

## **Hasan Uçarsu (b.1965)**

Hasan Uçarsu was born in Istanbul in 1965. He began his musical training as a part time flute student at the İstanbul Municipal Conservatory at the age of eleven. In 1983, when he was in his final year at Kadıköy Anadolu High School, he took private lessons from Muammer Sun for a short time. and after he graduated, he entered the Department of Composition at the State Conservatory of Mimar Sinan University. During his undergraduate program (1983-1990), he became a student of Ahmed Adnan Saygun and during graduate studies (1990-1992), he studied composition as the student of Cengiz Tanç.

Throughout his career, Uçarsu has worked with not only famous Turkish composers such as Cemal Resit Rey and Ahmet Adnan Saygun, but also traveled to the United States and worked with George Crumb and Richard Wernick. In 1997, he earned a doctoral degree in composition at the University of Pennsylvania and one year after his graduation he has been teaching composition at the Mimar Sinan Fine Arts University Istanbul State Conservatory. In the spring of 2007, he was invited by the University of Memphis School of Music to serve as a visiting composer and faculty member.

*—Program note by Gözde Çakır*

Reference:

Uçarsu, Hasan. "Biography." Accessed on May 23, 2020.  
<http://www.hasanucarsu.com/>

**Hasan Uçarsu (1965-)**  
***Adasiz Denizler* (Seas without Islands)**

Hasan Uçarsu's composition of *Adasiz Denizler* which means "Seas without islands," is written for solo flute. This work was composed in order to clear the composer's mind after composing several large-scale symphonic works before this piece. As the title suggests, this work evokes an openness, endlessness, and continuity, the feeling of being in the middle of a flow where everything is the same. The piece is in 9/8 meter and the steady rhythmic movement is created by the performers foot-tapping.

The usage of the flute and foot-tapping reminds me of a combination of instruments known as "Ney," which is a woodwind instrument and the "Def" which is a percussion instrument that was used in music from the Ottomans. The combination of these two instruments is common in the Sufi or Tasavvuf music, which is the devotional music inspired by the works of Sufi poets like Rumi, also known as Mevlana.

—*Program note by Gözde Çakır*

Reference:

Uçarsu, Hasan. "Adasiz Denizler." Email, November 2, 2019.