

Duyarlar playing magic of jazz tunes

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Well-known Turkish jazz pianist and composer Baki Duyarlar is back on the music market with his new album, "Overseas," a collaborative work that brought together musicians from Europe and the United States.

The album, released by Ada Plak, is part of a larger ongoing project that included a concert at the 20th Akbank Jazz Festival and is just one of Duyarlar's endeavors this year.

"Overseas" is the result of musical collaboration between Duyarlar (piano, keyboard), Stanislav Mitrovic (saxophone), Kai Eckhardt (bass) and Sean Rickman (drums). It reflects the signature sound of OnQ, a band Duyarlar and Mitrovic founded in the 1980s. The album got its name because Eckhardt and Rickman came from overseas to work on the project.

Of the five songs on the album, all were composed by Duyarlar, except for the last piece, "Uninvited," which was contributed by Mitrovic. The pieces by Duyarlar are characteristic of his style and reveal some of the artist's character to listeners. "If somebody is curious about me, or wants to get to know me, they should listen to this music," Duyarlar said.

Exceptional pieces in the album

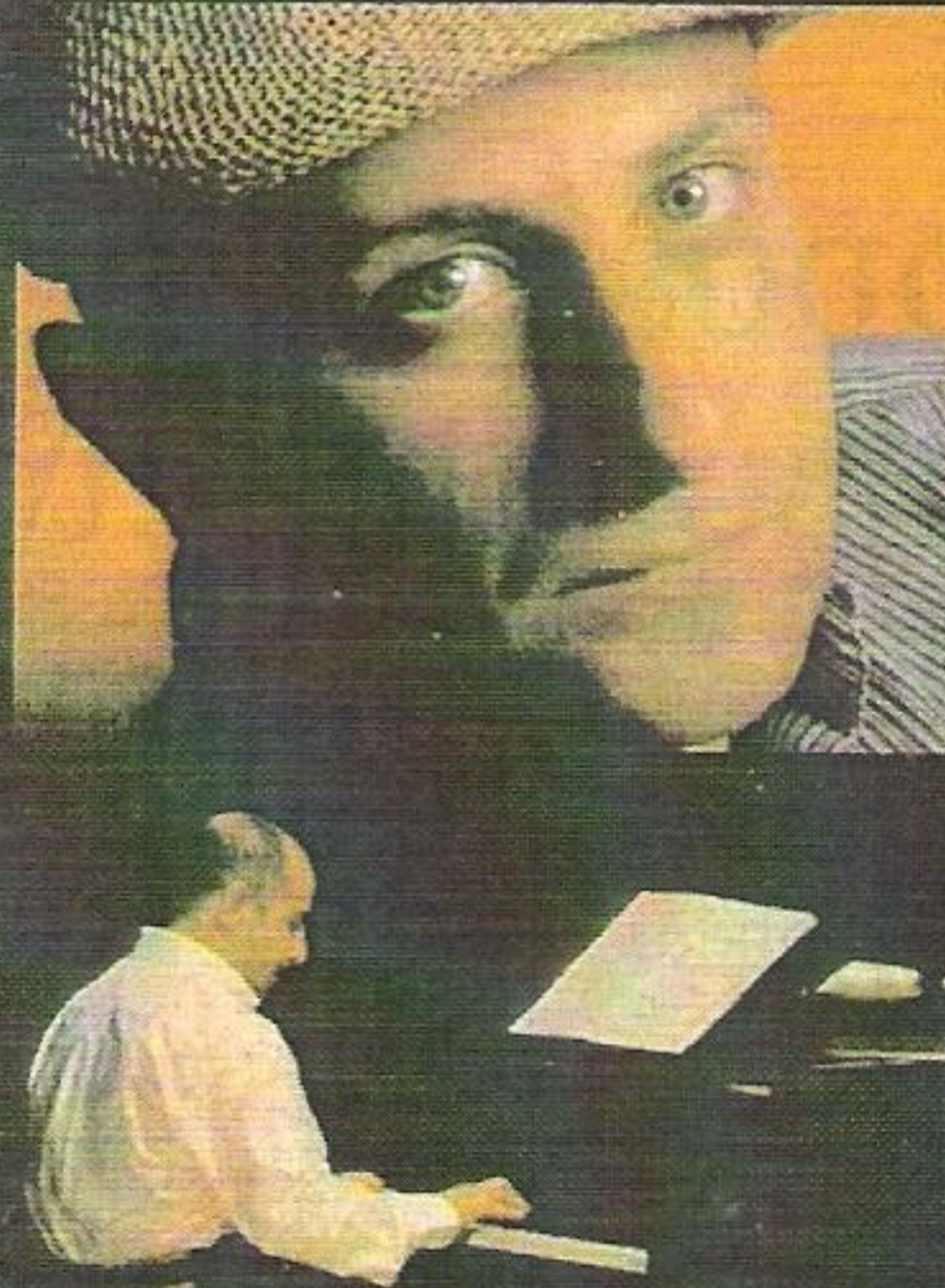
The pianist said the most exceptional pieces in the album are Mitrovic's "Uninvited" and his own "Uneven Sea."

"Of course I like all the songs on the album, but the intro to 'Uneven Sea' is a paranoiac intro that tries to portray two people having a conversation with each other. It is a special intro because it was not specifically prepared, worked on and thought about - it was pure improvisation," he said.

Like many of his song titles, Duyarlar added, this one reflects the characteristics of the piece's sound, particularly at the beginning and end of the composition.

"I usually name my compositions after I have written

The well-known Turkish jazz pianist and composer Baki Duyarlar hits the music market again with his new album, "Overseas," from Ada Plak. The album is part of a project that included a concert at the 20th Akbank Jazz Festival. Duyarlar has many projects coming up this year; "Overseas" is just the beginning



Turkish education system, he said, did not welcome jazz music.

This was one of the reasons jazz had such a strong draw, as an act of rebellion. "This rebellion introduced me to jazz music's improvisational part," Duyarlar said. "There you can really be yourself."

Duyarlar's next project, "Kemenjazz," will be a departure from his previous works and will consist of compositions he wrote for the kemençe, a stringed instrument that will be played by famous musician Derya Türkan.

Unlike most of Duyarlar's music, this album will also have a surprise vocal part. Typically, he said, music does not need words; instead, words need music. "A good composer can evoke the feelings of happiness, fear and sadness with his melody and everyone will understand the feelings," Duyarlar said. "As Beethoven used to say: 'Music is magic.'"

Music means magic for a musician

The magic of music in Duyarlar's repertoire will continue after "Kemenjazz" with another project, this one titled "Colors." Starting with a concert June 22, after which an album of the same title will likely follow, it brings Duyarlar back together with Mitrovic, his fellow core member of OnQ. The other two band members for the project are Eric Calmes (bass) and Enrique Firpi (drums).

The June 22 concert will take place at the Akbank Concert Hall in Istanbul and will be supported by the Dutch Embassy. Duyarlar is also leading workshops on how to listen to music; the next seminar will take place prior to the concert.

Duyarlar said he wants to be remembered as a good person rather than as a musician. "To compose good music, you don't have to be a good person," he said. "You can be malevolent and still create beautiful music."

them. When I was done writing [this piece], I realized that the structure of the song was uneven and therefore named it 'Uneven Sea,'" he said. Other songs were named in a similar way, he added.

"For example, with the first piece, 'Kaykay,' a lot of people think I am addressing Kai Eckhardt, which is not the case. I literally meant 'kaykay' [the Turkish word for skateboard]. I named another piece 'Like' because it does not resemble anything, but at the same time [resembles] everything," he said. "You seem to think you know what you are listening to but you don't, so it is like something and that is why this piece was called 'Like.'"

"I like to play with my compositions a lot, that is why 'Sea Monkey' got its name, because I thought,



there is nothing like a sea monkey," Duyarlar added.

Born in Istanbul in 1967 to a family of musicians, Duyarlar said music for him is foremost about sharing and interplay. He learned to play the cello and piano at a young age and attended the Istanbul University State Conservatory, where his love for jazz began. To further pursue his interest, he enrolled at the Rotterdam Conservatory in the Netherlands because the



BAND: The band, Baki Duyarlar (L) Stanislav Mitrovic (saxophone), Kai Eckhardt (bass) and Sean Rickman (drums).