

Aysem ("I did not know you") set as OCA Composition descant exercise
 Used as an introduction to microtonal Middle Eastern monody and instruments

Allegretto (sadly) ♩ = 86

Mey *mf smoothly* (shake) + + +

Duduk *mp*

Davul or nagara (hands) *mf*

Allegretto (sadly) ♩ = 86

Female voice (mezzo soprano)

Male Voice (baritone or tenor)

6 Repeat same text during each verse

Mey

Duduk

Davul *f* *mf* *p* *f* *mf* (damp)

Fem. *mp*

Male *mf*

1.U - sak 'tan
 2.Bo- stan-dan

1,2.Ay - sem ner-den ge-li-yon
 1,2.Ben - se-ni bi-le - me-dim

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D.S. (verse 2)

Mey

Duduk

Davul

Fem.

Male

1.Be - lin-de-ki ku - sak - tan.
 2.Sir - tin-da-li fis - tan - dan.

(Yan-dim ca-kir Ay-se'm) 1.Be lin de-ki ku - sak - tan.
 2.Sir - tin-da-ki fis - tan - dan.

Instruments

Mey (or oboe or cornetino or cornetto fingering G# as first closed hole slightly less than a quarter tone flat)
 Duduk (or cor anglais here at concert pitch, or cornetto or lizard); use circular breathing for long drone notes
 Davul (two-sided drum) or preferably the smaller Nagara of Armenia; optionally Timbales in western orchestra

Intonation

This song uses the 'Rast' tetrachord on the tonic F sharp so the G sharp is indicated as a 'half sharp' which is about five-ninths of a semitone, i.e. a G sharp which is nearly a quarter-tone flat relative to equal temperament. Similarly there is a half sharp on D in the rising scale in the introduction on the mey. I have written the final G natural lower, in the Western style, and as soon as the ear has adjusted to the half sharps, this actually sounds quite flat!!

This is part of the 'Ussak' makam (mode) commonly used in Anatolia or 'Western Turkey' the source of this song

Translation (from 'Folk Songs of Europe' Maud Karpeles 1956)

1. Maiden, where are you coming from?
 From the town
 I love you, blue-eyed maiden,
 but I did not know you
 in your fine new belt of wool (*literally 'heirloom'*)
 fine new belt of wool

1. Maiden, where are you coming from?
 From the garden
 I love you, blue-eyed maiden,
 but I did not know you
 in your fine new gown of silk (*literally 'handmade'*)
 fine new gown of silk