Musical Explorations in Orchestra and in “Coffeehouse Opera”: Bektashi Sufism, Ottoman Eunuchs and Othello
Talk and Demonstration by Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol

Composer Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol will lecture and demonstrate his process of internalizing multiple musical languages and combining Turkish and Western music. Sanlıkol’s Harabat (The Intoxicated), for orchestra, tenor and ud, is based on Sufi Bektashi’s well known poem. This piece will premier in Zankel Hall with the American Composers Orchestra on April 1, 2016. Sanlıkol also reimagines Shakespeare’s Othello as an Ottoman eunuch in his coffeehouse opera, Othello in the Seraglio which will be performed at National Sawdust in Brooklyn on April 8, 2016.

Mehmet Ali Sanlıkol is Grammy nominated composer and JAZZIZ’s Top 10 Critics’ Choice 2014 pick Jazz pianist. He has composed for, performed and toured with international stars and ensembles such as Anat Cohen, Dave Liebman, Antonio Sanchez, Tiger Okoshi, Bob Brookmeyer, Esperanza Spalding, A Far Cry string orchestra, Boston Cello quartet, Omar Faruk Tekbilek and the Boston Camerata. He is also co-founder of Dünya, a Boston-based musicians’ collective dedicated to contemporary representations of Turkish music traditions through performance, publication, and educational activities. He is currently a faculty member at College of the Holy Cross and Emerson College. Dr. Sanlıkol’s book, The Musician Mehters (2011), about the organization and the music of the Ottoman Janissary Bands, is available in English and Turkish.