

“The Ottoman Waltz: Tracing the history of the Turkish court’s passion for the music of Europe”

In his illustrated lecture music historian and composer Dr Emre Aracı who specialises in the European musical tradition in the Ottoman Empire in the 19th century, takes us to an era when the famous opera composer Gaetano Donizetti’s eldest brother Giuseppe Donizetti became master of music at the Turkish court. Better known as Donizetti Pasha, his influence prompted a fashion for Italian opera and European popular music within the palaces along the Bosphorus, where ladies of the harem learned to play the pianoforte with instruments imported from Vienna and the military bands of the sultans played marches by Rossini and the Donizetti brothers expressly written for them. The passion of the court for the ballroom music of Europe also resulted in royal compositions by members of the imperial family in the genres of polkas, marches and waltzes, to the extent of some even appearing in the catalogues of the publishing houses in Europe. While explaining the history of this transition, Aracı also shows the levels of musical interchange that existed between East and West, through recorded samples, in an age which is now totally confined to the dusty shelves of archives.

Lecture hosted by the Anglo-Turkish Society, please refer to the [web site](#):
Tuesday 22 March 2011, 6:00 for 6:30, Yunus Emre Institute, 10 Maple Street, WI

