



“here, have
a rest...”

“Here, have a rest...” : Suggested by the great Greek poet Constantin Cavafis, this title tells us about the communities present in Asia Minor, driven by a desire of elsewhere or shunt around by history, in search of a place where to put an end to their wandering.

Smyrna, named "the unfaithful city", is a host land and exile destination that, until the beginning of the 20th century, brings together an heterogeneous population from the Balkans, the Middle East : Turks, Greeks, Jews, Armenians, Levantines and Europeans. The city converts into a crossroads of peoples, cultures and ideas. Around 1912, it appears as a cosmopolitan islet in a Minor Asia that began, despite the persistence of Armenian or Greek minorities, a process of "turkization". This process crystallizes with the generalization of the nation-state as a political form in the region, particularly with the Young Turks' Revolution of 1905. The final episode, the fire of Smyrna in 1922, usually attributed to the troops of Mustapha Kemal, marks the end of a society where several linguistic and religious groups managed to coexist, and send them again in exile.



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repertoires



Both of us travel all year long in the musical space and time, on a quest, on the lookout... We wander permanently from the occidental scholar music to the traditional repertoires, popular or formal. We widen our horizon, we enlarge the ways to express ourselves .

For this meeting, we set our sights on the Orient, “our” Orient, looking towards Smyrna*, the coasts of Asia Minor, turning to these Levantine musical traditions : Greek repertoires (making reference to the singer and fieldworker Domna Samiou), sephardic (from Smyrna, Thessalonique ...) et early ottoman music (ms. of Dimitri Cantemir and Ali Ufki).

In tribute to this brilliant past, we composed two melodies for voice and santouri on Constantin Cavafis' poems.

