

## **The Naum Theatre**

### **Istanbul's 19<sup>th</sup> century opera house**

From the early 1840s until its destruction by a devastating fire in 1870, the Naum Theatre was Istanbul's imperial opera house supported by the sultans and host to the latest productions of famous works from the established repertoire by Bellini, Rossini, Donizetti and Verdi. Turkish music historian Dr Emre Aracı has meticulously pieced together a history of this remarkable and little-known opera house of the Near East in his recent book published in Turkey. In his talk Dr Aracı takes us on an imaginary tour behind the curtain and in doing so exposes the Ottomans' passion for European music and drama.

#### **Dr EMRE ARACI**



Dr Emre Aracı is a Turkish music historian, composer and conductor who has been living in the United Kingdom since 1987. He has made original contributions to the scholarship of Turkish music through his pioneering research focusing primarily on the European musical practice in the Ottoman court.