



## A Winter Concert in Nicosia held at Sarayönü Square

"A Winter Concert in Nicosia" as part of European Music Days, took place on Saturday, 14 December at Sarayönü Square in Nicosia.

Cahit Kutrafalı, Andreas Panteli, Ermis Michail and Stelios Xydias from Cahit Kutrafalı Quartet, Charis Ioannou, Greg Makamian, Marios Spyrou from Charis Ioannou Trio featuring Nihan Görgü on vocals, Christos Yerolatsitis, Andreas Rodosthenous, Andreas Stefanou, Andreas Yerolatsitis from Tree of Dawn featuring Ronja Bruve on vocals and Hüseyin Altan, Miray Çakır, Kadir Evre and Cahit Kutrafalı from The Hot Club of Cyprus performed at the European Music Days Winter Concert.

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Music as one of the most popular forms of art, widely consumed, and a vibrant expression of Europe's cultural diversity which constitutes an important pillar of European culture and is probably the cultural and creative sector with the largest audience reach. Strengthening this sector contributes to the promotion of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and it has the power to bring positive changes in society. In its efforts to promote further creativity, diversity, and innovation in Europe's music sector, the Commission works with all concerned stakeholders. The EU has also been supporting a number of cultural and music events in the Turkish Cypriot community through EU Infopoint since 2015.

## The European Commission highlighted the importance of music throughout 2019

In 2019, the European Commission as part of the European Music Nights, supported a jazz workshop and concert series for the Turkish Cypriot community in different locations.

The first concert of the series took place on 12 March at Bandabuliya Stage, Nicosia featuring Cahit Kutrafalı Quartet and Sara So Far. Approximately 150 people attended this jazz concert where Sara So Far (vocal), Cahit Kutrafalı (bass), Charis Ioannou (saxophone), Ermis Michail (guitar), Stelios Xydias (drums) performed.



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After the first concert held in Nicosia, "A Jazz Night in Famagusta" event, featuring Sara So Far Trio and Cahit Kutrafalı Quartet, took place on 7 May at The People's Republic. Sara So Far (vocal), Cahit Kutrafalı (bass), Charis Ioannou (saxophone), Ermis Michail (guitar), Stelios Xydias (drums), and Andreas Panteli (piano) performed at the night where approximately 70 jazz lovers gathered.



As part of the European Music Nights, a Jazz Workshop and Jam Session in collaboration with Jazz Education Abroad took place third year in a row with the participation of 50 students between 19 - 21 June at Lefkoşa Anadolu Fine Arts High School, Nicosia. The 3-day workshop was open to music teachers, students, and musicians of all ages, for all instruments and for all levels. The workshop was followed by a jam session on 21 June at Selimiye Square, Nicosia where the jazz masters and participants from the workshop gave a jazz concert to the public. More than 150 people took part in this event.

The Jazz workshop was held where jazz masters Dr. Gene Aitken (Music Education & Director), Marios Toubas (Piano), Loizos Pafitis (Guitar), Cahit Kutrafalı (Bass), Gonzalo Maestre (Drums), Nihan Görgü (Vocals), and Mariano Abello (Saxophone & Flute) ran parallel workshops.

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The concert series in 2019 continued with "A Jazz Night in Deryneia/Derinya" on 8 July at Derinya/Deryneia Garage, featuring Cahit Kutrafalı Quartet and Sara So Far. Sara So Far (vocal), Cahit Kutrafalı (bass), Marios Charalambous (tenor saxophone), Ermis Michail (guitar), Stelios Xydias (drums), and Andreas Panteli (piano) performed at the concert which attracted many jazz lovers from the two communities.



As part of the EU Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community, a series of activities and projects to raise awareness about arts, music, and cultural heritage were supported. This includes the "Confrontation through Art Project" by EMAA and the "Cypriot Intangible Cultural Heritage" project by Folk-Der. Additionally, since 2012, the European Union has provided €14.7 million for the preservation of Cyprus' cultural heritage in support of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage via UNDP.

Since 2015, EU Infopoint organised four Europe Day event concerts, a Theremin Concert, European Music Nights Cyprus Chamber Orchestra Classical Music Concerts, European Music Nights Othello/Sonare Choirs Concert, Environment themed Art and Photography Competition exhibition, and an exhibition of the winning artworks of the Europe Day "United in Diversity" art competition targeting primary schools.



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