

# Kerem GÖRSEV

Kerem Görsev born in Istanbul in 1961 studied piano with Rana Erksan at the Istanbul Municipal Conservatory in 1967, and continued his musical education at the Istanbul State Conservatory between 1972 and 1979. During these years, he took violin and viola lessons from Gönül Gökdoğan and Özer Sezgin. He started to play jazz with Elvan Araci.

He has performed at the various clubs in Istanbul both with Turkish and foreign musicians. Some of the musicians he has played with are: Ed Howard, Rabin Kenyata, Doris Troy, Vinnie Night, Eric Revis, LaVerne Butler, Allan Harris, Clifford Jarvis, Harvey Thompson, Russell Gunn, Steve Kirby, Alvester Garnett. During multiple jam sessions, he has played with Ralph Moore, Pat Metheny, Kenny Garret, Tomy Campbell, Joshua Redman and Wynton Marsalis.

Recently, he has performed in two concerts with Elvin Jones Jazz Machine in Eskisehir Festival.

In 1995, he released his first CD, Hands and Lips, followed by his second CD, I Love May, in 1996, both comprising his own compositions. Kerem Görsev released his third album, For Murat, in November 1996. He has finished his fourth album, Relaxing. Eric Revis and Bob Demeo accompanied him in this album. Relaxing was released in September 1997. His fourth album was a piano-vocal duet album, Laid-Back, with Allan Harris. This album, which was released in October

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1999, consists of love songs from 50's - 60's era and from Broadway musicals.

Kerem Görsev released his sixth album "November in St.Petersburg" in April 2000. This album was recorded with St.Petersburg Academic Philharmonic Orchestra in St. Petesburg on 8-9 November 1999.

The album consists of Kerem Görsev's compositions and Erol Erdinç directed the orchestra. His next album was "Warm Autumn" which was recorded in New York and released in 2001 autumn. On this album, he played with Eric Revis Russell Gunn, JD Allen, Jason Jackson, Eric Revis, Alvester Garnett, and Kahlil Kewane Bell.



In June 2002, his seventh album "Existence" was released. Reyent Bolukbasi is the featuring artist with his cello in this album. All consisting of Kerem Görsev's compositions, this album's concept was a meeting point between jazz and classical music.

Kerem Görsev has finished recording "Meeting Point" in New York in November 2003. Russell Gunn, Eric Revis, Alvester Garnett and Marcus Strickland accompanied him in this album. All the pieces on the album are Kerem Görsev's own compositions. This album was

released in March, 2004.

Kerem Görsev had many performances in Turkey and abroad during 2004 and 2005. He has performed at various festivals, university concerts and organizations in many cities including Trabzon, Antalya, Malatya, Isparta, Bodrum, Çesme and Izmir as well as international performances in Baku, Copenhagen, Muenster, Coesfeld, Stuttgart and Islamabad. Kerem Görsev Trio performed the opening concert of International Vilnius Jazz Festival, Lithuania on November 11, 2005.



He briefly summarized his Jazz Music activities and future plans: "I love jazz. I believe jazz music frees us from our daily problems and enables us to dream. Once, we can dream about things, and then we can achieve them. In my case, I turn my dreams into compositions and then the compositions make my albums. It would be my greatest pleasure to have contributed to the popularity of jazz in Turkey in my own way."

"My albums are all acoustic jazz albums with different formats ranging from the classical jazz trio to great strings. I would like to continue with my concerts in Turkey and abroad and keep on composing. Currently, I am working on a book for my compositions so that other musicians can have easy access to my music. In short, there are always new projects, new ideas, new dreams..."

Though Kerem Gorsev said that it was hard for him to comment on business as a musician, but he expressed the following on the roles of Turkish business people abiding in the EU countries to the period of Turkey joining the EU: "I think everybody should do their own business, art, music etc in an honest and ethical way. I believe culture, art and music are key elements in eliminating difference between people. Businesses should do their best to help EU countries to get to know our country as we know it. We

have significant, world-wide famous classical pianists, violinists, and conductors and so on. Sponsoring international events, sponsoring concerts in EU countries by Turkish musicians is important. I have performed in many EU cities and attending a jazz concert by Turkish musicians really changes people's ideas about Turkey positively."

"Music is universal, all musicians should to listen and study the music of the great jazz legends, 50s-60s music and then go with their heart. Jazz musicians should not think commercially first. They should follow their own calling and the rest will follow." He advises to young musicians living in European Countries.

About his main principles in becoming a successful musician, he pointed out followings: "Needless to say you have to love it and feel it. After that, a musical career takes a lot of discipline. You have to start from the basics and build on them. Also, I believe a healthy body is very important, so take care of your body."

"Jazz music is a lot about interaction with other musicians, so listen to a lot of music, try to learn from others by listening and studying their music. Go to the concerts and play as much as you can. If you are sincere in your music, sooner or later, you will be appreciated."