



Dokus Sekiz

Dans Askina Newsletter October 2018



Who would have imagined that when we took our first Turkish baby steps in 2009, that 10 years later we'd have grown into the dance troupe we are today.

As our name broadly translates from Turkish as "Love of the Dance," we've worked to embody that translation over the past ten years. We've delighted in sharing our love of the dance with you through our performances, weekend workshop events, and our Masters in Minneapolis sampler dance and culture workshops.

Our biggest fundraising event, Give to the Max Day, is just around the corner on November 15, 2018 - whether you're a legacy donor, or a brand new Turkish Dance enthusiast, we would not be where we are today without your generous support! To make a donation, simply click on the Give to the Max logo above - Thank you!

10 for 10!

You can support Dans Aşkına Turkish Dance Ensemble's programming with an anniversary gift - \$10, \$100, \$1000! Any amount is most appreciated and helps support our mission.

Help us keep Turkish dance alive in Minnesota! *Çok teşekkür ederim*
(Thank you very much) in advance or your generosity!

Our 10 Year Milestone!

When I took a leap of faith and formed the troupe in 2009, it was my fervent hope that Dans Aşkına would evolve into the embodiment of "Love of the Dance."

What began as a group of 5 adult dancers, each having discovered dance later in life through Community Education programs, has grown to an ensemble of 13 dancers and percussionists known for bringing their best Turkish Oryantal, Romani, and Folk Dances to the Twin Cities.

It takes hours of work, after the day job ends and family obligations have been met, to learn three completely different Turkish dance styles and corresponding choreographies - and they do it with a positive outlook, 'can do' attitude, and a true "Love of the Dance."

I'm so proud of their accomplishments, so inspired by their collaboration on all aspects of our performances, and so humbled by their dedication. It's truly an honor to be their Artistic Director.
~ *Amina Beres*



10 Year Celebratory Event - Rakkas Minneapolis 2!

We are currently finalizing venue plans and workshop content - target date is a weekend in early August 2019!

Our biggest fundraising day for this event is Thursday November 15, 2018. All funds raised on this day will allow us to continue bringing excellent guest instructors and high-quality performances to the Twin Cities. Visit [GiveMN](#) to schedule your donation in advance!

As a proud Springboard for the Arts Incubator program, your deduction is tax-deductible as allowed by law through our website or our [GiveMN](#) site.

Time Flies When You're Having Fun

It's been such a pleasure to dance for our audiences over the past ten years! Whether it's a theater performance or a local outdoor community festival, we've done our best to bring you a historical tour of Turkish dance and music, performed with a true love for the art form we've all embraced - *Yasasin!*



2009 Founding Dancers: Maya Sandberg, Zahra Hoff, Zafira Mikrut, Jasia Waldack, Kerime Posz. Artistic Director, Amina Beres

2013 - \$5,000 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Community Arts grant recipient for Romani Festival Weekend with Artemis Mourat and June Seaney

2014 - Masters in Minneapolis 1 with Dr. Laurel Victoria Gray; Meira Famodu and Amina Beres win 2nd place in the Rakkas Istanbul International Festival Folkloric Competition

2015 - Masters in Minneapolis 2 with Serkan Tutar; Masters in Minneapolis 3 with Artemis Mourat

2016 - \$10,000 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council Arts Activities

Support grant recipient for Rakkas Minneapolis with Reyhan Tuzsuz, Serkan Tutar, and Artemis Mourat

***2017** - Masters in Minneapolis 4 with Lebanese Simon; Masters in Minneapolis 5 with Eva Cernik*

***2018** - Masters in Minneapolis 6 with Laman Hendricks; Masters in Minneapolis 7 with June Seaney*

***2019** - Plans for Rakkas Minneapolis 2 and more dancey-goodness are underway!*



2019 Ensemble: Mahsati Cole, Rowena Christianson, Meira Famodu, Nahila Holden, Robin Kaehler, Alexandra Howes, Anthea Imholte. Drummers Carl Posz, Mark Christianson, Mike Kaehler. Artistic Team: Amina Beres, Artistic Director; Kerime Posz, Assistant Director; Artistic Captain, Benjamin Lamb

Former Dancers: *Katze Cumbie (2011-2017), Esmerelda Abela (2011-2016), Amy Snyder (2012-2016), Nicole Gibas (2016), Susan Knutson (2012-2014), Sonja Um-Siri (2011), Stephanie Lundquist (2011), Malika Benachour (2011)*

Audience Accolades

"Thank you for representing our culture so very well!" ~ Member of local Turkish Community

"Fantastic performance! Very entertaining. Enjoyed every minute of the unique, varied, skillful dances & musicians." ~ Audience member, 2013 Romani Festival Weekend Show

"I was not expecting two American ladies dancing Turkish Horon, and they did GREAT! They not only learned the dance, they learned about the culture, about the costume - everything! It was very, very well done!" ~ 2014 Rakkas Istanbul Dance Festival Organizer, Istanbul, Turkey

The guest artists that Dans Askina brought in were AMAZING!" ~ 2013 Romani Festival Weekend Workshop Participant.

"I'm so happy that I attended the performance - it was a trip back home to Turkey - Magical! " ~ Audience member, 2016 Anatolian Origins Show

"Dans Aşkına is a refreshing & talented group - a true asset to the dance community!" ~ 2015 Audience member and donor

"I was especially amazed by the accuracy of their costumes." ~ Turkish audience member, 2014 performance in Istanbul, Turkey.



Mission Statement

Our mission is to authentically present Turkish Oryantal, Romani, and Folkloric dances to the public through performances and educational activities. We are a proud Springboard for the Arts Incubator Program.

Our Artistic Board: Allison Abela, Alexandra Howes, [Sarah Dorman](#), Nancy Fetzek, Emily Jarrett Hughes, Artemis Mourat, and June Seaney.

Our Artistic Team: [Amina Beres](#), Artistic Director; Kerime Posz, Co-Director; Benjamin Lamb, Artistic Captain

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