

Culture of Peace

Distinguished Speaker Series

Rediscovering the Shared Cultural Heritage of Armenians and Turks through Music



Ayse Taspinar
Pianist

4 pm, Saturday, May 15, 2010
At the Culture of Peace Resource Center
606 Wilshire Blvd.
Santa Monica, CA 90401

Born in Paris, Ayse Taspinar began her music education with her mother in her native Turkey. She continued her education at the Conservatorio di Roma "Santa Cecilia" with Pieralberto Biondi. After returning to Turkey she continued her education in Bilkent University with Ersin Onay, receiving her B.M with the first prize of the faculty. She returned to Italy in 2000 and in one year earned the Diploma di Pianoforte from Giuseppe Verdi Conservatorio di Milano. She studied with Vincenzo Balzani and completed her studies with the highest grade. While studying she won several international competitions, including first prize at the Monteroza Kawai (2001), second prize at Vietri sul Mare (2002), second prize at

Castiglion Fiorentino (2003), and first prize at the Seiler Piano Competition (2004). In 2004 she was accepted as a graduate student to the Jacob School of Music in Indiana University, earning her M.M and P.D with Arnaldo Cohen. Currently, she is furthering her education towards a DMA at UCLA with world recognized pianist and pedagogue Vitaly Margulis.

Ms. Taspinar has concertized worldwide, including New York, Washington DC, Chicago, Toronto, Ottawa, Mexico City, Caracas, Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Rome, Milano, Granada, Montreal, Bloomington, Ankara and Izmir. In 1999, she was invited to Macedonia to perform for the President of Macedonia along with the Turkish President Suleyman Demirel. That same year, she performed in Washington, D.C. as the artist of the delegation representing the 75th anniversary of the Turkish Republic. Ayse is pursuing her third year in the D.M.A program and is the recipient of a W. Ulmer Dissertation year Fellowship, the subject of which is Turkish Piano music in the Ottoman Empire.



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Lectures are free and open to the public. For guaranteed admission, seats may be reserved through email at peacelectures@sgi-usa.org.

Reception to follow • Come and win a \$50 gift certificate for culture of peace books and gift items!

Free parking at 1212 7th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90401