

In Memory of Ş. ŞEHVAR BEŞİROĞLU

Prof. Ş. Şehvar Beşiroğlu was a Qanun and Çeng performer. She graduated from Istanbul Technical University State Conservatory Turkish Music Department in 1986 with a specialization in advance Qanun performance. Between 1986-1989, she studied harp and developed harp techniques by using her knowledge of Qanun and Çeng. She completed her master's degree at the Social Sciences Institute of the Istanbul Technical



University in 1988, and her doctorate in 1994. In 1991 she established "Lale Topluluğu", which consists of all women performers and has given many concerts in the UK and Turkey. Starting in 1993 she organized several seminars, summer schools and master classes on the performance and musicology of Ottoman - Turkish music in the New England Conservatory, Harvard University, Berkley Music School, MIT, Massachusetts University, Northeastern University, Princeton University, Chicago University, Bologna University of Italy, Samam High Music Institute, and in Arabic Music Retreat organized by Simon Shaheen every year in America. From 1995 onwards, she participated in the several congresses organized by Historical Harp Society, SEM, BFE, ICTM, MEHAT, MESA, AMIS and CIM. She gave concerts in Ottoman-Turkish music repertoire with such notable performers like Derya Türkan, Serhan Aytan, Salih Bilgin and Mehmet Emin Bitmez, within the scope of M.I.T Ağa Han Program at Killian Hall in 1996, and in 2005 at Darül'Esad Opera House in Damascus. She also participated in the concerts of "Eurasia Ensemble" and "Romeiko Ensemble" in America as a Qanun performer. In 2000, she played Qanun on 2 CDs made for book titled "Cantemir Ensemble" which she co-wrote with Murat Aydemir, Hüseyin Tuncel, Salih Bilgin and Cengiz Onural and Yalçın Tura's book "Kantemiroğlu Edvar" that consisted of repertoire from the 17th and 18th Centuries.

Within the scope of a European Union project, she played concerts both in Turkey and abroad with "Hattusha Ensemble" where Hittite music instruments are employed. She played the remade Hittite Lir and Harp at these concerts. She gave seminars on Anatolian Music Geography starting from Hittites with "Hattusha Seminar Group", with the participation of Oguz Elbas, Cihat Aşkın, Ertuğrul Bayraktar, and Okan Murat Öztürk. She worked on project MORE, which was organized by Cite de la Musique in Paris, under the European Union projects. In 1999, she served as a guest researcher and lecturer in "Visiting Scholar" in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies at Harvard University in Boston, USA, and in the Department of Musicology and Music History at New England Conservatory. She worked in the department of History together with Dr. Cemal Kafadar at Harvard University, and the department of Musicology with Professor Dr. Robert Labaree at New England Conservatory, where she also lectured on musicology and Ottoman Turkish Music. Starting in 1986, she taught undergraduate and graduate courses in qanun, musicology, ethnomusicology, systematic musicology, organology, music history, world music cultures, Ottoman-Turkish music, music and gender, and Mediterranean cultures at İTÜ Turkish Music State Conservatory, and ITU Institute of Social Sciences Erol Üçer Music Advanced Research Center.