

New Performance Approaches to Urban *Bağlama* Music: Theoretical Suggestions Towards Traditional *Şelpe* Techniques of Bağlama

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The *bağlama* is one of the most common lute type instruments of Anatolian folk music heritage whose historical background extends back thousands of years. In last twenty years, performing techniques of the *bağlama* without plectrum, commonly called *şelpe*, which had been forgotten during the Republic era, have come to fore in urban society in Turkey. Since the 1990s, under the influence of the changing musical atmosphere of Turkish folk music performance, the historical *şelpe* tradition has evolved and dramatically changed in terms of a synthesis of Westernization and traditionalism.

With all these changes and developments in urban *bağlama* music of Turkey, one may approach the *bağlama* and *şelpe* techniques in a context of a hybrid theoretical method, mirroring the hybrid and “new” music tradition flourishing in cities. In this new hybrid theoretical method, Western instrumentation, such as the guitar and the piano, and the traditional theoretical approaches of the *bağlama* can be combined in one original theoretical method that belongs to urban *bağlama* music and its *şelpe* techniques.

Our study investigates a new instrumentation method for *şelpe* techniques, which could follow and reflect the *bağlama/şelpe* music of today.