

„Welcoming Maqam“

two-day residency of *neophon ensemble* @ **bilkentmusic**
event series, 27-28 September 2016

all interested persons invited, entrance free to all events

hosted by **Ihsan Doğramacı Bilkent University**, Ankara
bilkentcomposition + bilkentsayguncenter

The old and the new, the Occident and the Orient, 1001 sounds-in-between... Bridging, fields of conflict... Wednesday 28 September 2016, in Bilkent Concert Hall, the young *neophon ensemble* realizes the Turkish premieres of six compositions each ca. 10-20 minutes long. In the center of all six compositions is the Qānūn, *Tr.* Kanun, an instrument invented in the antiquity and played to our day. Not dissimilar to the Alpine Zither that is developed considerably later, the trapezoid plucked instrument from wood and with approximately 60-80 strings is until now primarily in use in Arabic countries and Turkey with different constructions. The participating composers let themselves inspired by the instrument and its tuning that sounds in the ears of many Europeans at first exotic. Though *neophon ensemble* hauls the Qānūn out of its traditional context and links to microtonal harmony and tone colors of the contemporary western music. Upon this concept is built not only the concert-project „Aleppo Dialogues“, but also the research-based pedagogical event series „Welcoming Maqam“, both of which are interconnected in a two-day residency by *neophon ensemble* and the encircling artists in **bilkentmusic** on Tuesday and Wednesday, 27-28 September 2016.

Groundwork for the aforementioned concept is the music and the research work of the Qānūn virtuoso Julien Jalâl Ed-Dine Weiss (1953-2015), who had been for a long time domiciled in Aleppo, and his long-term associate Stefan Pohlit. The *neophon ensemble*, today based in Berlin, is a collective of soloists founded by former students of Rostock University of Music and Theater. In the meantime 16 musicians are to be regarded as individualists beyond the conservative-conventionally coined classical music business and engage themselves from project to project.
