



## Foreword



In a speech delivered in 1930, the founder of the modern Turkey, Atatürk, addressed to a crowd of spectators including politicians and bureaucrats at the inauguration of a concert, with these words which underline the value given to the artists in the society:

*"Sirs all of you can be a Member of Parliament, can be a Minister. You can even be President of the Republic but you can not be artists, Let us esteem those that have devoted their lives to a great art."*

From the Outset of the Turkish Republic, this vision that was embraced by Atatürk, has been one of the main guidelines of the Turkish society and all sorts of art have been supported not only to improve the artistic level, but also to use art as an instrument for harmonization with the outer world through the employment of the universal language of art and in particular of the music.

Today, we are proud to present you in cooperation with the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS), a talented Turkish Classical Guitarist Mr. Cem Duruöz, whose art reaches to this level of universality through which Turkey merges with the Latin American and Caribbean world.

Mr. Duruöz began his music career at an early stage and he won his first prize in the Turkish National Guitar Competition at the age of seventeen. He began his studies with Safa Gürbüz and continued with Ahmet Kanneci, another famous Turkish classical guitarist, whose name will be remembered by the ones that attended to the last year's successful concert, again organized under the auspices of the Turkish Embassy and the LACCS. Subsequently, Mr. Duruöz participated in the master classes of Messrs. John Duarte, Oscar Ghiglia and Eliot Fisk in Europe as a recipient of scholarship awards from the Italian and British Governments, He also studied at Stanford University as a composition student and later completed his studies at the Juilliard School with Sharon Isbin. He gave several concerts all around the world, to name a few, in Argentina, Brazil, Peru, Bolivia, Japan, France, Greece and the USA. Mr. Duruöz received many commendations from music critics, such as New York Concert Review which described him as "more than a very good guitarist; also a good composer and a particularly fine communicator with his audience",

I hope tonight you will enjoy the splendid pieces of the very fine music that would be performed by Mr. Cem Duruöz.

Finally, I wish to extend thanks to the LACCS and in particular to its President Prof. J. R. Monroy for his efforts in the realization of tonight's concert.

Yiğit Alpogan  
Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey

London, 16 March 2009