

## **BIOGRAPHY**

- 1. Name : Ahmet Sönmezler**
- 2. Date of Birth : 31/12/1983**
- 3. Title : Assist. Prof. Dr.**

Assist. Prof. Dr. Sönmezler is from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and was born in 1983. He became acquainted with the classical music at the age of five and began to play classical guitar professionally at the age of seventeen. He gave concerts at the Kammermusik Festival and Summer Academy in Austria, at the Cortona Contemporary Music Festival in Italy, at the SoundSCAPE Festival in Italy, at the 2nd Tucson Spanish and Flamenco Festival in USA, at the 1st Tucson International Guitar Festival in USA, at the 17th International North Cyprus Bellapais Music Festival in Cyprus, the gala concert at the Nicosia Old Town Classical, Jazz and World Music Festival 2013 in Cyprus and at the Middle East Technical University and Anatolian University National Conservatory in Turkey.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sönmezler was one of the organizers of the First International Tucson Guitar Festival held at the University of Arizona School of Music in November 2009. He was the member of Tucson Guitar Society's guitar orchestra for 3 years.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Sönmezler has given the world premieres of the works of many composers including Mark Zanter "Character Pieces for Guitar", Luca Vanneschi "Quattro Piccolli Pezzi Blu", and David S. Lefkowitz "(Sur-)Real (Cine-) Music I: The Chase Through Escher's Metamorphosen." Famous American composer John A. Carollo dedicated a solo classical guitar piece to Assist. Prof. Dr. Sönmezler called "Fantasia and semi-Passacaglia for guitar." Assist. Prof. Dr. Sönmezler has performed for renowned Classical Guitar artists including Armin Egger, Massimo delle Cese, Philippe Villa, Mauricio Carrasco, Rafael Aguirre, Lukasz Kuropaczewski, David Tanenbaum, Paul Galbraith, Eduardo Fernandez, Sergio Assad, Odair Assad, David Russell and Manuel Barrueco.

Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sönmezler earned his Bachelor of Music Degree from the Eastern Mediterranean University in Guitar performance in the first place with High-Honors, a Master of Music Degree in Guitar performance from the Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts Degree in Guitar performance with 4.00 cumulative GPA from the University of Arizona School of Music. Assist. Prof. Dr. Sönmezler studied with Bruce Saunders, Rick Peckham, Robin Stone, Scotty Johnson and with the world-renowned guitar virtuoso Steve Vai at Berklee College of Music and completed Steve Vai Guitar specialist certificate. He is an endorsing artist of SUHR and HANNABACH.

Currently, Assist. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Sönmezler resides in North Cyprus where he is the chair of the Music Teaching Department at the Girne American University.

## 1. Education:

Aug. 2007 – Aug. 2013	Doctor of Musical Arts Degree Guitar Performance	University of Arizona School of Music, Tucson, AZ, USA
Aug. 2005 – May.2007	Master of Music Degree Guitar Performance	The Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA
Sep. 2001 – Jun. 2005	Bachelor of Music Degree Guitar Performance	Eastern Mediterranean University Magusa, NORTH CYPRUS

## 2. Academic Career:

- Guitar instructor/assistant. 2007-2011, University of Arizona School of Music, USA.
- Guitar instructor: 2011-2012, Hisar Schools, TURKEY.
- Guitar instructor: 2013-2014, Eastern Mediterranean University, CYPRUS.
- Guitar instructor: 2013-2014, Near East University, CYPRUS.
- Chair: From September 2014 to present. Girne American University, Music Teaching Department, CYPRUS.

## Awards:

- Eastern Mediterranean University Music Department graduate in first place plaque and certificate, CYPRUS.
- Eastern Mediterranean University Music Department success scholarships for four year, CYPRUS.
- Eastern Mediterranean University Music Department six High-Honor certificates, CYPRUS.
- ABRSM Royal College of Music Grades 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 success certificates.
- Kammermusik Festival and Summer Academy success diploma, AUSTRIA.
- Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity, Phi Gamma Chapter, Peabody Conservatory success diploma, USA.
- Merit Based Scholarship, Peabody Conservatory of the Johns Hopkins University, USA.
- Booher Memorial Scholarship, University of Arizona School of Music, USA.
- TRNC Ministry of Education and Culture Doctorate success scholarship, CYPRUS.
- Steve Vai Specialist Certificate, Berklee College of Music, USA.
- SoundSCAPE Festival success scholarship, ITALY.

## Concerts:

2014	Anatolian University National Conservatory, Eskisehir, TURKEY.
2014	Middle East Technical University, Ankara, TURKEY.
2013	Gala concert at the Nicosia Old Town Classical, Jazz and World Music Festival 2013, Nicosia, CYPRUS.
2013	17th International North Cyprus Bellapais Music Festival in Cyprus, Girne, CYPRUS.

2010	2nd Tucson Spanish and Flamenco Festival, Tucson, USA.
2007	SoundSCAPE Festival " in Maccagno, ITALY.
2004	Cortona Contemporary Music Festival, Camucia/Cortona, ITALY.
2003	"Kammermusik Festival and Summer Academy" in Stift Rein, AUSTRIA.

## Interviews

2015	"Dođru ve dzenli alıřma bařarıyı getirir." Cyprus Newspaper, Sunday edition, 29 March 2015.
2015	"Became an endorsing Artist of a famous Guitar brand. " Cyprus Newspaper, February 2015.
2014	"Northern Cyprus's first Guitar player with a Ph.D," Passatempo Magazine, No:40 August 2014.
2014	"Kuzey Kıbrıs sınırları içinde kapalı kalmak." (Turkish) Title in English: "Being closed in the borders of Northern Cyprus." Kıbrıs Postası Gazetesi, April 2014.
2013	"Sesli bir gitarın Sessiz kahramanı." Havadis Newspaper, 2013.
2013	"Ahmet Sönmezler was fascinating." (English) Title in Turkish: "Ahmet Sönmezler büyüledi." Cyprus Newspaper, June 2013.
2012	"Hedef ve İstek önemli," Havadis Newspaper's Hayat addition. January 2012.
2012	"Ahmet Sönmezler Kıbrıs'a döndü." (Turkish) Title in English: "Ahmet Sönmezler returned back to Cyprus." Cyprus Newspaper, 2012.
2012	"Ahmet Sönmezler Kıbrıs TV'de." Cyprus Newspaper, May 2012.
2012	"Very Successful." Cyprus Newspaper Ekran addition, June 2012.
2012	"Amerika'da konser verecek." Cyprus Newspaper, November 2012.
2011	"Ahmet Sönmezler beğenildi." (Turkish) Title in English: "Ahmet Sönmezler won recognition." Cyprus Newspaper, September 2011.
2011	"Müzik Doktoru Ahmet Sönmezler keyif veriyor." September, 2011.
2011	"Gitari Hayatı" (Turkish), Title in English: "His Guitar is his Life," Zoom Magazine, September 2011.
2011	"Kıbrıslı Türk müzisyen Ahmet Sönmezler'den büyük başarı." (Turkish) Title in English: "A Big success from a Cypriot musician Ahmet Sonmezler." Cyprus Newspaper, September 2011.

2010	“Ahmet Sönmezler İtalya'da konser verecek.” (Turkish) Title in English: “Ahmet Sönmezler will give a concert in Italy.” Cyprus Newspaper, July 2010.
2010	“Arizona’da bizden esintiler.” Star Kıbrıslı Gazetesi, September, 2010.
2010	“The name of the brave art steps from Cyprus to America, Ahmet Sönmezler.” Yeni Düzen Newspaper, 2010.
2010	“He deserves Applause.” Cyprus Newspaper Magazine, August 2010.
2010	“Ahmet'in Amerika çıkarması.” Havadis Newspaper, September 2010.
2008	“Bakan’a yerli resital.” (Turkish) Title in English: “A domestic recital for the Minister.” Havadis Newspaper, 2008.
2007	“Ahmet Sönmezler Amerika'da resital veriyor.” (Turkish) Title in English: “Ahmet Sönmezler is giving a recital in America.” Cyprus Newspaper, April 2007.
2006	“Klasikte bir Kıbrıslı: Ahmet Sönmezler.” (Turkish) Title in English: “A Cypriot in Classical.” Cyprus Newspaper, July, 2006.
2005	“Sönmezler'in sönmeyen müzik macerası.” (Turkish) Title in English: “Sönmezler's quenchless musical adventure.” Cyprus Newspaper, 2005.

## Work Shops / Master Classes

2014	“Master Class and Concert.” Middle Eastern Technical University, ODTU, 28 March 2014, Ankara, TURKEY.
2014	“Master Class and Concert.” Eskisehir Anadolu Universitesi Devlet Konservatuari, 29 March 2014, Eskisehir, TURKEY.
2013	“Gitar Atölyesi.” “Workshop.” Eastern Mediterranean University, 9-10 December 2013, CYPRUS
2009	“Work shop: Aim Directed Movement and Sympathetic Motion.” First International Tucson Guitar Festival, 9 November 2009, Tucson, AZ, USA.

### 3. Professional History:

January 2015	HANNABACH Endorsing Artist	GERMANY
January 2015	SUHR Endorsing Artist	USA
August 2013- August 2014	Guitar Artist of Price Rubin and Artist Management	Los Angeles, CA, USA.
2006	Member of Mu Phi Epsilon Fraternity	Baltimore, MD, USA.

#### **4. Contact:**

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