

Aka Gündüz Kutbay

Ney Taksims

Aka Gündüz Kutbay (1934-1979) was one of the greatest masters of Turkish ney in the 20th century. While studying with a few teachers, Aka Gündüz apparently considered himself an exponent of Ulvi Erguner's (1924-1974) style.¹ Having a wide range of musical interests and performing in various contexts, he was foremost a great admirer of the Mevlevi Sufis and his taksims exuded an arresting power, depth and beauty that resonated with this. Like many others, I was completely entranced when I first heard Aka Gündüz's taksims; upon countless repeated listenings, they never fail to transport me to a focused, inspired and yet detached musical space with its concomitant psycho-spiritual state. Words cannot go there nor describe it and neither can musical notation. I still felt compelled to transcribe these recordings as some kind of personal pilgrimage to this great master, and to offer them here for whatever uses other musicians and scholars may find for them. In contrast to Persian, Iraqi and Azerbaijani traditions, which feature explicit programming models for acquiring improvisatory practice, Arab and Turkish musicians learn to improvise by inductively studying composed repertoire and the taksims of other players. While the latter work has traditionally been done aurally (the most effective means), transcriptions of great improvisations, despite their admittedly oxymoronic nature, provide another means for acquiring performance skills, much as it does in the jazz tradition.

Feldman notes how the taksim was particularly cultivated by neyzens throughout history as a genre for displaying a performer's creativity, compositional skill and knowledge of makam (1996: 142, 190, 288, 294ff., 298). There is a great deal of musicological and ethnomusicological literature devoted to examining the relationship between improvisation and composition, between preset materials and their rendition and development in performance. Aka Gündüz's playing on the recordings transcribed here shows considerable freedom and variety as well as recurring structures on several levels. His taksims can be fruitfully viewed as compositions or narratives that were performed very freely with regard to decoration, elaboration and variation—musical stories told and retold with great spontaneity and verve. The following sections outline some of the recurring structures that defined Aka Gündüz's style, creative toolkit and narratives. For a larger contextual view of the tradition from which Aka Gündüz emerged, worked, and

¹ Karl Signell offers a short biographical profile of Aka Gündüz in "Neyzen Akagündüz Kutbay: Encounters with a remarkable man," in *Festschrift for Robert Garfias* (in press, though currently available online at: www.umbc.edu/eol/garfias/festschrift/).

powerfully represented, Fred Stubbs (1994) provides a detailed analysis of contemporary Turkish taksim practices and structures.

In the recordings transcribed here, Aka Gündüz shows a clear preference for the *Kiz ney*, whose ‘all-closed-hole’ pitch (A) is a whole tone above the standard *Mansur ney*, where one reads at concert pitch. Following Turkish conventions, all *Kiz ney* takסים are transposed a whole tone lower, so that makams appear in their idiomatic ‘tonics’. The recordings transcribed here were all made in studio contexts, to the best of my knowledge. Most of the recordings are still fairly accessible, all of them released on major international labels:

Musique traditionnelle turque: pieces instrumentals. Ocora 56 (from TRT archives, late 1960s/early 1970s)

Music of the Whirling Dervishes. Atlantic 782493-2 (recorded October 31, 1978 in New York City)

Turquie: Le ney/Turkey: Aka Gunduz Kutbay Plays the Ney. Playasound PS 65078 (from TRT archives?)

Transcription format

Those familiar with the notation software Finale will understand the cruel perversity of attempting to notate this style of music using the program. Some formatting decisions (concessions, actually) were made in the tense negotiations with this recalcitrant program as I entered the final revisions with my own limited skills: especially the absence of key signatures² between ‘key’/makam changes, music spacing, and the use of the Persian *tekye* symbol for rapid appoggiatura ornaments (experienced ney players will have no problem discerning the idiomatic interval; slower appoggiaturas are notated with grace notes). Bar lines demarcate sections and phrases, accidentals hold through a line but return to the regular key signature on subsequent lines, cautionary accidentals occasionally appear when the modal context needs reinforcement. Fermatas over a bar line indicate a silence lasting several seconds, fermatas over eighth- and quarter-note rests are shorter than the bar line fermatas in proportion to their rhythmic value. ‘Scoops’ before a note (much less frequently after) are indicated by a short slur, occasionally a grace note.

‘Free rhythm’ (discussed further below) is notated here with loosely relative, not mathematically proportional, time values in an attempt to capture the floating, ‘levitated’ nature of the music—a technique appropriated by West Asian musicians and scholars in

² Occasionally signatures depart from convention when specific alternate intonations definitive of the makam are consistently used by Aka Gündüz (e.g., Hicaz with F-natural and Müstear with C-sharp).

the 20th century. Read the transcriptions along with the recording to acquire this feel, which essentially (and appropriately) eludes the linear, quantitative confines of notation.

Tone

Aka Gündüz was renowned by listeners and musicians alike for his rich, glorious tone, which is instantly identifiable. He had particular mastery of the ney's difficult fundamental register and its spellbinding 'deep tones' (*dem sesleri*). Feldman notes that the overtone singing effects featured in some Sunni *zikr* practices (which bring to mind possible connections with Central Asian traditions) is perhaps reflected in the convention of ney players exploiting this lower register (1996: 97-8), as any strong projection of these low notes requires a carefully controlled blend of harmonics. A keen and intuitive sense of balance is critical here: one must push forcefully but not so hard as to pop out of the fundamental register. Indeed, the ney presents the performer a profound Sufi lesson and practice in this regard. Aka Gündüz's taksims usually begin and end in this register, which he dwells upon in considerable length. His tone in the upper octave was focused, incisive, and soaring. While the taksim form traditionally showcases his individualistic compositional skills and knowledge of makam, his luminous spectrum of tone and carefully sculpted articulation accounts for much of his brilliance and the concomitant pacing of his taksims. As with other Asian modal traditions, one note can 'say it all'. This brings to mind the Sufi tale where an irritated apartment dweller knocks on the door of his musician neighbour. "Why do you keep sawing on that same note all day? It's driving me mad!" To which the musician responds with equal perplexity, "I finally found the right note, so why would I change it?"

Indeed, Aka Gündüz "used to view the breath of the *neyzen* as a symbol of the mystical syllable *Hū*, which articulated the fact of divine existence in the universe" (Feldman 1996: 97). His mastery of tone implies a mastery of breathing. In this regard it is interesting to note the recording of his taksim in Pençgah from 1968,³ which clearly captures his breathing between phrases; surprisingly, he seems to be struggling for breath on this particular occasion. But the soaring magic of his masterful musical utterances clearly overrode whatever efforts were involved in making them. The technique of the ney is largely interior: while we are keenly aware of our own technical tribulations and those of fledgling students, we can never know such things about masters. Perhaps an element of struggle and sacrifice was integral to his relationship with the instrument, though his expansive soaring conveyed to listeners a sense of great freedom and ease. While the cause of his untimely death at 45 years old is unclear in the available biographical accounts (a stroke or heart attack?), it apparently occurred suddenly while playing a recording session at Istanbul Radio (liner notes to Playasound PS 65078; Signell 2008).

³ On the LP *Music of Turkey: Music of the Mevlevi* (Anthology AST-4003).

Rhythm

‘Free rhythm’ is a definitive feature of most Asian modal improvisatory traditions.⁴ While modal/melodic parameters of these traditions are explicated and command our immediate attention as students of performance (and, by extension, music analysts) Feldman emphasizes that West Asian improvisatory traditions are equally differentiated by the local character and nuances of their ‘free rhythm’ (1996: 97, 275, 276). This rhythm in vocal genres is of course directly influenced by the rhythm of the local language (which in West Asia crosses linguistic families of Turkic, Semitic and Indo-Iranian) and their respective traditions of prosody. Instrumental genres are undoubtedly influenced by these linguistic determinants but not entirely bound to them. Indeed, individual instruments in the Turkish classical tradition have their own rhythmic idioms (more on this below).

In addition to his magnetic, luxurious tone, Aka Gündüz was a great master of rhythm and pacing, which created a sense of stately grace and open space—indeed, a compelling emptiness. Timbre and rhythmic control are the most mysterious, intuitive and unteachable facets of the taksim, reflecting the individual musician’s interior state: they are truly Sufistic qualities. As it is both futile and oxymoronic (perhaps even moronic) to analyze this primal dimension, I will only make these few very brief and superficial observations regarding Aka Gündüz’s treatment: his steady, stately flow of what I have notated as series of several quarter-notes being interrupted by an occasional eighth note; his frequent but judicious use of what I have notated as a dotted eighth-note followed by a sixteenth (occasionally used successively), and his play with stress or phase of a sequenced motive through various articulations.

The notation used in these transcriptions is qualitative and relative: a quarter note is ‘longer’ than a dotted eighth, which is ‘longer’ than a sixteenth. It does not necessarily denote the strict mathematical ratios of conventional notation, though to complicate matters further, many phrases do move very closely to these ratios. While an underlying pulse is often felt, I have made no attempt to explicate this with precision; in particular, the calibration of ‘fast moving’ notes is variously represented by eighth or sixteenth notes, depending on the surrounding context. Aka Gündüz’s seductive tempo ebbs and flows with a natural irregularity—it can be rock steady for relatively long stretches but more frequently features shifts of varying degrees of subtlety. I only occasionally denote noticeable tempo shifts in the transcriptions by simply indicating “faster” or “slower” than the previous phrase.

⁴ For a theoretical overview of ‘free rhythm’ see Martin Clayton, “Free Rhythm: Ethnomusicology and the Study of Music without Metre.” *Bulletin of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London* 59/2: 323-332, (1996).

Motivic Vocabulary

The secrets of Aka Gündüz's tone, articulation and rhythmic pacing are magical and must remain hidden from any discursive analysis. Without suggesting any sort of mechanical process, the melodic foreground of his taksims are steeped in a traditional repertoire of motives—short, elastic melodic units—that appear in an endless variety of transpositions, intervallic, modal and rhythmic settings. A partial listing of some of the more important and discernable motives is given at the end of this introduction. While I have made no attempt to compare these to the repertoire of other neyzens, my sense is that they constitute a fairly common practice and are undoubtedly deeply embedded in the vast composed repertoire.⁵ Signell (1977: 132) identified an Aka Gündüz 'personal phrase' or signature motive that is illustrated in Saba but occurs in various modal environments. Other stock materials of course include stereotyped motives that are definitive of particular makams, which may also be found discreetly transposed in varied modal contexts.

The choice of note values in the listing is arbitrary, as the motives appear in various rhythmic guises; rather it is the melodic shape that remains consistent. These motives appear more or less continuously throughout the taksims, regardless of makam, in a densely centonic foreground texture. Awareness of this motivic repertoire brings to the fore Aka Gündüz's above-mentioned mastery of rhythm, as the banal patterns are given life through his endless variation, propulsion and evocation of rhythm. His deployment of this motivic repertoire is further discussed below in the section on form and processes.

Modulation

While the Turkish makam traditions offers great freedom for modulation, Aka Gündüz's practice is rather conservative, even limited, given the huge repertoire to choose from. But following Kudsi Erguner's observations (2005: 101, 110-12), his playing puts a premium on depth of expression as opposed to the breadth of makam 'technique' frequently showcased by lesser players—he was surely more interested in pursuing quality than quantity. He spent long stretches of time in the same makam, feeling no need to move on, reflecting a focused stability that is effectively passed on to the listener. It is common for musicians in modal traditions to have personal affinities for specific 'favourite' modes and from the sample of recordings transcribed here, he had a clear preference for Segah (which usually slid in and out of Müstear and Evcara), Saba and Rast. The following six maqams and their satellites account for much of the transcribed music: Segah 'cluster' (Müstear, Evcara), Hicaz, Rast, Uşşak/Beyati, Tahir/Muhayyer, and Saba. Other maqams that appear less frequently include: Nihavend,

⁵ For an illuminating discussion on the nature of such stock patterns in traditional art forms, see Soetsu Yanagi, *The Unknown Craftsman: a Japanese insight into beauty*. London: George Allen and Unwin, 1972.

Neveser, Karcigar, Hüseyini, Arazbar, Kürdi, Acem Aşiran, Hüzzam, and Buselik or Beyati transposed to Yegah (depending on the ambiguous intonation of the second degree, falling as it does on an idiomatically elastic pitch area of the ney, executed with the thumb). The latter transposed makam would appear to be an idiosyncratic favourite, perhaps even somewhat of a trademark modulation compared to other players. Another proclivity, which many musicians might view as a defect, was his tendency to ignore the descending *seyir* of Evcara in favor of an ascending one. This occurs with such frequency in his taksims (including what is surely his most widely heard: the contest scene at the beginning of the 1978 film *Meetings with Remarkable Men*, wherein he successfully made the ‘mountains vibrate’⁶) that it may be considered a trademark quirk of his style.

Here is a list of the sequence of modulations for each taksim⁷ (parentheses indicate brief allusions or passing modulations). While it is relatively easy to identify most of the makams in these taksims, I have followed the designations provided in the liner notes for the Playasound recording.

Ocora 56

Segah: Segah, Mustear, Segah, Evcara, Segah

Atlantic 782493-2

Beyati: (Rast on Kaba Cargah [link from Na’at]), Beyati, Saba, Hüseyini, (Karcigar), Huzzam, Evcara, Rast, (Beyati on Yegah), Beyati

Hicaz: no modulation (brief chromatic colouring)

Segah: Müstear, (Beyati on Yegah), Segah, (Buselik on Yegah), Segah

Hicaz (II): Hicaz, (Nikris), Tahir, Saba, (Neveser on Neva), (Uşşak on Neva), Saba, (Buselik on Yegah), Hicaz

Hicaz (III): no modulation

‘Arazbar’⁸: Arazbar, (Karcigar), Uşşak, Arazbar/Uşşak

⁶ For what it’s worth, it was the overtone singing (over-dubbed by someone else) that won his character the contest, rather than the brief extract of his own ney playing. Kudsi Erguner (2005:86) describes how he and Aka Gündüz found the whole concept of trying to make the mountains vibrate rather bizarre.

⁷ Though not included among the transcriptions here, his taksim recorded in 1968 on the LP *The Music of Turkey: The music of the Whirling Dervishes (Mevlevi)* [AST 4003 Anthology] in makam Pençgah includes the modulation series: Rast, Segah, Müstear, Rast, Segah, (Uşşak), Pençgah/Nişabur.

⁸ This is a reasonable but nonetheless conjectural identification of the makam; there is no information on the recording and I have no idea if Aka Gündüz considered it thus. It is also unclear whether the short taksim in Hicaz (III) preceding this was intended as a separate track, though likely. The longer Arazbar

Playasound PS 65078

Rast: Rast/(Uşşak)⁹, Segah, Müstear, (Hicaz), (Segah), Mustear/Evcara, (Muhayyer, Hicaz), Beyati, Saba, Uşşak/Rast

Segah: Segah, Huzzam, Neveser, Karcigar, (Segah, Buselik on Yegah), Segah

Nihavend: Nihavend, (Acem Aşiran), (Nikris), Nihavend

Hicaz: Hicaz, (Rast), Hicaz, Evc, Evcara, Uşşak, Huseyni, Hicaz, Muhayyer, Saba/Sümbüle, (Sepehr¹⁰), (Kürdi, Saba, Buselik on Yegah), Hicaz

Rast II: Rast, Segah, Müstear, (Buselik on Yegah, Müstear), Nikriz, (Segah, Nikris), Rast, (Buselik on Yegah, Rast), Saba, (Saba Zemzeme), Acem Aşiran, (Ferahfeza), Segah, Rast

Form, Processes, and Other Stylistic Features

Feldman has noted that the style of taksim for ney differs considerably from that of other instruments: it shuns pyrotechnical display, is paced slower, and is more spacious and meditative, reflecting core Sufi musical values (1996: 98). Indeed, teachers of other instruments frequently recommend that students begin with the analysis and imitation of ney taksims for this very reason, as technical display is subordinate to clarity, modal evocation, and expression. Whereas Necdet Yaşar described the ideal tanbur taksim as being concise, densely concentrated, carefully engineered and dramatic—“like a detective novel”—he felt that Aka Gündüz’s long taksims from the Playasound disc were more like extended, informal “lessons... combining melody sources to make a long taksim” (personal communication, 1997). The fact that Aka Gündüz inserts excerpts of well known repertoire in these taksims particularly accounts for this impression: the *ilahi* Şolcennetin, the *Yuruk Semai* from the *Segah Ayin* (in taksim Segah), and the first half of the *salat* in Dilkesh Avaran (in taksim Hicaz). While I was not able to review all of the taksims transcribed here with Maestro Yaşar and there may be other excerpts of compositions inserted elsewhere in the sample, my sense is that this is probably not the case, at least to any significant degree.

section was not included on the CD reissue of the original LP (neither was the Koran recitation that appeared on the LP).

⁹ Aka Gündüz plays with ambiguous allusions to Uşşak while in Rast, a tendency of the latter makam noted by Stubbs (1994).

¹⁰ According to Necdet Yaşar (personal communication, 1998).

Some remarks are in order with regard to the length of Aka Gündüz's taksims presented here. The opening taksim on the Atlantic recording is 10 minutes long and the Playasound disc features taksims of 19 and 23 minutes length—veritable marathons given the traditional scope of the genre. Convention among neyzen's¹¹ recording taksims in the late 1990s for the domestic Turkish market was toward presenting a continuous string of 7-15 short makams on a 20 or 30-minute side of a cassette, with no return to the initial makam.

Form: As noted above, Aka Gündüz's taksims spend a great deal of time in the low register, wherein they inevitably begin, expand gradually through the middle and upper registers and return—thus reflecting the archetypal arch profile of Turkish compositional genres. The amount of time spent in the upper register, analogous to the *meyan hane*/formal section, varies considerably but is often quite short; likewise, it is usually in a different makam from that of the home modality of the taksim.

Middle and background formal dimensions of Turkish taksims are of course largely determined by the definitive elements of the individual makams themselves—melodic path (*seyir*) goal tones, polarized pitches, with their intrinsic gravitational pull—and their modulatory sequence of appearance (listed above).

Melodic development and rhetorical gestures: As is idiomatic in the traditional style, there is a pervasive use of melodic sequence and transformations of sequences—of anything from 3 note units to strings of a dozen or more in relatively complex rhythmic settings—throughout the taksims. In constructing phrases Aka Gündüz made fairly frequent use of motivic extensions—as commonly associated with the South Indian *strotovaha yati* (expansion, addition) of formal development—where a motive or phrase is repeated while successively adding a few notes at each repetition.¹² The opening phrase of the Hicaz taksim on page 24 presents the opposite process of reducing or truncating the idea with successive repetitions (marked here by the ideas descending from the pitch D/Yegah); the truncation is often applied to developing sequences as well. These processes are both generative and rhetorical. While Aka Gündüz was interested in various non-Western musics, it is unclear whether he was influenced by Karnatak music or developed this on his own (it is, after all, a logical generative practice that is not

¹¹ Such as Ahmet Şahin, M. Sadreddin Özçimi, and İlhan Barutçu. Kudsi Erguner's international releases generally present medium-length taksims with interior modulation; his first recording from 1978, *Meditations on the Ney* (Philips 6586039) and Süleyman Erguner's taksims on the CD *Şah Ney* (Mega Muzik, CD-011) seem closer to Aka Gündüz's extended approach.

¹² Among other less obvious instances: page 2/systems 3-4; page 3/system 3; p.4/s.11ff.; p.17/systems 5 and 7; p. 25/s.9; p.26/s.11; p.29/s.1; p.34/s.4; p.39/s.1, along with the terminal flourishes in his longer Hicaz taksims.

exclusive to that tradition). Motivic development could also be less systematic and predictable.¹³

Aka Gündüz would occasionally repeat a short motive for rhetorical purposes,¹⁴ sometimes repeating with minor variation.¹⁵ Likewise, he had a predilection for employing a repeated rolling figure with an alternating ‘half-tone/whole-tone’, quasi-octatonic intervallic structure as a cadential or modulating idiom.¹⁶ Another rhetorical gesture he used with some frequency was to suspend melodic motion with a repeated note and then leap upward to a sustained pitch.¹⁷ He often followed dramatic leaps with slow stepwise descents (like a good *cantus firmus* in Western species counterpoint) or occasionally a trill. He also employed ‘half-cadences’ on the 2nd or 7th degrees of the makam to wonderful dramatic and rhetorical effect. Wide ‘trills’ of a third (major, minor and augmented second) also appear with relative frequency, usually placed climactically for dramatic emphasis. In the middle register of many taksims he often executed fast diatonic runs stretching up to an octave, which are rhetorically repeated between sudden stops and/or subjected to variation and development.

Antiphonal register shifts: Two excerpts¹⁸ from the taksims transcribed here feature ‘polyphonic melody’, evoking the effect of two parts by alternations of register. Aka Gündüz occasionally uses the ‘call and response’ shift of registers more characteristic of Arab and Persian ney styles. The Atlantic Hicaz II taksim (p.11/s.6) includes a motif in Saba successively repeated in each of the three registers—this gesture (always in Saba) found great currency in the taksims of younger players in the following decades.¹⁹

Recycling phrases: While I haven’t done any exhaustive accounting, like virtually all improvising musicians Aka Gündüz recycled entire phrases subject to floating degrees of variation. At times these recurrences are associated with a particular makam, at others they are transposed. This practice can be conceived as somewhat of an extension of the motivic/centonic processes described above. A gesture or phrase idea common in many Aka Gündüz taksims is a stately, balanced arch in relatively slow steady notes in the upper register; he frequently uses this in the modal domain of Tahir/Muhayer but it is found in various transpositions as well.²⁰ It takes on an effective formal significance in his Arazbar taksim, appearing three times in different modal guises, using F or F# as its departing pitch.

¹³ Page 27/end of the first system presents an interesting example.

¹⁴ E.g., page 3/system 2; p.6/s.8; p.27/s.6; p.35/s.12.

¹⁵ E.g., p.27/systems 9-10.

¹⁶ E.g., p.7/s.1; p. 30/systems 5 and 7 (in different transpositions); p.37/s.12.

¹⁷ E.g., p.2/s.5; p.5/s.8; p.11/s.11; p.21/s.5; p.26/s.10; p.38/systems 1 and 4.

¹⁸ Page 13/s.1 and p.24/s.3ff.

¹⁹ I don’t know if this gesture originated with Aka Gündüz or is a common traditional inheritance.

²⁰ E.g., p.6/s.4; p.11/s.1; p.13/systems 5 and 8; p.14/s.2; p.20/s.2; p.21/s.11; p.26/s.2.

Composition and improvisation: In Aka Gündüz’s taksims particular makams feature consistent gestures that suggest a makam-specific compositional level of thinking. Some examples: his longer Hicaz taksims both include an appearance of Saba in the high register just past the midpoint, exit this by similar means via the chromatic neighbouring of the pitch Muhayyer,²¹ and end with long, florid, additive diatonic runs from the lower through to the upper-middle register. Taksims in Segah develop in the lower register, slide between Mustear and Evcara, and proceed to the middle register maintaining this modal aggregate, often returning to Segah proper (i.e., there is no intervening makam before the appearance of the ‘Segah aggregate’ in the middle register). Often following prolonged activity in the lower register, he liked to leap from Kaba Segah up the octave to Segah and proceed to develop that register. And so on.

Other Aka Gündüz transcriptions

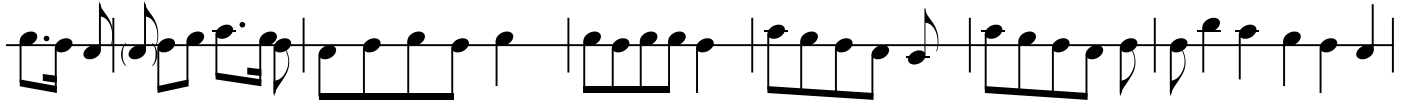
Given Aka Gündüz’s powerful musicianship, mystical depth, and his endearment among musicians and music-lovers alike, it comes as no surprise that his taksims have received the attention of other scholars, musicians and enthusiasts. Other transcriptions of that I am aware of include those of Stubbs (1994) and, with an interesting technological twist that shows immense potential, those of Ender Erkmén found on Youtube.com under the posting name “klasik53.” Readers may wish to consult these (some of which include performances I’ve transcribed in addition to others that I haven’t) for comparative purposes. There are undoubtedly other efforts and presentations that I am unaware of.

Knowing when to stop: *Khāmush!*...

Having laid out these structural, external features of Aka Gündüz’s taksims I feel quite guilty of promoting a coldly empirical, mechanistic view of his extraordinary, inspired playing, a view that is utterly alien to the essential significance of his music. But in tracing his aural footprints I have merely deduced some contents of his craft and creative toolkit—particular tendencies, structures and practices that he favoured. These observations are not a blueprint for making great music, any more than knowing the notes of the blues scale along with some ‘licks’ can be a recipe for a powerful performance of the blues. The radiant energy of Aka Gündüz’s music reflects an interior state of grace and emptiness that cannot be copied, formulated or even understood. However, this transcendent beauty can inspire us to open our ears and hearts to follow our own path toward the centre, like the proverbial moth to the flame. To “*listen to the ney*” and perhaps, for a fleeting moment...find silence...

²¹ Which may be interpreted as Neveser on Neva at p.11/s.9 and a more ambiguous passing chromatic colouring at p.30/systems 3 and 4.

Motivic/Centonic Repertoire



'Personal phrase'
(Signell 1977:132)



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--Rob Simms
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Taksim from
Musique traditionnelle turque: pieces instrumentales (Ocora OCR 56, [ca. 1971])

Segah

The musical score for 'Segah' consists of ten staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with beams. There are several instances of trills and grace notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Mustear

The musical score for 'Mustear' consists of three staves of music. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, often grouped with beams. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

The first section of the score consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. A triplet of eighth notes is marked with a '3' above it. The second staff continues the melodic line. The third staff features a long, sweeping slur under a series of notes. The fourth staff continues the melodic development. The fifth staff concludes the section with a final note and a fermata.

Segah

The 'Segah' section consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The second staff continues the melodic line. The third staff features a long, sweeping slur under a series of notes. The fourth staff continues the melodic development. The fifth staff concludes the section with a final note and a fermata.

Evcara

The 'Evcara' section consists of three staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). It contains a melodic line with various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The second staff continues the melodic line. The third staff concludes the section with a final note and a fermata.

Segah

This musical score is written for a single melodic line on a grand staff. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The piece is characterized by a steady eighth-note pulse, often grouped into pairs or small runs. The melody features various rhythmic patterns, including eighth-note runs, quarter notes, and half notes, some with slurs and accents. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Taksim from
Music of the Whirling Dervishes (Atlantic 782493-2, [rec. Oct 31, 1978])

Beyati

(Rast on Kaba Cargah [link from the Na'at])

Beyati

The musical score for Beyati is written on ten staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several trills marked with 'tr' and some notes with fermatas. The melody is characterized by its fluid, improvisatory nature, typical of a taksim. The piece concludes with a fermata on the final note of the tenth staff.

Saba

The musical score for Saba is written on two staves. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several trills marked with 'tr' and some notes with fermatas. The melody is characterized by its fluid, improvisatory nature, typical of a taksim. The piece concludes with a fermata on the final note of the second staff.

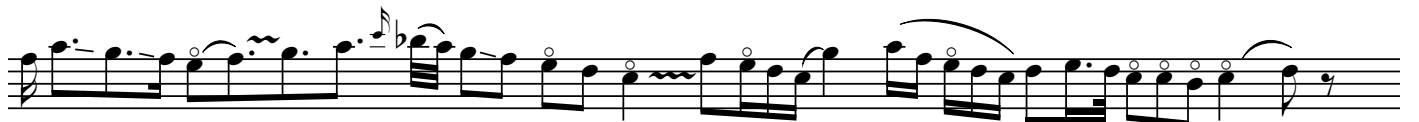
The first system of the musical score consists of five staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It features a complex melodic line with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The second staff is a bass clef, providing a rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes. The third staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb), containing a melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The fourth staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), continuing the melodic development. The fifth staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), concluding the system with a final melodic phrase.

Huseyni

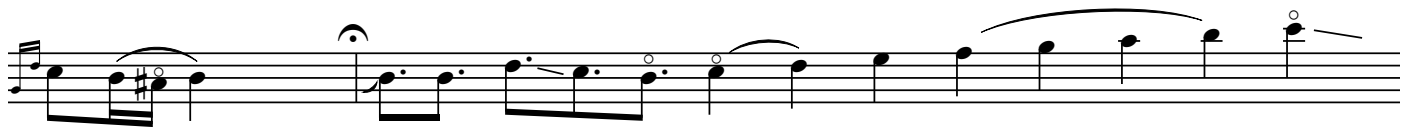
The second system of the musical score, titled "Huseyni", consists of five staves. The top staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It begins with a melodic phrase that includes a fermata. The second staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), continuing the melodic line with various ornaments and slurs. The third staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), featuring a melodic line with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes. The fourth staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), continuing the melodic development. The fifth staff is a treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#), concluding the system with a final melodic phrase.

(Karcigar)

Huzzam



3

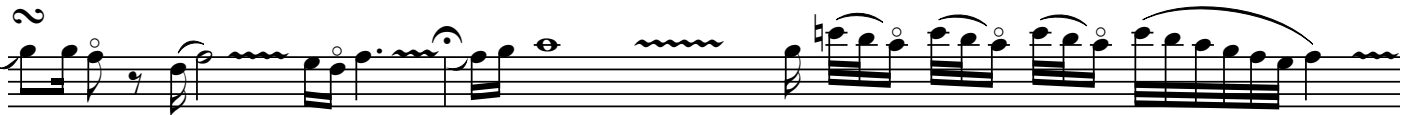


3

Evcara



faster





Rast



(Beyati on Yegah)

Beyati



slower



Hicaz

(after the 4th selam)

The musical score is written on seven staves in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ornaments. The melody is characterized by the Hicaz scale, featuring a major second, minor third, major third, perfect fourth, minor fifth, major fifth, and major sixth. The score concludes with a double bar line on the seventh staff.

Segah

Mustear

Musical notation for Mustear, consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a fermata at the end of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns.

Beyati on Yegah

Musical notation for Beyati on Yegah, consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line.

Segah faster

Musical notation for Segah faster, consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line.

(Buselik on Yegah)

faster

Musical notation for (Buselik on Yegah), consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line.

(Segah)

Musical notation for (Segah), consisting of three staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The music is characterized by a steady eighth-note rhythm. A fermata is placed over the final note of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line.

Hicaz (II)

A musical score for the Hicaz maqam, consisting of ten staves of music. The score is written in a single system with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several instances of wavy lines (trills or ornaments) and fermatas. The piece concludes with a final fermata on a whole note. The notation is typical of Western staff notation for a melodic line.

Tahir

Saba

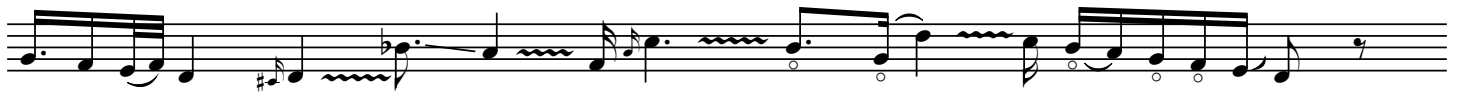
(Neveser on Neva)

(Ussak on Neva)

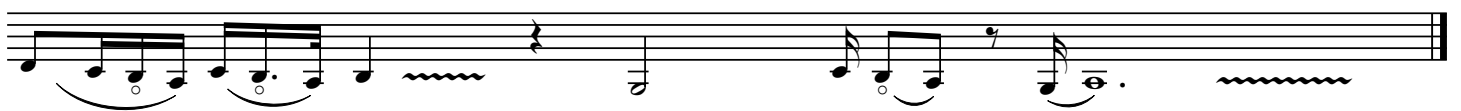
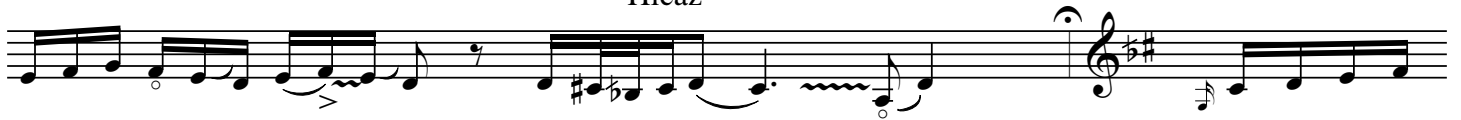
(Saba)



(Buselik on Yegah)



Hicaz



Hicaz (III) and 'Arazbar'

Musical notation for Hicaz (III) and 'Arazbar' section. The notation is written on three staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It features a melodic line with various ornaments and rests. The second and third staves are in bass clef and contain rhythmic accompaniment with eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together.

(NB 'Arazbar' section is only included on the original LP, not the re-issued CD)

'Arazbar'

Musical notation for the 'Arazbar' section, written on four staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a common time signature. It begins with a double bar line and a repeat sign. The notation includes a variety of note values, rests, and ornaments, with some notes marked with a question mark. The second, third, and fourth staves are in bass clef and provide a rhythmic accompaniment.

(Karcigar)

Musical notation for the (Karcigar) section, written on a single staff in treble clef with a common time signature. The notation features a melodic line with various ornaments and rests, including a key signature change to one sharp (F#) and a common time signature.

Ussak

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Ussak". The score is written on seven staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes a variety of rhythmic values such as eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and slurs. The second staff continues the melodic line with similar rhythmic patterns. The third staff introduces a bass clef, indicating a change in the instrument or voice part. The fourth staff returns to a treble clef. The fifth and sixth staves continue the melodic development with intricate rhythmic patterns. The seventh staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The overall style is characteristic of traditional Middle Eastern or Turkish music, featuring complex rhythmic structures and specific melodic intervals.

Taksim from
Turquie: Le Ney/Turkey: Aka Gunduz Kutbay Plays the Ney (Playasound PS 65078, [1991])

Rast

The musical score is written on 12 staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and fermatas. There are several instances of dense sixteenth-note passages. A fermata is placed above the fifth staff. The word "Segah" is written below the eighth staff, with a fermata above the first note of the following staff. The score concludes with a final fermata on the twelfth staff.

tr

(Buselik on Yegah)

tr

This section consists of ten staves of musical notation. It begins with a melodic line on a single staff, followed by a pair of staves. The notation includes various note values, rests, and ornaments. A trill (tr) is indicated above a note in the third staff. The fourth staff is labeled "(Buselik on Yegah)". The section concludes with a trill (tr) above a note in the tenth staff.

Mustear

(Hicaz)

This section, titled "Mustear", consists of four staves of musical notation. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The notation includes various note values, rests, and ornaments. The section concludes with a note marked with a fermata and labeled "(Hicaz)".

(Segah)



Mustear



(Evcara)



(Muhayer)



(Hicaz)



Beyati



The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Saba". The score is written on ten staves. The first nine staves contain a complex melodic line with various rhythmic values, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are several instances of triplets, indicated by a "3" below the notes. The notation includes slurs, ties, and dynamic markings. The tenth staff is a separate section, also titled "Saba", which begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. This section features a more rhythmic and repetitive melodic pattern, primarily consisting of eighth and sixteenth notes.

Ussak

Rast

Segah

Ilahi: *Sol cennetin*

This musical score consists of ten staves of notation. The first nine staves are arranged in pairs, with the upper staff of each pair containing a melodic line and the lower staff containing a more rhythmic accompaniment. The notation includes various note values, rests, and ornaments. The tenth staff is a single melodic line. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 6/8. The word "Huzzam" is written above the first staff of the tenth system.

The first section of the music consists of six staves. The notation includes a variety of rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, often beamed together. There are several instances of slurs and accents. A fermata is placed over a note in the second staff. The music is written in a single system across the six staves.

Neveser

The 'Neveser' section consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo marking 'faster' is placed above the second staff. The notation features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some slurs and accents. The section concludes with a fermata over the final note.

Karcigar

The 'Karcigar' section is a single staff of music. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps. The notation includes eighth and sixteenth notes, with a fermata at the end of the piece.

(Segah)

(Buselik on Yegah)

Segah

Segah Ayin Yuruk Semai

taksim Segah

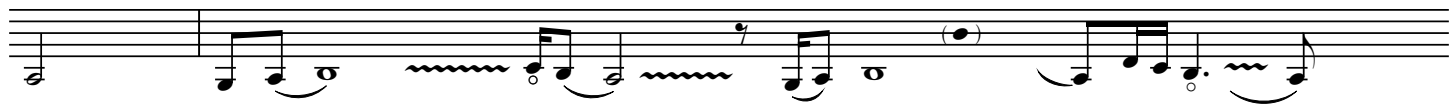
Nihavend

The musical score for "Nihavend" consists of ten staves of music. The notation includes various rhythmic values, accidentals, and performance markings. Key features include:

- Staff 1:** Starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. It features a melodic line with a trill (*tr*) and a fermata.
- Staff 2:** Continues the melodic line with a slur and a fermata.
- Staff 3:** Shows a more complex rhythmic pattern with sixteenth notes and slurs.
- Staff 4:** Features a series of eighth notes with slurs and a fermata.
- Staff 5:** Continues the eighth-note pattern with slurs and a fermata.
- Staff 6:** Shows a melodic line with a slur and a fermata.
- Staff 7:** Includes a tempo marking *faster* and a fermata.
- Staff 8:** Features a melodic line with a slur and a fermata.
- Staff 9:** Includes a tempo marking *(Nikris)* and a fermata.
- Staff 10:** Ends with a trill (*tr*) and a fermata.



Nihavend



Hicaz



slower

(Rast)

This section of the musical score consists of ten staves of notation. It begins with a melodic line featuring eighth and sixteenth notes, some with ties and slurs. A 'slower' tempo marking is placed above the second staff. The notation includes various rhythmic values and rests. A '(Rast)' marking is placed above the eighth staff, indicating a specific rhythmic pattern. The piece concludes with a final note and a fermata.

Hicaz

slower

This section of the musical score, titled 'Hicaz', consists of four staves of notation. It begins with a melodic line in a different mode, characterized by a specific intervallic structure. A 'slower' tempo marking is placed above the third staff. The notation includes various rhythmic values and rests, typical of the Hicaz mode. The piece concludes with a final note and a fermata.

This musical score consists of ten staves of notation. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and accidentals. The piece features several dynamic markings, including accents (>) and hairpins ($\hat{>$). A section labeled "Evc" begins on the fifth staff, and a section labeled "Evcara" begins on the eighth staff. The score concludes with a final cadence on the tenth staff.

The first part of the musical score consists of ten staves. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests. There are several instances of slurs and ties, indicating phrasing and melodic connections across measures. The key signature appears to be one sharp (F#), and the time signature is not explicitly shown but the notation suggests a common or similar meter.

slower

The second part of the musical score begins with a tempo change indicated by the word "slower". It consists of three staves. The first staff continues the melodic line with a similar rhythmic pattern. The second staff features a section labeled "Ussak" in a larger font, which is a specific rhythmic pattern from the Ussak makam. This section is marked with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff continues the piece with more complex rhythmic patterns, including sixteenth-note runs.



(Salat-Dilkesh Avaran)



Hicaz



Muhayer

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "Muhayer". The score is written in 4/4 time and consists of 12 staves of music. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ornaments. The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The music is characterized by intricate melodic lines and complex rhythmic patterns, typical of traditional Middle Eastern or Turkish music. The word "Muhayer" is written above the third staff, indicating the name of the piece.

Saba

Musical notation for the Saba section, consisting of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music features a mix of eighth and sixteenth notes, with some rests and a fermata. A question mark is placed above the final measure of the first staff. The second and third staves continue the melodic line with various rhythmic patterns and accidentals. The fourth staff concludes the section with a final cadence.

(Sepehr)

Musical notation for the (Sepehr) section, consisting of three staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a series of eighth notes with a fermata over the final measure. The second and third staves continue the melody with similar rhythmic patterns and accidentals, ending with a final cadence.

Kurdi

Musical notation for the Kurdi section, consisting of two staves. The first staff begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). It features a series of eighth notes with a fermata over the final measure. The second staff continues the melody with similar rhythmic patterns and accidentals, ending with a final cadence.

(Saba)

Musical notation for the (Saba) section, consisting of one staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is composed of eighth notes with a fermata over the final measure.

(Kurdi)

Musical notation for the (Kurdi) section, consisting of one staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is composed of eighth notes with a fermata over the final measure.

(Buselik on Yegah)

Musical notation for the (Buselik on Yegah) section, consisting of one staff. It begins with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is composed of eighth notes with a fermata over the final measure.

Hicaz

A musical score for the Hicaz maqam, consisting of ten staves of music. The notation is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The score includes various rhythmic values such as eighth, sixteenth, and thirty-second notes, as well as rests and fermatas. The music is characterized by its melodic contour and specific intervals, typical of the Hicaz mode. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Rast (II)

Mansur ney

Musical score for Mansur ney, Rast (II). The score consists of 12 staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The notation includes various ornaments and phrasing marks.

Segah

Musical score for Segah. The score consists of 3 staves of music. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 2/4. The music features a variety of rhythmic patterns, including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. The notation includes various ornaments and phrasing marks.



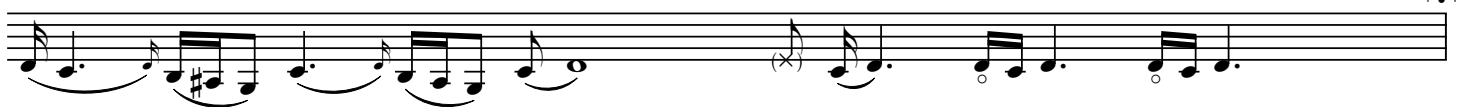
Mustear

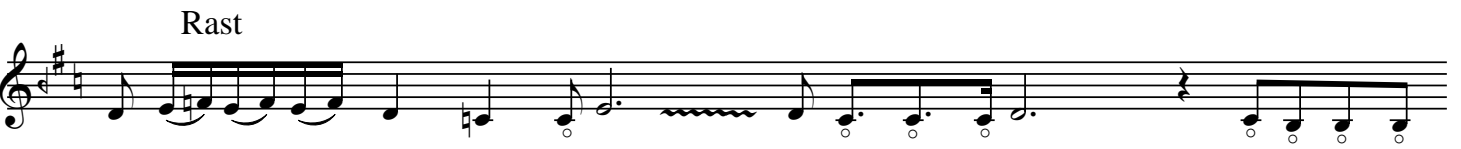
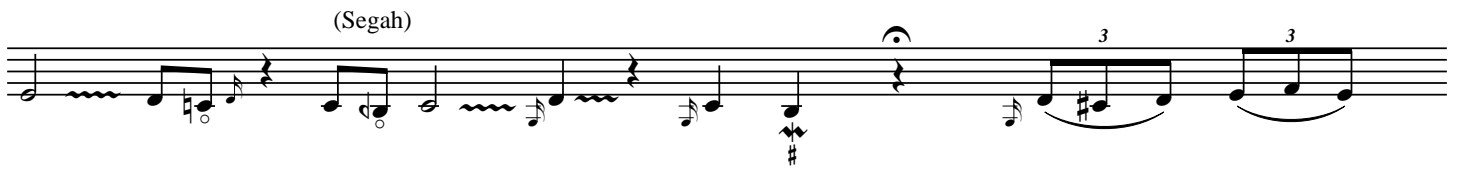


(Buselik on Yegah)



(Mustear)





(Saba cont'd)

Musical score for 'Saba cont'd' consisting of 12 staves. The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, slurs, and ornaments. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The tempo marking 'faster' appears twice, once above the 6th staff and once above the 12th staff. The 12th staff also features a 'tr' (trill) marking. The 12th staff contains a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' below them. The 11th staff contains a trill marked with 'tr' above it. The 12th staff contains a triplet of eighth notes marked with a '3' below them.

(Saba cont'd)

The image displays a musical score for a piece titled "(Saba cont'd)". The score is written on ten staves of music. The notation includes various rhythmic values such as eighth and sixteenth notes, as well as rests and ornaments. There are several instances of trills and grace notes throughout the piece. The key signature is one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is not explicitly shown but appears to be common time. The piece concludes with the text "(Saba Zemzeme)" positioned above the final staff, which features a more complex, rhythmic pattern.



Acem Asiran



slower



faster

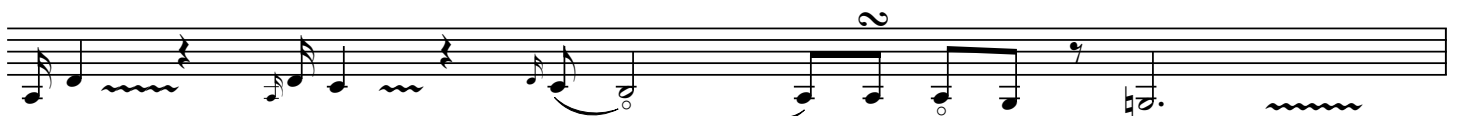
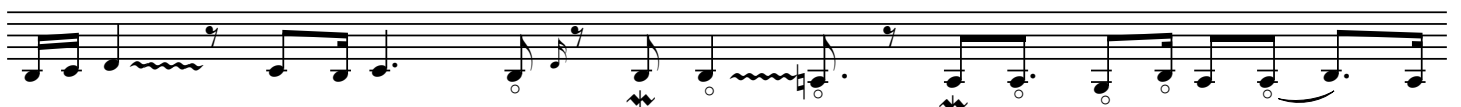
(Ferahfeza)



Segah



Rast



The first system of music consists of four staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The music features a complex rhythmic pattern with many sixteenth and thirty-second notes, often beamed together. The second staff continues this pattern with some longer notes and rests. The third staff shows more intricate rhythmic figures. The fourth staff concludes the system with a final note and a fermata.

(Ussak)

The second system consists of two staves. The first staff continues the musical theme with various rhythmic patterns and rests. The second staff features a more melodic line with some longer notes and a fermata at the end.

Rast

The third system consists of six staves. The first staff continues the musical theme with various rhythmic patterns and rests. The second staff features a more melodic line with some longer notes and a fermata at the end. The third staff continues the melodic line with some longer notes and a fermata at the end. The fourth staff continues the melodic line with some longer notes and a fermata at the end. The fifth staff continues the melodic line with some longer notes and a fermata at the end. The sixth staff concludes the system with a final note and a fermata.