Anglo-Turkish society

of horizons

Ali Ufki	*Peshrev & Semai (Turc 292 9v)* Türki *Eiu deghil saken gelur iotuna*
John Dowland Ali Ufki	Preludium Ilahī *Bize bizden olan iakiin u karib* Mezmur 2 *bûselik*
Henry Lawes	Love's sweet repose Speak, speak, at last reply
Ali Ufki Anon.	Türki *Küheylàn atlar beslerler* Go from my window
William Lawes	Perfect and endless circles are Why so pall and wan

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Ali Ufki	Nikriz Peşrev
Ali Ufki Heinrich Albert	Passagio nel Alamire Was ist dein Lieb Seelchen, habt ihr nicht gesehen
Ali Ufki William Lawes	Mezmur 3 *rast* Lord thy deserved wrath assuage
John Dowland	Lacrime If that a sinner's sighs
Ali Ufki	Peşrev *Żarbü'l-feth Nevāī* ?Semaī *Sunbul zedeser ki rehewi (188a)*
Henry Lawes	Or you, or I, nature did wrong! A strife betwixt two Cupids reconciled

about the programme

The central figure of our performance this evening is Wojciech Bobowski (1610-1675), who took the pen name Ali Ufkī: a Polish dragoman to the Ottoman court, and one of its most brilliant figures. Ali Ufkī was an accomplished musician, and amongst his many achievements - including the first translation of the Bible into Ottoman Turkish - are the two musical manuscripts he compiled by 1650.

These manuscripts represent the earliest surviving Ottoman music and demonstrate a musical culture of enormous breadth, across hundreds of instrumental pieces and songs from the Ottoman and European milieu, written in Turkish, Arabic, Persian, Kurdish, French, German - and English, in the form of music by contemporaries William and Henry Lawes.

Ali Ufkī's goal, however, was more than merely capturing the music being made around him. The inclusion of songs written in counterpoint, and of Ottoman music transcribed, astoundingly, for a European lute, argue that Ali Ufkī's project was far more ambitious: the siting of Ottoman music within a broader transcultural scene.

This is a remarkable precedent, and one that we feel has not been hitherto addressed. And so, in this world-first, we have taken Ali Ufkī at his word, and put together a programme in which secular and sacred English and Turkish music rubs shoulders freely on a European lute; in a spirit of open horizons, *ali ufuḳī.*

Sami Brown

performers

Daniel Thomson *tenor*
Sami Brown *lute*

Based in London, **Dowland's Foundry** specialise in vivid performances of 17th century song.

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