

Chairman of Turkish - Greek Business Council
Şarik Tara & Mrs. Lale Tara

Kindly request the pleasure of

Mr. & Mrs. Costas Simitis's

company at a dinner on Tuesday,
June 1st, 2004 at 20:30
at the Hotel Grand Bretagne-Athens.

OXI ✓
Πρωτοβουλία
6-5-2004

Programme

20:30 Cocktail Royal Room

21:00 Piano recital by Mr. Fazıl Say Grand Ballroom

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Ulvi Cemal Erkin

Fazıl Say

Fazıl Say

Fazıl Say

Variations

Feelings

Black Earth

Ballade

Two Jazz Fantasies

21:45 Dinner Golden Room

Born in 1970 in Ankara, Turkey. Fazıl Say studied piano and composition at the Ankara State Conservatory. At the age of seventeen he was awarded a scholarship that enabled him to continue his studies with David Levine at the Robert Schumann Institute in Düsseldorf. In 1994 he was the winner of the Young Concert Artists International Auditions and his international career was launched.

Fazıl Say is a regular guest of the New York Philharmonic, the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, St. Petersburg Philharmonic, BBC Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de France and many other leading orchestras worldwide. He played besides many others, at the Lucerne Festival, the Verbier Festival, the Montpellier Festival, the Ruhr Piano Festival, the Beethoven Festival Bonn and the leading concert halls like Musikverein Vienna, Suntory Hall Tokyo, Carnegie Hall and Avery Fisher Hall New York, Berlin Philharmonie, Wigmore Hall London. Together with violinist Maxim Vengerov he embarks 2004 on a World Tour.

Say's passion for jazz and improvisation led him to found a "worldjazz" quartet with the Turkish Ney virtuoso Kudsi Erguner.

Fazıl Say is just as much a composer as he is a pianist. Black Hymns, which he composed at the age of sixteen, was performed as a part of Berlin's

750th anniversary celebrations. In 1991, he premiered his Concerto for piano and Violin with the Berlin Symphony, and in 1996 he premiered in Boston his second piano concerto Silk Road. The concerto will be performed in 2003/4 at least a dozen times by various orchestras with Fazıl Say as the pianist. The Turkish Ministry of Culture commissioned his oratorio Nazım, based on poems by the famous Turkish poet Nazım Hikmet. Nazım was premiered in Ankara in 2001 in the presence of Turkey's president. The world premiere of Say's Piano Concerto No.3, commissioned by Radio France and Kurt Masur, was performed by the Orchestre National de France in Paris in January 2002 to great public people and has been recorded on CD as before Nazım. He composed hilarious jazz adaptations for piano and orchestra of such works like Mozart's "Alla turca" and "Paganini Jazz". Currently he works on violin concerto and ballet music. In 2003 he was appointed "Artist in Residence" by Radio France.

The Sacre is part of Fazıl Say's worldwide success story and played by him in all international concert halls. Say has received numerous international awards for this recording, including the 2001 Echo-Preis Klassik and the 2001 German Music Critics Best Recording of the Year Award. His most recent recording features Tchaikovsky's Piano Concerto with the St. Petersburg Philharmonic under Yuri Termirkanov and Franz Liszt's B Minor Sonata.



Fazıl Say

Dr. Şarik Tara

April 15, 2004

Mr. Costas Simitis

As a person devoted to friendship and peace, I do hope that the Turkish-Greek relations continue with this belief.

I met Mr. Costa Carras during the 1983 Bilderberg Convention in Stockholm. Our mutual perceptions met along the same lines. Several meetings were held by Turkish and Greek businessmen and academicians in London and Athens. These meetings were held in close circles and continued until 1988. In 1987, my close friend and President of the World Economic Forum Mr. Klaus Schwab and I jointly decided to bring together the Turkish and the Greek Prime Ministers. In 1988, this joint goal was finally realized in Davos. During this meeting, the Turkish and Greek businessmen and their family members who were present were almost on the verge of tears. After this get-together, upon joint consent of Mr. Turgut Özal and Mr. Andreas Papandreou, the decision to establish the Turkish-Greek Business Council and the Greek-Turkish Economic Committee was taken. I was the Chairman of the Turkish organization, while Mr. Theodore Papalexopoulos headed the Greek side.

I was the Chairman of the Business Council for 12 years of the total 15. Mr. Rahmi Koç was Chairman for three years while I continued my services as Vice-Chairman. We had joint meetings once or twice a year. Following Mr. Theodore Papalexopoulos, Mr. George Konstantinidis took over the Chair, with Mr. Panagiotis Koutsikos succeeding. In the meanwhile, Mr. Athanese Lavidas, representing the young entrepreneurs, and I undertook various missions.

I contributed to the organization of the several unofficial meetings between Mr. T. Özal and Mr. K. Mitsotakis.

Aiming at a solution for Cyprus, we held various meetings in Istanbul, Athens, Brussels and Oslo, with the ex- foreign minister of Southern Cyprus, Mr. Alecos Michaelides, and later with Ambassador Mr. Richard Holbrooke, then responsible for the Area, and representatives of all four sides. During these meetings, we observed their close alliance. Before these, two other meetings were held in Washington D.C. with Turkish, Greek and American businessmen. At a dinner given in my honor by Archbishop Iakovas in New York, I explained the importance of Turkish-Greek friendship to more than twentyfive American businessmen of Greek origin. Also, during my various visits to Archbishop Christodoulos, we agreed on the importance of this friendship and Turkey's integration to the European Union.

The Finnish President Mr. Martti Ahtisaari and I decided to establish the North-South Economic Forum for the development of the economic, social and political relations of Northern and Southern Europe. We got together in Istanbul, Athens, Stockholm and Brijuni Island. This Forum will continue and the next meeting will be held in Vilnius-Lithuania in September 2004.

In addition, I delivered lectures at the Athens and Piraeus Universities, the Thessaloniki Forums, at the annual meeting of the Aegean Foundation, and at several other occasions which came up during the last twenty years. I believe that as a result of these efforts and others, I did contribute to the enhancement of the friendship between our respective countries. In fact, prior to the Helsinki Summit, towards the end of 1999, Mr. George Papandreou and Mr. Ismail Cem, during their New York talks, reached consensus in a series of issues. The Greek side expressed support towards Turkey's membership in the European Union. I consider this meeting a milestone in the enhancement of the Turkish-Greek friendship. If I have had a contribution towards this end, I shall be more than happy.

I ardently wish to thank both ministers, and especially Mr. George Papandreou.

In summary, I spent the last twenty years with unforgettable reminiscences, some mentioned and some not; but, the most important of them all are with friends I gained in this cause. I have reached the decision to hand over the Chair of the Turkish-Greek Business Council to the members of the more dynamic younger generation. However, needless to say, I am ready to give every assistance if needed.

As you will see in the enclosed invitation, I hope to see all my Greek friends at a dinner to be given on June 1, 2004. I take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for all our Greek friends who worked towards the development of our good relations. I also would like to thank everyone for the confidence extended to me.

My wife and I will rejoice at your acceptance of this dinner invitation.

Truly yours,

Şarik Tara