



Importance of Italian Musicians in the Training of Turkish Military Music in the Imperial Music with Giuseppe Donizetti as Maestro and the Present State of Turkish Military Music

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Abstract

The Ottoman Empire's institution for the training and execution of military music was Mehterhane-i Hümayun (Imperial Janissary Band). Selection of the people who would play these instruments was conducted from among the soldiers who had a talent for music. Sultan Mahmoud 2nd established Muzıka-yı Hümayun, or The Imperial Music in 1826 with a view to setting up a western style military order and band. Italian Giuseppe Donizetti (1788-1856) was appointed as head of this institution. Giuseppe Donizetti brought along with him various instruments and musicians when he came to the Ottoman palace in 1828. Turkish military music education and execution underwent a radical change with this cadre and both the instrument and note system and music teaching and training were fields where this change was most visible.

Muzıka-yı Hümayun was transferred to Ankara in 1924 by order of Atatürk with the name "Presidential Music Board" whereas it was previously an institution of the Ottoman. Today, this institution continues its activities in affiliation to Turkish Armed Forces Band Schools Command.

Conference topic of this paper is music education. Although this is a qualitative study, it aims to reveal the radical changes that took place in the Turkish military music training from the 19th century onwards, the place and significance of Italian musicians in this process, and today's Turkish military music education policy. Review of literature and interview methods are being used in the study. Interviews are underway with trainers at Ankara Band and Music Preparatory School and the trainer at Konya Band and Music School. Moreover, content analysis will be performed on the interviews.