

Guitar Duos of **Kemal BELEVI**

(b. 1954)

Cyprian Rhapsodies Nos. 1–4
Suite Chypre • Turkish Suite

Duo Tandem
Necati Emirzade, Mark Anderson
Guitars



Kemal Belevi (b. 1954) Guitar Duos

Kemal Belevi's music is steeped in the colours and atmosphere of the eastern Mediterranean, absorbing many influences from Greece, Turkey, and the Middle East. His aim as a composer is 'to create beautiful music', based on fine melodies and appropriately scintillating rhythms.

Among the works in this selection several were originally composed for other combinations than two guitars. The *Cyprian Rhapsodies*, for example, were written for orchestra, *Suite Chypre* was for cello and guitar, *Turkish Suite* was also arranged in a version for violin and guitar, while *Vals Nos. 1 and 2* and the *Romance* were intended for solo guitar.

Kemal Belevi wished however to extend the repertoire for two guitars, hence his arrangements of all these pieces performed here by the Duo Tandem of Emirzade Necati and Mark Anderson.

Each of the *Cyprian Rhapsodies* has distinctive characteristics. *No. 1* begins with a characteristic eastern Mediterranean rhythm of 2/4 time evoking the dance with a catchy melodic line structured in units of four and five bars in length.

Cyprian Rhapsody No. 2 in 4/4 time, opens with a gentle pizzicato effect. The dance element is also strong throughout and the part-writing is now more complex with technical adornments such as rhythmic drumming on the guitar. A slow episode changes the mood in a centrepiece featuring passages in octaves and thirds, concluding in a recapitulation of the opening theme.

Cyprian Rhapsody No. 3 has a more intricate contrapuntal quality, the melody being shared between the duo partners with chordal passages, octaves and rich accompaniments increasing in intensity as the work proceeds. Percussive effects towards the end add to the sense of climax.

Cyprian Rhapsody No. 4 presents a full chordal accompaniment to the theme in octaves providing a

change of mood from the other rhapsodies. As the partners interchange the various elements this often sounds, in orchestral sonorities, more akin to a guitar quartet than a duo.

Suite Chypre was written when the composer attended the Île de Rhé Guitar Festival in France in July 2001 when a guitar ensemble was enhanced by a cello, inspiring Kemal Belevi to return home and compose this suite. *Lapta* refers to a small village situated in the Kyrenia Mountains a little way from the north Cyprian coast. Thus the work is evocative of both mountains and the sea. *Elegie* is dedicated to the composer's mother who died in 1959 at the age of 41. After a poignant introduction a tremolo theme takes up the song, followed by a recapitulation of the first section. *Çiftetelli* is the most famous Turkish dance usually played with a *taksim*, a kind of improvisation.

Vals Nos. 1 and 2 offer contrasting styles. *No. 1* is a straightforward lyrical waltz imbued with a sweet Mediterranean atmosphere. *No. 2* is texturally richer with various themes, and brings in expressive tremolo and chordal passages offering various colourings and moods.

Turkish Suite, composed in 1999 while Belevi was living in Istanbul, takes its name from the last movement *Hicaz*, a well-known Turkish mode. *Song* is a romantic piece written for a girlfriend, while *Danza* is a majestic movement in contemporary style.

Romance, in 2/4 time, presents a harp-like texture in the accompaniment to a touching and wistful melody, reminiscent of warm summer nights by the sea.

Three Fragments in contemporary style were written in February 1997 in Istanbul. The second movement is serious in atmosphere but the composer sees the outer movements as 'fun pieces' that always make him smile when he hears them.

Graham Wade

Kemal Belevi

The Cypriot-British guitarist-composer Kemal Belevi was born in 1954 and moved to the United Kingdom in 1972. From 1974 to 1977 he studied music at Southgate College, and in 1977 he was auditioned by William Lloyd Webber who advised him to study at the 'Performer's Course' at the London College of Music. He was awarded a Fellowship of the college in December 1981. He studied guitar with David Russell from 1976 to 1979 and composition with David McBride who was a pupil of Benjamin Britten. As a performer, Belevi has given many concerts in the UK, Europe, Turkey and Cyprus. He has also given many masterclasses at guitar festivals and served as a jury member of major competitions. He began composing for guitar in 1985. *Five Preludes for David Russell* was composed in March 1986 and its premiere was given in London that year. Ten of Belevi's compositions for solo guitar were published in 1996 and his Guitar Method in 1997. He began composing chamber works in 2001. His first concerto for guitar and strings subtitled *Oriental* was composed in 2002. He released the double album *Guitar Music of Kemal Belevi* in 2002 and some of his chamber music was recorded in 2003 in Moscow by Russian musicians. In 2006 Belevi began composing symphonic works. *Guitar Concerto No. 2* and *Five Cyprian Rhapsodies* were recorded again in Moscow by The Seasons Moscow Chamber Orchestra in 2009. Some of Belevi's compositions were chosen as set pieces for the grade and diploma examinations of the London College of Music in 1997. He has written five guitar concertos and many works for orchestra.

Duo Tandem

Duo Tandem, featuring Necati Emirzade and Mark Anderson, is an instrumental guitar duo with an emphasis on storytelling through music that has captivated audiences with performances throughout the US and Europe. Emirzade and Anderson formed Duo Tandem in 2012 while studying at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Their artistic vision is a blend of the distinct cultural backgrounds they share, creating a unique musical voice. In collaborating with composers and writing for themselves, Duo Tandem has compiled a far-reaching set of new music based on stories and imagery. Duo Tandem's first album *Sans Paroles* was released in 2015, it was followed by *Watching the World Go By* which was lauded as a top-ten album of 2018 (*Classical Guitar*). www.duotandem.com



Photo: Sara Pardo Valero

Kemal Belevi's music is steeped in the colours and atmosphere of the eastern Mediterranean, and his aim is 'to create beautiful music' based on melodies and rhythms that have been absorbed from the folk music of Greece, Turkey and the Middle East. Belevi's own arrangements of works such as the evocative *Suite Chypre* and the richly varied *Cyprian Rhapsodies* have significantly extended the repertoire for two guitars. The Duo Tandem are drawn towards this composer's skilful modernity and his celebration of traditional heritage reimagined within the sound world of the classical guitar.

**Kemal
BELEVI**
(b. 1954)
Guitar Duos

1 Cyprian Rhapsody No. 1 (2011) †	3:55	Turkish Suite (1999)*	6:17
Suite Chypre (2001) †*	11:50	8 I. Danza	1:57
2 I. Lapta	3:12	9 II. Song	2:30
3 II. Elegie	3:35	10 III. Hicaz	1:46
4 III. Çiftetelli	4:59	11 Romance (1997) ‡*	5:26
5 Vals No. 1 (1999) †*	3:24	12 Cyprian Rhapsody No. 3 (2012) ‡*	7:00
6 Cyprian Rhapsody No. 2 (2006) †	5:35	Three Fragments (1997)	4:44
7 Vals No. 2 (1985) †*	5:39	13 I. Fragment I	1:29
		14 II. Fragment II	1:36
		15 III. Fragment III	1:35
† Version for 2 guitars, 2017		16 Cyprian Rhapsody No. 4 (2006) ‡*	8:33
‡ Version for 2 guitars, 2018			

* WORLD PREMIERE RECORDINGS

Duo Tandem
Necati Emirzade, Mark Anderson, Guitars

Recorded: 13–16 March 2019 at Holy Trinity Church, Kensington, London, UK
 Producer, engineer and editor: Luca Gardani, Allegro Con Fuoco S.A.S.
 Booklet notes: Graham Wade • All works composed and arranged by Kemal Belevi for guitar duo
 Cover photo: Sunrise over mountain landscape, Kyrenia, Cyprus (© Tabeaharras / Dreamstime.com)



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Playing Time
62:56



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Booklet notes in English