

We asked Fahrettin Yarkin:

**Is it possible to play an instrument in both classical Turkish music and a jazz piece?**

The answer is yes and no. Let's take the darbuka for instance: it is not possible to play the darbuka in all forms of classical Turkish music. On the other hand, even though it's not an instrument that belongs in traditional jazz, if we want to experiment with different sounds - like Chick Corea or Lars Danielsson - we can choose to use the darbuka. Jazz is more than a musical genre, it's the expression of a philosophy and a wealth of knowledge and experience. As musicians who perform other kinds of music that are conceptually and culturally different from jazz, we must first become acquainted with this music and then focus on what we can do within this musical genre. A performer must always aim towards self-improvement and become a good listener. She must work hard to master all the basic skills and competencies a musician needs, such as notation, harmony, tonality and improvisation. When you become confident with all of this, all musical genres feel familiar to you. It feels like you've mastered a universal language. Regardless of whether you play a Western instrument or an Eastern instrument, if you constantly work on self-improvement, you'll be able to play with any musician in the world. But without the basic skills set, you'll not be able to do this and you'll continue as a local musician.



**GO TO A CONCERT**

Have you ever been to a jazz concert?

If not, then the Istanbul Jazz Festival's free **Jazz In the Parks** concerts might be a good opportunity for you.

Watch a concert and then answer the adjacent questions.

- WHOSE CONCERT WAS IT?.....
- ON WHAT DATE WAS IT?.....
- WHERE WAS IT? .....
- HOW WAS IT?.....
- WHAT WERE YOUR THOUGHTS DURING THE CONCERT?.....
- HOW DID YOU FEEL DURING THE CONCERT?.....



**IT'S YOUR TURN**

Improvisational music is a spontaneous kind of music. You don't know what you're going to play before you play it. You just go with the flow of your heart. In this section, you are completely free. Just grab something that makes a sound and play it to your heart's content. Then open the window and listen to the sounds of the outside world. Can you accompany any of these sounds with your music?

You can do this either by yourself or with your friends.

*Selim Sesler*

The Sesler Family moved to Turkey during the population exchange with Greece. They came to Thrace in 1923 and settled in the Keşan district of Edirne. Selim Sesler's father and grandfather were both musicians. He says: "We have inherited this from our forefathers. The Romani have a great ear for music. Hearing a tune only once is enough for them to learn it and play it."

His father played the zurna at first. Later he moved on to the clarinet. Born in 1957, the first thing Selim Sesler ever set eyes on was naturally a clarinet. He was already playing it by the time he was 9 or 10.

At the age of 14, he was playing professionally at village weddings and fairs. Since weddings were all-night affairs in Keşan, he would sometimes play the clarinet until the crack of dawn. Then one day he got tired of weddings and decided to go to Istanbul to be a full time musician. Selim Sesler passed away in 2014. This is how he described the feeling of improvising: "You close your eyes and you just play whatever passes through your brain, your soul, your heart."



**SUGGESTED SONGS**

