

"CREATING MUSIC ACROSS CULTURES IN THE 21st CENTURY"

INFO PACKET FOR PARTICIPANTS

Please have a copy of this text with you or on your phone.

The conference will be held in İTÜ Maçka Sosyal Tesisleri inside the Macka Campus of ITU (İTÜ Maçka Kampüsü). You can go to Nişantaşı District (Rumeli Street) and Beşiktaş District (Beşiktaş Çarşısı) by foot from our campus. Taksim Square and Beyoğlu District are also quite close.

Keep following conference website to get updates:

<http://www.miam.itu.edu.tr/cmac2017/index.html>

CONFERENCE FEE:

Fees will be paid on arrival at the campus. Free for all students.

3 days: €60/200TL. (International/Local rates).

2 days: €40/140TL. (International/Local rates).

1 day: €20/70TL. (International/Local rates).

VISAS:

E-visas can be purchased here: <https://www.evisa.gov.tr/en/>

It should be noted that visas (multiple entry, 6 months) can also be purchased on arrival. At Istanbul Atatürk Airport, this is just opposite of passport control—you'll need the visa before getting in the passport control line.

For more information (visa fees, for example):

<http://www.mfa.gov.tr/visa-information-for-foreigners.en.mfa>

ACCESSIBILITY:

Unfortunately, most of the streets and buildings of Istanbul are designed without wheelchair accessibility in mind. Same goes for the Macka Campus of ITU. Please plan your travel with this in mind.

TRAVEL TO AND FROM ISTANBUL AIRPORTS:

When you arrive at one of the airports of Istanbul, you can use the buses called HAVATAŞ to go to Taksim. On your way back, you can also take the same buses from Taksim to the airport. Duration of the journey is around 1 hour, if traffic is OK.

In Taksim, you can take a cab to "İTÜ Maçka Kampüsü" (Macka Campus of ITU). Make sure that you have some Turkish liras in your pockets (see the section about money exchange).

You may also take a taxi directly from the airport, for around 60-70TL, direct to your hotel. To

collect a receipt for the journey, ask for a “Fiş” (receipt) when you are paying at your destination. Make sure that you have some Turkish liras in your pockets (see the section about money exchange).

Turkish people, including taxi drivers, usually don’t speak any English, but they are used to English speakers. Thus, if you say the words “İTÜ Maçka Kampüsü”, or simply show the address, they’ll take you there.

MONEY EXCHANGE IN ISTANBUL:

The money exchange offices at the airports in Turkey have very poor rates. It is recommended to get some Turkish liras at the ATMs after exiting through customs into the arrivals hall for the trip into the city. İş Bankası is recommended for better rates.

The best place to change foreign currency, however, are the ubiquitous “Döviz” houses. There is a “Döviz” house very close to the İTÜ Maçka campus in Teşvikiye, just up the street. There are also many in Beşiktaş, Taksim, Kadıköy, etc.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION:

Our campus is located in a fantastic spot. You can go to Nişantaşı District (Rumeli Street) and Beşiktaş District (Beşiktaş Çarşısı) on foot. These two places will fulfil many of your needs in terms of cafes, food, nightlife, shopping, etc.

If you want to use public transportation to go anywhere in Istanbul and are unfamiliar with the city, please first read the section about safety. Most public transportation in Istanbul requires you to obtain an Istanbulkart, which can be obtained at many metro station entrances or ferries. Don’t forget that you should not only buy the card, but also load it with money (see the section about money exchange). The easiest way to find a vendor who sells the cards and the machines to load money onto those cards is by going inside a subway station. Each time you use the card, you’ll be paying approximately 2,5 Turkish liras.

Even if you’ll be using public transportation, we suggest you have some TL in your pockets to get a cab in case of any problem.

For more info on the public transportation card (Istanbulkart):

<http://istanbulkart.iETT.istanbul/en/istanbulkart/pages/menu/427>

Subway map of Istanbul: http://www.metro.istanbul/media/75285/metro-ag-harita_b-v3r4.jpg

SAFETY AND SECURITY:

Safety is of course a matter of top priority for us due to certain events in the past year. While we are of course not able to guarantee complete safety, the choice of venues (ITU is a very safe campus, and Maçka is a very safe neighborhood) and hotels have been selected with that foremost in mind. This is basically by keeping accommodation away from both tourist areas which are the most crowded parts of the city. We do

feel pretty safe and also have compiled a short list below of how you can enhance this further:

-Please be on alert in crowded places, especially in the airports and in Taksim square.

-Keep a safe distance from large groups of police officers.

-Pay attention to traffic! This is much more of a danger than terrorism.

-If possible, make sure that you'll be able to use your cellphone in Turkey.

-Please carry some Turkish liras with you all the time and if you get lost, take a cab to get to a place safe (our campus "İTÜ Maçka Kampüsü", for example).

-In taxis, make sure the driver turns the meter on at the start of the journey.

-Lastly, on the days that there'll be football (soccer) matches in Istanbul, we suggest you to spend your night in the hotel, since crowds get really fierce sometimes.

In the case of an emergency, please call or e-mail our crewmembers and we'll see how we can help you:

-Oğul Köker: 0-530-3058440

-Argun Çakır: 0-535-5136462

-Michael Ellison: 0-538-0653619

-MIAM: 0-212-2471733

Please note that when calling from a non-Turkish sim card, you will need to modify our phone numbers by replacing the "0"s at the front with "0090" or "+90". It should be clear that we might not have our phones unmuted all the time, since we'll be carrying out several duties at the time of conference, both conference related and not.

LUNCHES AND THE FINAL DINNER:

Each day, for convenience, there will be lunch served for the participants at the *kantin* on the second floor of the building in which MIAM is located. The cost for each day will be (approximately) 24 Turkish liras. The menu will be fixed. You'll be able to buy extra tea, Turkish coffee, soft drinks there as extras (see the section about money exchange). No alcoholic beverages are served in the *kantin*.

If you want to participate in these lunches, please inform us on the days you want to participate (May 25 and/or May 26 and/or May 27).

On the last day of the conference (May 27), there will be a dinner at the restaurant located in the Sosyal Tesisler building in which the conference hall is also located. The cost for the dinner is 50 Turkish liras. The menu will be a fixed one. 40 liras more includes alcohol, so you can have two glasses of liquor (wine, beer, or raki) (see the section about money exchange). More can always be purchased!

If you want to participate in this dinner, please inform us.

ACCOMMODATION:

When choosing your hotel, please note that Nişantaşı District, and the hotel located there, is the safest one as it is walking distance and in an upper class neighborhood. The other hotels are located in more crowded districts where you have to be extra cautious about your safety. Also, please read the section about safety and security.

Hotel Monopol (in Beyoğlu District)

Room for one (Daily) (Breakfast included)*: ~140 TL (~\$39, ~37€)

Webpage: <http://www.hotelmonopol.net/> (Pick language on top right.)

To book: info@hotelmonopol.net (Mr. Ahmet) **or** +90 212 251 73 26

Address: Meşrutiyet Cd. No:93 34430 Beyoğlu/İstanbul

Berlin Hotel (in Nişantaşı District)

Room for one (Daily)*: ~100 TL (~\$26, ~24€)

Webpage: <http://berlinotel.com/> (Only in Turkish)

To book: <https://berlinotel.reservehotel.net/> (Pick language on top right.) **or** +90 212 232 29 15

Address: Meşrutiyet Cd. Madalyon Sk. No:10 Nişantaşı/İstanbul

Home Stay Home Şişli (in Şişli District)

1+1 Suite (Daily)*: ~180 TL (~\$50, ~47€)

Webpage: <http://www.hsh-sisli.com/> (Pick language on top right.)

To book: reservation@hsh-sisli.com **or** +90 212 227 8310

Address: Halaskargazi Cd. No: 154 34360 Şişli/İstanbul

*This was the price offered to us in February 2017. The prices and exchange rates are continuously changing. Please contact the hotel for up-to-date prices.

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