

# ÇİĞDEM ASLAN

Rebetiko, Balkan & Anatolian Music



"Aslan possesses the smokiness that marks a true Rembetiko singer: You can get lost in the sound of her voice." *NPR, USA*

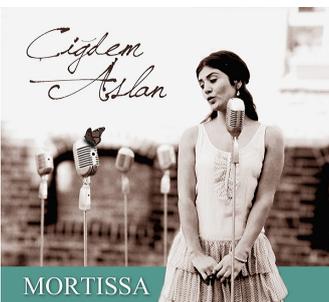


(c) Tahir Palali



\*\*\*\*\* "...Aslan sings up a storm  
... it is also an album of wild,  
haunted beauty."

Songlines Magazine



In a flying start, Çiğdem Aslan's debut album **Mortissa** was Songlines Magazine Album Of The Year 2013 and nominated as 'Best Album' in the fRoots Magazine Critics' Poll 2013. In October 2016 her second album, "**A Thousand Cranes**" was released and was nominated for various awards including Songlines Music Awards, Best Album 2017. Both albums entered the World Music Charts Europe from top ten.

Çiğdem (pronounced 'Cheedem'), was born in Istanbul to Kurdish parents from Turkey's Alevi community, and has always understood the ethnic mosaic that makes up modern Turkey. Through her university years studying English Literature, she performed folk songs in Turkey's different languages as part of a project to shine a spotlight on Anatolia's minority cultures.

Moving to London to study music, Çiğdem began performing with groups including Dunav Balkan Band, originally established in 1964, and the award-winning **She'koyokh Klezmer Ensemble**. As part of She'koyokh she has won plaudits for the "clear, natural ease" with which she sings (Songlines Magazine) and her "**no-nonsense from the heart passion**" (fRoots Magazine).

With her debut album "Mortissa" Çiğdem Aslan was stepping onto the international stage as a bright young star in her own right. The Guardian Newspaper described her as “one of the best British-based discoveries of the year”, going on to say, “Her success is down to her reworking of the old songs with a blend of delicate soulful vocals, subtle theatrics and a stage persona that could switch from stately to slinky and flirtatious...”

London’s Evening Standard named her “a lioness of Greek and Turkish song” who “transformed the Vortex into a Rebetiko club, with the audience sipping raki and hanging on every note.”

Her second album "A Thousand Cranes" is a mesmerising sequel to the songs of the 1920's Smyrna and Istanbul of her debut album. Taking its name after 'turna/τούρνα (crane)'; a migratory bird that resonates with strong symbolism in many cultures and mythologies; with "A Thousand Cranes", Çiğdem too is migrating through ages and across borders to continue her journey and explore songs of Athens, the Balkans and South East Anatolia. Keeping true to this lyrical journey, this second album was recorded in one of Athens' historical studios AntArt, where the likes of Theodorakis and Hadjidakis recorded their most famous compositions.

A band of world class musicians, led once again by the musical director Nikolaos Baimpas, accompanies her journey with a modern and crisp sound, embellishing the deep rooted melodies with modern jazzy influences and inspired improvisations.

The songs in this album ache with romance and nostalgia for a time when cultures, languages and ethnicities collided to create a music that seeps into our bones, with its joy and tragedy alike. Çiğdem's album is both a celebration of and a dedication to a time that, now more than ever, seems distant but still within reach. Çiğdem and her band spread a message of hope and resilience.

As well as touring and performing her solo Rebetiko project and performing Balkan songs with She'koyokh, Çiğdem occasionally performs traditional Alevi music with Tahir Palali at various festivals and venues around the world.

Çiğdem Aslan is in high demand for collaborations, European tours and cultural radio appearances.

For more information or live performance videos, recordings visit Çiğdem's website or email us for enquiries.

For press/poster photos go to <http://bit.ly/3aS7o9sPHOTOS>



(c) Alex Harvey Brown

#### PERFORMANCE HIGHLIGHTS

- Royal Albert Hall, London
- Elbphilarmonie, Hamburg
- Opera de Rennes, France
- Concertgebouw, Amsterdam
- WOMAD (UK & Spain)
- Festival Au Fil des Voix, Paris
- Southbank Centre, London
- Çlatt&Verkehr Festival, Austria
- Palau de la Musica, Valencia
- Mawazine Festival, Morocco
- Les Nuits de Fourvière, Lyon
- Førde Festivalen, Norway
- TFF Rudolstadt, Germany
- Palace of Arts, Budapest
- Jazz Cafe, London
- Pergamon Museum, Berlin
- BBC Radio
- Traumzeit Festival, Duisberg
- Warsaw Cultural Festival,
- Radio France
- Boğaziçi Üniversitesi, Istanbul
- Sziget Festival (HU)
- Sargfabrik (AU)
- Salam Orient Festival (AU)



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