



**REMBETIKO:**  
One of the rebetiko revivalists groups in Istanbul. Tatlava Keyfi has one Greek member, two Turks and one Ukrainian.

# Greeks are a force on Istanbul's music scene

MARIA ELIADES  
ISTANBUL - Hürriyet Daily News

Few musicians active in Istanbul's vibrant music scene blend in as well as the Greeks. Look at any calendar for a music venue and it's not hard to find Greeks playing Turkish music, Greek music or a blend of both.

Thanos Goutanos and Georgios Marinakis originally came to Istanbul to continue their musical education. Goutanos joined a band in Istanbul's on Asmalimesic Street after becoming entranced by the music of both legendary Turkish musician and musical innovator Erkan Oğur and the country's Roma.

Goutanos has since returned to Greece where he created the Balda Band, an Istanbul-inspired Balkan and Roma music group. Nonetheless, he occasionally returns to Istanbul to play with his former band mates and expand his musical horizons.

"Greek and Turkish music have very common things, but now I see them from a different point of view," Goutanos says. "I now play like Turkish people do."

Marinakis came to Istanbul to study the oud. In Greece, he had been a lauto (a type of stringed instrument) player but found no teacher who could help improve his playing level.

Noting that leaving one's traditional environment is beneficial for one's musical progression, Marinakis said, "It helps to go to another country, a strange country for you to meet different people [and] to have good musicians as teachers."

Marinakis has a close relationship with his teacher, Ruhi Ayayngil. The two have been teaching each other Greek and Turkish since Marinakis became Ayayngil's pupil.

Marinakis especially impressed his master during a December 2009 solo concert at Galata Club in Beyoğlu in which the Greek artist bucked tradition by playing works by living classical composers. Generally, classical musicians will only play works by the deceased.

"He tried to realize a new approach with this concert," Ayayngil

**Greek musicians are a force of Istanbul's vibrant music scene. One can find a Greek playing music in any venue of the city. Among them are Thanos Goutanos, Georgios Marinakis, Tatlava Keyfi, Laterna, and Kafé Aman Istanbul. 'Greek and Turkish music have very common things. I now play like Turkish people do,' says Goutanos**

said. "My 'Giorgaki mou' succeeded very well. I believe if he increases his abilities, he will become an eminent musician, not only in his homeland and Turkey, but all over the world."

According to Celi Eldiniz, a friend of Goutanos and an opera singer in Greece for the past four years, said there is a difference between the musical environments of Greece and Istanbul.

"When I think of Greek culture, I always imagine a table. In the nights, they sit and we sing. Maybe this has its roots in Ancient Greek culture, this ideal theater audience with some people just silent," Eldiniz said, noting that the Istanbul music scene has far more interaction between musicians and the audience.

## The return of rebetiko

The rebetiko genre, which originated in Athens, Izmir and Istanbul in the mid-19th century, constitutes the largest point of contact between Turkish and Greek artists. Tatlava Keyfi, Laterna, and Kafé Aman Istanbul, three rebetiko revivalists groups in Istanbul, feel their version of the genre is closer to the original than what is presently played in Greece, where it is often played with electric keyboards and equipment.

Istanbul's music scene has many musicians who have learned to play from their parents and grandparents, according to Tatlava Keyfi frontman Haris Rigas.

He said the original rebetiko groups disseminated their music in the same peer-to-peer model that Turkish groups have always continued to use.

Tatlava Keyfi, which has one Greek member, two Turkish members and one Ukrainian, start their sets with songs in both Greek and Turkish. As the evening progresses, they play more obscure pieces.

Likewise, the all-Turkish band Laterna, which plays at the Beyoğlu



dance club Araf, plays an eclectic and original collection of Armenian, Greek, Kurdish, Balkan, Alevi and Turkish. Like Tatlava Keyfi, their audience is mostly Turkish.

Though it eschews electronic enhancement like the other two bands, Kafé Aman Istanbul also has its own unique approach to rebetiko in mixing different Greek dances such as sirtaki, hasapiko and laika alongside Turkish music. At the same time, the band generally performs at universities and schools while also holding the occasional seminar on rebetiko's history.

Playing rebetiko music in Istanbul

is very important for the city, according to Stelios Berberis, an Istanbul Greek and one of the Kafé Aman's singers.

It not only represents Istanbul's musical past but also reminds their audiences of themselves. "This town culture is a piece of Istanbul that has been lost," Berberis said. The seven-piece group of mostly Turkish musicians finds there is a demand for their music wherever they play. As with the other bands, the growth of groups like Kafé Aman Istanbul strengthens the city's dynamic scene while helping chart the next evolutionary phase in the Istanbul's music.

# Exhibit on Yaşar Kemal in Sweden

STOCKHOLM  
Anatolia News Agency

An exhibition on a Turkish author opened in the Swedish capital of Stockholm on Thursday.

The exhibition displays photographs of author Yaşar Kemal taken by Güneş Karabuda since 1956. It was also inaugurated in the French capital of Paris in November 2009.

Kemal lived in Sweden for a short time, and his 18 books have been translated into Swedish. "I have also received invitations from Norway and Finland to open the exhibition in those countries," Karabuda said during the inauguration ceremony.

She said the exhibition featured

Kemal's photos taken in Osmaniye and Istanbul and documentaries made by him. She said she had received proposals from Norway and Finland about the exhibition, and that she could open the exhibition



**OPENING:** Author Yaşar Kemal (R), Güneş Karabuda and Turkish Ambassador to Sweden Zeynep Korutürk attend the opening of the exhibition in Stockholm.

in those countries if she could get help. The exhibition will stay open till March 28.

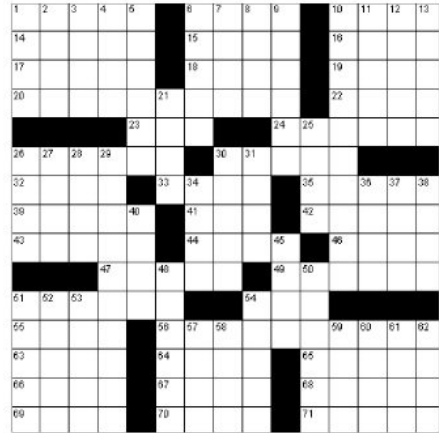
Born in 1923, Kemal has long been a candidate for the Nobel Prize in Literature, on the strength of "İnce

Memed" (Memed, My Hawk). He published his first book "Ağtlar" (Balds) in 1943, which was a compilation of folkloric themes.

Kemal used the legends and stories of Anatolia extensively as the basis of his works.

His 1955 novel "Teneke" (The Drumming-Out) was adapted into a theatrical play, which was staged for almost one year in Gothenburg, Sweden, the country where he lived for about two years in the late 1970s. Italian composer Fabio Vacchi adapted the same novel with the original title into an opera of three acts, which premiered at the Teatro alla Scala in Milan, Italy in 2007.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

- Hot ball 6 Broth 10 History 14
- Dyphars 15 Sea eagle 16 Sword
- Put up with something
- Close 19 Gosh!
- Humdrum 22 Therefore
- Resort 24 Marine mollusk
- Setting 30 Agile Old World vulture 32 Biblical garden
- Cold-shoulder 35 Betel palm
- A writing tablet 41 Old age
- Equestrian 43 Sarf
- As well 46 Anagram of "Sail"
- Vigorously passionate 49 Soft
- Even though 54 Donation
- Backside 56 Mating closely related individuals 63 Indian music 64 Former vice-president A1
- Cowboy sport 66 Roasting appliance 67 Protective ditch 68 Gather
- Whip mark 70 \_\_\_ meridian 71 Clear up

### DOWN

- Gun game 2 Vagabond
- Chief Norse god 4 Start over
- Spreads sleeping sickness
- Ringworm bush 7 Chocolate cookie 8 A Central American sloth
- A human being 10 Walker
- Not together 12 Twilled fabric
- Male singing range 21 Creative

- work 25 345 days 26 Net 27 Doing nothing 28 Loyal 29 Narrow-minded 30 Wadi 31 Concludes
- Warmth 36 Modify written material 37 A prisoner's room
- Backside 40 Decorative case
- Gawk at 48 A symbol of disgrace or infamy 50 Come forth
- It's shot from a bow 52 Depart
- Deli item 54 Mount in crest
- Middy 58 A very troublesome child 59 A girl's toy 60 Bright thought 61 Tidy 62 Departed

### Yesterday's puzzle

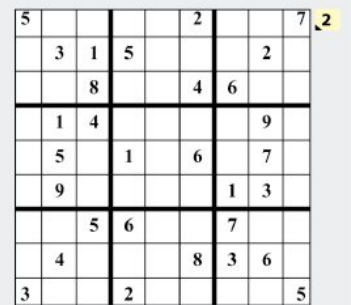


### HOW TO PLAY SUDOKU

Every row of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order

Every column of 9 numbers must include all digits 1 through 9 in any order

Every 3 by 3 subsection of the 9 by 9 square must include all digits 1 through 9



### Yesterday's puzzle - 1



### Yesterday's puzzle - 2

