Voyvoda Caddesi No:2/1, Karaköy Square;* P: (0530) 382 38 22



JOHN LEGEND

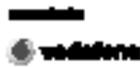


28 JULY 2013 MONDAY, 21.30
CEMIL TOPUZLU OPEN AIR THEATRE

Tickets at Biletix and IKSV.



www.iksv.org



Responsible for the content of the photo: Legenda