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~ Upcoming Performances ~

**Volunteer Appreciation Banquet**  
**City of Brooklyn Park**

April 3, 2014

**Amina Beres and Meira Famodu at Rakkas Istanbul**  
**Istanbul, Turkey**

April 10, 2014

**Guild of Oriental Dance Annual Celebration of Dance**  
**Old Arizona Theater,**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

April 26, 2014

**Festival of Nations**  
**Amina Beres, Meira Famodu and Amy Snyder perform with the Turkish American Association of Minnesota Folkdance Group**  
**St. Paul, MN**

May 1-4, 2014

**Brooklyn Park Tater Daze Festival**  
**Brooklyn Park, MN**

June 13-14, 2014

**Glenwood Renaissance Festival (Ren in the Glen)**  
**Glenwood City, WI**

July 26-27, 2014

~ Turkish Dance Classes with Amina Beres ~

**Hopkins Center for the Performing Arts**

~ Volume 3, Issue 1 - March, 2014 ~

## **Back to Istanbul!**

From April 4-13, 2014, Dans Aşkına will once again have representation at a Turkish music and dance experience!

Artistic Director Amina Beres and dancer Meira Famodu will be traveling to Istanbul to participate in the Rakkas Istanbul Oriental Dance Festival. The festival is 'The Biggest and Best Oriental Dance Festival in Turkey'... and from looking at the listing of dance instructors and styles being taught, they're correct.

"I am so excited to be going to Istanbul to learn directly from the master instructors," says Meira. "We're arriving a few days prior to the start of the Festival so we can explore both the historical and the modern by visiting the Old City, Galata Tower, Iskitlal Street, and hopefully take a Bosphorus cruise. It will be so new and wonderful to me, I want to see it all!"



"I'm excited Meira is excited!" laughs Amina. "Beginning April 9th, we'll be immersed in Turkish dance workshops for three full days. We'll also have private lessons in Turkish Romani dance with the incredible Reyhan Tuzsuz, as well as participate in a folkloric dance competition."

"While we'll likely dance until we drop, research is also a part of our journey. Our non-dance time will be spent learning as much as we can about Cocek and Cengi dancers, Mehter Bands, and certain aspects of Ottoman Imperial Palace history for a future stage production."

Amina and Meira will be focusing their dance studies in Turkish Classical and Modern 'Bellydance', Turkish Arabesque, and 'Asena Style' from Asena Haremde who is known for her unique style of Turkish Oriental dance. "Asena was a surprise performer at a show I attended during my trip last year," says Amina. "She has a very commanding and powerful style of dance and I'm really looking forward to to her class. In addition to Reyhan Tuzsuz, other master dancers and instructors we'll be learning from include Ozgen, Serap Su, Serkan Tutar, and Sibel Guzel."

Stay tuned for a recap of their Istanbul Adventures in our Fall edition of Dokus Sekiz!

## **Third Annual Dans Şenlik**

On March 15th, Dans Aşkına hosted their third annual Dans Şenlik (Dance Festival) at Hopkins Center for the Arts. This year marks our

Spring 2014 Session - Tuesdays,  
March 25-May 13, 2014  
7:30-9:00 pm

Amina also offers private lessons and coaching for individual dancers or troupes

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~ *Dans Askina Advisory Board:* ~

**Artemis Mourat** - Nationally and Internationally recognized expert in Turkish Oriental and Romany dances, Artemis is an award-winning dance instructor and performer who combines her technical dance ability with extensive academic research of Turkish dance and culture.

**Sarah Dorman** - Founder and owner of SaraCura, since 2001 the Twin Cities only local bellydance costume, music, and finger cymbal supplier. A local arts patron, Sarah is also a blogger for the Twin Cities Fringe Festival.

**June Seaney** - One of New England's regional experts on all Romani dances, June directs Chandani Belly Dance Troupe of Ithaca and Danza Romani Dance Troupe. She also teaches bellydance through the Physical Education department of Cornell University.

**Nancy Fetzek** - Nancy has researched Turkish dance and costuming through her numerous and extensive travels across Turkey. She also collaborates with the Minneapolis Turkish-American Association for their Festival of Nations performances. Visit her etsy shop - ZambakDesigns.

move into the large theater, with more seating, sound and light capabilities.

The show featured dancers from the West and South Metro Adult Community Education Belly Dance program at Hopkins, Shakopee, Minnetonka, Bloomington/Richfield, and Otsego/Elk River as well as local soloists and troupes. It was a great mix of music and dance styles, including using veil, sword, and cane.



Dance Caravan Group Sword

Dans Aşkına again partnered with two Hopkins-area nonprofit organizations, ResourceWest and ICA Foodshelf, by offering an admission discount for items donated to these worthwhile organizations and once again our generous dancers and audience stepped up to the plate with their donations. 95 pounds of food were donated in addition to financial contributions and we look forward to increasing that amount in 2015!



Autumn Elise Fan Veil  
Solo



The "guys" of Dans Askina ready to perform a modern piece 'Yop'

Thank you for helping individuals and families in need and we look forward to hosting our fourth Dans Şenlik in 2015!

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## ***Salon Orientale at Old Arizona Theater***

On November 7, 2013, Dans Aşkına hosted a magical night of dancing, with wonderful food and drinks.

This was the first Salon Orientale that took place at the beautiful Old Arizona Theater starting at 7:30 pm for their occasional sale. The evening included mini dance lessons, troop performances, solos by company members and plenty of open dancing to great Turkish and Middle Eastern music. The time seemed to fly with all the entertainment that was included in the short 2 hours.

The venue, located at 2821 Nicollet Ave in Minneapolis, is a great place to enjoy your evening. Along with the theater, they have a shop with artistic and local items and tea of all varieties. There is a delightful café with a wine bar, craft beer, and food items to die for (and chocolate)!! With everything there is to offer at this location, it was truly a place to be. That being said, the plan is to do more events there, with new entertainment to make it an event to put on your calendar for the future.

## ***Dans Aşkına Collaborations with TAAM - Turkish American Association of Minnesota***

Building on our earlier collaboration with TAAM dancers Nese Yurttas and Figen Haugen, Dans Aşkına now has representation with the TAAM Folkdance group! Amina Beres, Meira Famodu, and Amy Snyder are fortunate enough to be rehearsing and performing with these fun and hardworking dancers.

On March 14, 2014 at the MacPhail Center for Music, the TAAM dancers performed at "Passage to Turkiye - An Excursion through Turkish Folkloric and Musical Culture." The night included elegant piano selections, a baglama performance, Turkish Classical Art Music, Turkish Folk, and Romani music. The Turkish vocalists were assisted by expert local musicians Laura Harada, and Tim and Pat O'Keefe.

The TAAM folkdancers were the only dance performance of the evening, energizing the crowd with a lively and colorful Trabzon Horon.

The TAAM folkdancers will be making a repeat performance of the Trabzon Horon plus a few more Black Sea Folkdances at the 2014 Festival of Nations the first weekend in May in St. Paul.

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### ***Celebration of Cultures***

On March 25, members of Dans Aşkına were honored to participate in Countryside Elementary School's 2nd Annual Celebration of Cultures.

Dancers Amy Snyder, Marilyn Christianson, Robin Kaehler, Meira Famodu, and Artistic Director Amina Beres spent an enjoyable after-school-hours time helping Countryside students and their parents learn more about Turkey and Turkish dance. Our most popular items were the tulip coloring (did you know tulips originated in Turkey, not the Netherlands?), and the word search based on Turkish Fun Facts.

The event ended with dance and vocal performances by groups representing Latvia and India....and Dans Aşkına closed the show with our Halay folk dance and a Turkish Romani dance.



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### ***A visit to the Musical Instrument Museum – Turkey Exhibit***

Dans Askina member, Marilyn, recently visited the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix AZ. MIM's collection includes more than 15,000 musical instruments and artifacts, approximately six thousand of which are displayed at a time. MIM exhibits are enhanced by state-of-the-art audio and video technologies that bring to life the sounds and sights of the instruments on display. It includes exhibits for every country in the world, along with exhibits that offer an insider's view of how some instruments are made, how they are played, or the varied contexts in which they are used.

The extensive display for Turkey included guitar-like instruments (baglama, saz), bowed string instruments (kabak kemane), wind instruments (zurna, kaval), drums (davul, nagara) and even wooden spoons (kasik).





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## ***Turkish 101 - A Date with Friends***

My friends and I were trying to pick a day (gün - guhn) of the week (hafta - haf-tah) we could all get together to celebrate a birthday.

Everyone agreed Monday (Pazartesi - pah-zahr-tesi) wouldn't work.

Tuesday evening (Sali aksam - sah-luh ahk-shahm) half of us had dance class and Wednesday (Carsamba - char-sham-bah) the other half did.

Thursday (persembe - pehr-shem-beh) evening, of course, wouldn't work since it is Dans Askina's rehearsal night (gece - geja).

Even Friday (Cuma - juma) had problems since Susan was in a show that night.

Saturday (Cumartesi - jumar-tesi) Amy remembered she had promised to help someone move.

Finally we all agreed that Sunday morning (Pazar sabah - pah-zahr sah-bah) for an early brunch would have to do.

I hope getting together with your friends is easier! Yine görüşürüz!

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## ***Turkish Comes to Brooklyn Park!***

Dans Aşkına will be performing at two upcoming events in Brooklyn Park this year.

On April 3rd, the City of Brooklyn Park will host an annual Volunteer Appreciation Banquet at the Community Activity Center in Brooklyn Park. The event honors and celebrates the residents who have helped make Brooklyn Park a thriving, inspiring community each year. The event is attended by over 200 volunteers who have made contributions to the community with their hard work and dedication. Throughout the evening, there will be a variety of entertainment acts for the Volunteers to enjoy, including Dans Aşkına. We are excited and honored to help celebrate the efforts of the volunteers at this great event!!



Each June, the City of Brooklyn Park sponsors Tater Days, a four day festival that pays homage to the humble potato crop beginnings of the city. These four days are packed with family friendly activities that include a parade, carnival, 5k walk/run, live music and a movie in the park. The Tater Days 2014 celebration will also kick off the

2nd annual Diversity Festival, that celebrates the unique cultural diversity of this northern suburb. Dans Aşkına will be participating this year, and we are excited to bring a little Turkish flavor to the festivities! Last year the festival included groups from Russia, India, Asia, Mexico and Kenya.

The Diversity Festival begins the evening of Friday, June 12th with a cultural fashion show. We will be there, showing off some of the beautiful colors and costumes of the Turkish region. Saturday afternoon the Diversity celebration will continue with food, cultural activities, and entertainment (dancing!!) from many of the cultures that are represented in the community. We are looking forward to performing for the festival, and plan to have lots of fun sharing some great music and dance with the festival goers. We hope to see you there!!



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## ***Kitap Köşe - "Book Corner"***

### Music in the Ottoman Imperial Harem, and the Life of Composer Leyla Saz (1850-1916)

Author Kathryn Woodard specializes in music of the 20th and 21st centuries and her account of Leyla (Saz) Hanimefendi is a short but fascinating read about one of the most famous female Turkish composers. The book first appeared in 2003 as an article in the *Journal of the International Association of Women in Music* (Vol. 11, No.1).

Woodard's writing is based on Leyla Saz's memoirs. As the writing of memoirs was not routinely practiced by the Ottoman Turks, Saz's recollections offer a rare visit into Imperial Harem life with a woman who became a prominent composer of Ottoman Classical music.

Leyla Saz lived at a time when several Sultans opened the Ottoman court to Western influence, and her musical education was in both Ottoman and Western styles. To quote Leyla, "Western music was taught with notes and Turkish music without them; as had always been the custom, Turkish music was learned by ear alone."

While not a detailed accounting of all Saz's musical accomplishments two of her works, "Hüzzâm Şarki" in Ottoman Classical style and "Neşide-i Zafer Marşı" (Victory March) in Western style, are discussed using terms both musicians and non-musicians will understand.

With a resurgence of interest in Turkish Classical music in Istanbul, Leyla Saz's compositions are being studied again by new composers bringing her musical voice once more to Turkish and Western audiences.

### The Imperial Harem - Women and Sovereignty in the Ottoman Empire

If one is searching for a Hollywood version of the 'harem slave dancing for her Sultan', this is not the book for you. If one is a fan of the Turkish television series 'Muhtesem Yüzyil' (The Magnificent Century), you will appreciate an accurate accounting of the relationships between Valide Hafsa Sultan, Mahidevran, and Hurrem Sultan (Roxelana). If one is a fan of historically accurate representations of women in history, this book is for you as well.

Leslie P. Pierce's researched writing takes us on a historical journey, and in her words, "seeks to explain the sources of the women's political power and the reasons for their rise to prominence." Her book has two main themes: the nature of Ottoman sovereignty, and a challenge to the accepted belief that 16th century Islamic society confined women to subordinate roles.

Combining her researched writing with the assistance of translators and transliterators of Ottoman texts, we learn of the powerful rise of the Imperial Harem beginning during the reign of Suleyman the Magnificent (1520) and lasting until the mid-17th century. The 'sultanate of women' is considered to be one of the most dramatic developments in the 16th century Ottoman Empire, when the women of the Ottoman dynasty wielded political power and public prominence greater than any time in history.

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## ***Çok Teşekkür Ederim to our Supporters***

We wish to extend a heart-felt thanks to the following individuals for their support of Dans Aşkına. Words can't adequately express our appreciation for all you have done to help us with your financial, technical, and in-kind contributions. We hope we remembered everyone!

Artistic Board: Sarah Dorman, Nancy Fetzek, Artemis Mourat, June Seaney

Website Maven: Pamela Nici Lawson

## ***Financial and In-Kind Contributors***

Turquoise Level (up to \$100): Allie Abela, Lynn Anderson, Anonymous, Satoru Asato, Lisa Bah, Helen & John Beres, Linda Brown, Marilyn Christianson, Mark Christianson, Jennifer Cole, Patricia Cumbie, Kristina DeSacramento, Sean Doyle, Ayodele Famodu, Omonike Famodu, Betsy Hedding, Nancy Holden, Alexandra Howes, Robin Kaehler, Darcy Knight, Susan Knutson, Benjamin Lamb, Mike Lein, Laura Oliver, Sandra O'Rourke, Carl and Carlotta Posz, John Repp, Rick Schoeller, Rob Siebers, Mark Simonson, Julia Singer, Amy Snyder, Jane Stansfield, Elizabeth Trumble, Kristina Winn

Cöcek Level (\$101 to \$300): Anonymous, Wendy Famodu

Çengi Level (\$301 to \$999): Anonymous, Joel Beres

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