



## Foreword

After an interval of more than six years, the Turkish Embassy in London and the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society wish to present, once again, the world-renowned Turkish classical guitarist Ahmet Kanneci, this time accompanied by the talented clarinetist Ekrem Öztan. I hope tonight we would not only relax with splendid pieces of some very fine music, but perhaps get a chance to capture traces of Turkish art and culture through a flamboyant evening of classical guitar.

With his innovative style and original harmonies, Mr. Kanneci is among the group of a new generation of highly talented Turkish musicians and composers. Born in 1957, Kanneci began his musical studies with one of Turkey's leading composers, Turgay Erdener. After having met Julian Byzantine in 1977, his interest focused totally on classical guitar. He was then awarded a Spanish Government grant to study with Jose Tomas at the "Conservatorio Superior de Oscar Espla" in Alicante. After returning to Turkey, he founded classical guitar departments in four different conservatories. Currently he is Chairman of the Guitar Department, Hacettepe University State Conservatory and gives guitar courses at the Sevdâ-Cenap And Music Foundation.

As for Mr. Öztan, he began his music career at an earlier stage of his life, in fact when he was in primary school. Born in 1963, Mr Öztan took the clarinet and chamber music in university, which was followed by his studies at the Mozarteum Music Academy in Salzburg. He is an experienced musician, performing with the Turkish Symphony Orchestras of Istanbul, Izmir and Bursa as well as various other orchestras, ensembles and bands.

Among the works of composers from some Latin American countries, tonight's concert also includes "Three Anatolian Pieces" of İstemihan Taviloğlu and "Three Turkish Tunes" from Turgay Erdener. Taviloğlu, (1945-2006) was a Turkish composer and a music educator, most known for his Clarinet Concerto which happens to be the first ever Clarinet Concerto composition from a Turkish Composer. Turgay Erdener, on the other hand, is a Turkish composer of mostly stage, orchestral and chamber works that have been performed in Asia and Europe. Since 1979, he teaches analysis, composition and harmony at the Hacettepe University State Conservatory.

Finally, I wish to congratulate the LACCS, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and extend thanks to its President, Prof. J.R. Monroy for his efforts in the realisation of tonight's concert.

Yiğit Alpogan  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

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