

## **ORHAN AHISKAL**

*Violinist Orhan Ahiskal's performance career covers a wide array of styles and periods from Baroque, performed on period instruments, to avant-garde works of the 21st century. In addition to his wide repertoire, Ahiskal's warm stage persona, informative stage talks, and exciting performances have won him great receptions by a variety of audiences. He has been hailed as a "violinist and musician of the highest calibre", "a first class soloist", "a most satisfying combination of exciting passion and subtle sensitivity".*

*Ahiskal has performed extensively as a soloist in England, U.S.A., Azerbaijan, and Turkey with the Turkish Presidential Symphony Orchestra, Antalya, Bursa, Eskisehir State Symphony, Anadolu Symphony Orchestras, Sheffield Festival Orchestra, the Hartt Symphony, Mersin Academic Chamber Orchestra, Orchestra Academic Baskent, Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra and Baku Philharmonic State Chamber Orchestra. He collaborated with many conductors including Fahrettin Kerimov, Antonio Pirolli, Güler Aykal, İbrahim Yazıcı, Yalchin Adigezalov and Naci Özgüç performing concertos by Beethoven, Brahms, Korngold, Lou Harrison, Mozart, Paul Patterson, Piazzolla, Schnittke, Shostakovich and Vivaldi. As a chamber musician he has performed in over 250 violin and chamber music recitals abroad and collaborated with important musicians such as State Artists pianist İdil Biret and violist Ruşen Güneş, pianists Özgür Aydın, Emre Elivar, Muhiddin Dürrüoğlu, Toros Can, Gökhan Aybulus, German cellist Johannes Moser among others. Ahiskal premiered two violin concertos composed and dedicated to him.*

*Born in Istanbul, Turkey, Ahiskal holds degrees from the Ankara State Conservatoire (Turkey), the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester, England), and the Hartt School (Hartford, Connecticut, USA). Prof. Dr. Ahiskal was appointed as the founding Head of the Music Department of the Ankara University State Conservatoire in April 2011 and is also a founding member of the 2013 Donizetti Awards Chamber Music Group of the Year Ankara University Soloists chamber music ensemble.*

*Ahiskal launched the project "Düşüm Yola" (I Hit the Road) in 2014 to promote Turkish composers and solo violin works, to encourage young composers to write for solo violin, reach out to people who are not regular concertgoers and young people through his presentations, lectures and workshops. Ahiskal has so far premiered six new works by Turkish composers and performed and lectured in more than thirty locations for "Düşüm Yola".*

## **ONUR AKALIN**

*Born in 1990, Onur Akalın began his violin education at the Trakya University Edirne State Conservatory with Zuhra Mansurova. He continued his education in Antalya as a student of Zeynep Işık. He was then accepted to the violin class of Prof. Dr. M. Orhan Ahiskal. During his education he participated in masterclasses of many important artists such as Patricia Kopatchinskaja, Alexander Halapsis, Vladislav Halapsis, Fazıl Say, Robert Canetti, Ruşen Güneş, Ayla Erduran, Suna Kan, Tunç Ünver, Cihat Aşkın, Özcan Ulucan, Mincho Minchev, Vladimir Ivanov, Ellen Jewett, and Vladimir Spivakov.*

*By carrying out his education of "Perfect Performance" and "Baroque Violin" in Rome, he won places in various international competitions and gave concerts in Russia, France, England, Italy, Ukraine, Austria, Spain, Czech Republic, Greece, Bulgaria, and Turkish Republic*

of Northern Cyprus. He won the first prize in the 15th International Young Musician Competition in 2012. He graduated from the Antalya State Conservatory in 2013. He also worked as a violinist at the Antalya State Symphony Orchestra. Akalın became the second violinist of the string quartet composed of professors at Ankara University State Conservatory, Prof. Dr. Orhan Ahiskal, Prof. Çetin Aydar, Doç. Sinan Dizmen. He recently was chosen to perform with the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra as a soloist, which took place in May 2015. Akalın is an adjunct violin instructor at the Ankara University State Conservatory, where he also continues his postgraduate studies with Prof. Dr. M. Orhan Ahiskal.

### **ÇETİN AYDAR**

A graduate of the Ankara State Conservatoire, Aydar was a member of the Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Turkey following his graduation. Aydar won a scholarship in 1988 to continue his studies in Germany. He completed his graduate degree with Prof. Emile Cantor at the Trossingen Musikhochschule with the highest honors. While in Germany, he worked with Württemberg Chamber Orchestra and Copenhagen Philharmonic Orchestra in Denmark.

He returned to Turkey in 1992 and was appointed at the Dokuz Eylül University State Conservatoire in Izmir. He completed his doctoral studies at the same university and became an Associate Professor of viola in 2004. In addition to his solo performances, Aydar has been performing and recording with the premiere chamber ensembles in Turkey. He became a Professor in 2010 and was appointed as the Director of the Ankara University State Conservatoire in April 2011. Prof. Aydar is a founding member of the Ankara University Soloists Chamber Music Ensemble.

After being the director of the Ankara University State Conservatoire between the years 2011-2015, now he is continuing his academic life as a faculty member in Ankara University State Conservatoire as a viola professor.

### **SİNAN DİZMEN**

Born in Ankara, Dizmen took his first music lessons from his father Özkan Dizmen. He entered the Hacettepe University Ankara State Conservatoire in 1984. He graduated from the Conservatoire in 1994 and won a D.A.A.D. scholarship in 1996 to further his studies in Germany. He studied cello with Prof. Ulf Tischbirek and chamber music with Prof. Konrad Elser and Prof. Walter Levin at the Lübeck Musikhochschule and completed Künstlerische Aufbau and Konzertexamen degrees. He performed solo concerts at the Schleswig-Holstein Music Festival and in other venues in Germany, and Kasna Spring Festival in Poland. He was a member of the Lübeck Quartet, Lübeck Musikhochschule Orchestra, Schleswig-Holstein Festival Orchestra, Vogtland and Lübeck Philharmonic orchestras. Dizmen studied in masterclasses with Franz Helmerson, Alexander Rudin and Siegfried Palm, and completed his doctoral studies at Bilkent University with Hayrettin Hodja in 2006.

Dizmen, who has collaborated with such conductors as Hikmet Şimşek, Gürer Aykal, Emil Tabakov, İbrahim Yazıcı, Arian Tien, Rengim Gökmen and Cem Mansur, and performed as soloist with many symphony orchestras, has a wide repertoire including works from the Baroque to contemporary periods. Dizmen was appointed as Associate Professor of Cello at the Ankara University State Conservatoire in March 2011 and is a founding member of the Ankara University Soloists chamber music ensemble.