

WHISPERING

KANUNI

I, LOVER OF THE  
TORMENTED  
HEART, MUHIBBI  
OF THE EYES FULL  
OF TEARS..

# WHISPERING KANUNI

Sultan Suleiman (‘Suleiman the Magnificent - ‘) was an accomplished poet, writing in Persian and Turkish languages.

For this project, Ottoman court composers’ forgotten pieces have been selected and integrated as enigmatic poetry into musical scores. The literary merges with the musical. A radical new approach, that conveys Suleiman’s poetry to be experienced in an unheard way.

WHISPERING KANUNI is performed by the baroque ensemble Musica Sequenza on authentic instruments of the 16th century. The traditional instruments of the Ottoman court music; ney flute, kanun and kudüm percussion are highlighted in the program.

The audience is comfortably seated in a soft circle around the orchestra, thereby becoming part of an intimate, court-like setting. Poets or ‘Storytellers’ are amongst the audience, and on occasion chant, whisper or read out loud the pieces of poetry, both in the original language as translated into German or English (t.b.d.). The Storytellers move thoughtfully or emotionally through the audience, sit with audience or orchestra; they weave a bond between orchestra and courtesans (the audience), thereby embodying the voice and feelings of Suleyman Kanuni.

Burak Özdemir and ensemble Musica Sequenza’s work mainly focuses on discovering forgotten treasures of the ancient centuries and display them in unique ways to today’s audiences worldwide. WHISPERING KANUNI is the next chapter in this ongoing project cycle.

// THRONE OF MY LONELY NICHE, MY WEALTH, MY LOVE, MY MOONLIGHT.  
// MY MOST SINCERE FRIEND, MY CONFIDANT, MY VERY EXISTENCE, MY SULTAN, MY ONE AND ONLY LOVE.  
// THE MOST BEAUTIFUL AMONG THE BEAUTIFUL ...  
// MY SPRINGTIME, MY MERRY FACED LOVE, MY DAYTIME, MY SWEETHEART, LAUGHING LEAF ...  
// MY PLANTS, MY SWEET, MY ROSE, THE ONLY ONE WHO DOES NOT DISTRESS ME IN THIS ROOM ...  
// MY ISTANBUL, MY KARAMAN, THE EARTH OF MY ANATOLIA  
// MY BADAKHSHAN, MY BAGHDAD AND KHORASAN  
// MY WOMAN OF THE BEAUTIFUL HAIR, MY LOVE OF THE SLANTED BROW, MY LOVE OF EYES FULL OF MISERY ...  
// I'LL SING YOUR PRAISES ALWAYS  
I, LOVER OF THE TORMENTED HEART, MUHIBBI OF THE EYES FULL OF TEARS, I AM HAPPY.

**Burak Özdemir | composition & artistic director**  
**Diana Ramirez | soprano**  
**Tim Willis | baroque violin**  
**Annie Gard | baroque violin**  
**Chang Yoo | baroque viola**  
**Linda Mantcheva | baroque cello**  
**Mirjam Wittulski | contrabass**  
**Charlie Zhang | oud**  
**Ercan Irmak | ney flute**  
**Asim Senocak | qanun**  
**Cengiz Özdemir | percussion**  
**Daniel Mulder | creative director & visuals**  
**Alessandro Seggioli | Assistant Director & Dramaturgy**  
**Burcu Özdemir | costume**  
**Carlo Grippa | Sound**  
**Jörg Bittner | Light**