

ARTISTIC BIO

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COMPOSER, ARRANGER, PERCUSSIONIST, JAZZ PIANIST AND FILM SCORER

My name is Utar Artun (Utar Dündarartun). I was born in Ankara, Turkey on April 6, 1987. I started my primary education at a private school in 1993. Five years later, I was accepted to Hacettepe University State Conservatory and began my music education in the Classical Percussion Department.

I first took lessons from Haşim Yedican and afterwards became Tarkan Yedican's pupil in the same department. I completed Prof. İlhan Baran's "Jazz and Contemporary Music" and "Romantic Music" courses in 2003. In 2006, I arranged musical pieces for the play *The 7 Women*, which premiered in Turkey that year. While enrolled, I also arranged many movie soundtracks and oldies for symphonic orchestra, and the Bursa Regional Symphony Orchestra performed my arrangements in live concerts such as the 2008 New Year Concert and the International Bursa Music Festival in 2009. In all of these concerts, I performed as a pianist.

At Hacettepe Conservatory, I participated in workshops on classical percussion, jazz/blues and Latin music. In November 2006, I performed in the Golden Trombone Concert at the Pakistan Turkish Embassy. At the same time, I performed as the drummer of the Hacettepe Jazz Quintet. In 2008, I earned my B.A. from the Percussion Department of Hacettepe Conservatory, ranked second in my class with a 3.92 GPA.

After graduation, I had the honor of participating in The European Scholarship Tours of Berklee College of Music in Paris and was accepted as a scholarship student in 2009. Now I am a student in my second semester at Berklee, pursuing dual majors in Film Scoring & Jazz Composition (principle instrument: piano).

Recent and Upcoming Berklee Accomplishments

This past November, I was awarded an Honorable Mention in the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra Composition Competition for my symphonic piece entitled "Scope." In April, the Berklee Contemporary Symphony Orchestra will record "Scope" at the Fordham Road Studio.

In my first semester at Berklee, I performed with Flutist *Sarpay Ozcagatay* and Percussionist *Emir Cerman* to Family Presentation at David Friend Recital Hall on October 24 and I was a member of the Middle Eastern Fusion Band and we performed at the David Friend Recital Hall on December 9, 2009. I also arranged the accompaniments for Meltem Ege (Voice), Jussi Rejionen (Guitar) and Ali Amr (Voice) for their Proficiencies and Recital Preparations. In January, one of my compositions, "7th Legion," was selected for inclusion on a Jazz Revaluation Records CD, and two of my other compositions were nominated. Recently, I performed in the 2nd Annual Middle Eastern Festival and in one of the Roots and Reasons Series concerts at the Berklee Performance Center (BPC), which was an unforgettable experience.

On April 22, I am going to perform original compositions in the Jazz Revaluation Record CD Show at the BPC. I'm currently working on a serious composition for Film Scoring Contest 6. I also entered the ASCAP The Morton Gould Young Composers Competition and also applied for the Moscow Orchestral Music Performance Opportunity. This semester, I will perform as a pianist in the senior recitals of Meltem Ege (Voice), Hannah Barakat (Voice) and Jussi Rejionen (Guitar), and I am involved with several projects within the Berklee community as a composer, arranger and pianist, working with both fellow students and faculty members. Currently, I'm the piano player, arranger and composer for the Betone Quartet (E.Bass; Cem Tuncer, Drums; Akin Bağcıoğlu and Flute/EWI; Sarpay Özçağatay). We performed in the 12th International Ankara Jazz Festival in 2008 and 7th Eskisehir Amateur Jazz Musicians Festival in 2009 and are now recording our first album.

In terms of my coursework, I tested out of Harmony 2, Ear Training 3, Arranging 1, Writing Skills and Traditional Harmony 1 in ESPA. I hope to finish my degree early by using Credit by Exam for some basic classes (Jazz Composition I, Chord Scale Voicing and Arranging, Big Band Arranging and Analysis, Jazz Counterpoint I, Music Preparation I, Tonal Counterpoint 1&2, Instrumentation and Score Preparation and Tech Tools for Writers).

I have been incredibly impressed with Berklee as an institution and believe it has inspired me to focus on my music. I have many aims that I wish to fulfill during my time here. After graduation, I'd like to compose, arrange, score, produce and perform as a jazz pianist all over the world, sharing my music and knowledge with as many people as possible. I have had many great teachers at Berklee – I plan to make them proud in the years to come. To be part of History of Humanity and Music is my realistic aim in the future.