

DenizBank VoiceUp A Cappella Festival to welcome over 550 musicians to Istanbul

Considering support to culture and arts as an investment in the future and saying “Yes to Arts” since day one, DenizBank has assumed the main sponsorship of DenizBank VoiceUp A Cappella Festival – a first in Türkiye – with the aim to make choir and a cappella music popular.

Welcoming over 550 musicians, 40 choirs and vocal bands from the Netherlands to Uruguay, Türkiye to Denmark, the festival will take place in 19 different spots in Istanbul between the dates of 22 – 27 August.

Pioneered by Vokal Akademi, of which Conductor Başak Doğan is the founding art director, DenizBank VoiceUp A Cappella Festival will host 25 different workshops and over 25 concerts conducted by globally known tutors and conductors. Expected to welcome more than 550 musicians and 5 thousand spectators across the world, The Real Group from Sweden – an inspiration to all a cappella music lovers for over 40 years, will perform as the headliner.

World-renowned choral conductors in Türkiye for the first time

Basilio Astulez from Spain, the founding conductor of Leioa Kantika Korala – which made it to the top 10 choirs of the world – will be delivering a lecture at the festival for the first time in our country while remarkable names such as Peder Karlsson, the founder of The Real Group from Sweden; Panda van Proosdij, the famous Dutch festival choreographer; Morten Kjær, the founder of Basix and M-Pact bands, Jim Daus Hjernø, who changed the course of global choral music with his Vocal Painting conducting technique, will be present at the curation workshops. Attendees will have the opportunity to see valued names such as Stephan Lutermann, Annemarie Homan, Emily May't Hoen, Randy Esen, Freeplay Duo, Agnes Hapsari, Sven Keet, Ruben Smits and Fidan Kurt Kasapbaşı at various workshops during the festival.

At the festival, a panel session entitled Women Leaders in Music will be held at art gallery Arter, with the participation of Melike Şahin, Ece Dizdar, Ceren Gündoğdu, choir choreographer Panda van Proosdij and Başak Doğan, with Dr. Aylin Vartanyan as the moderator, to further support women’s power in music and address equality in opportunities.

Concert experience in 19 different venues



The festival will take place in 19 different venues including Cemal Reşit Rey, Crimean Memorial Church, İstanbul Technical University Maçka Mustafa Kemal Amphitheatre, Sanatçılar Park, Arter Sevgi Gönül Auditorium and Backyard, Vosgeperan Armenian Church, Santa Maria Church and DenizBank Head Office. Expected to contribute significantly to Istanbul tourism, the festival tickets are available at vokalakademi.co/pass.

About DenizBank

DenizBank started its journey when it was acquired by Zorlu Holding in 1997 in the form of banking license from the Privatization Administration. The Bank was acquired by Dexia, one of the leading finance groups of Europe, in October 2006; and then its shares were sold to Russia's largest bank SberBank on September 28, 2012. As of July 31, 2019, the Bank was transferred to ENBD, again one of the largest institutions in its region.

Aiming to create a "financial supermarket" gathering various financial services under one roof, DenizBank Financial Services Group has 685 branches in total including the branches of subsidiaries and over 14 thousand employees operating in 81 provinces of Turkey, six domestic and three international financial subsidiaries, six domestic non-financial subsidiaries and a branch in Bahrain. DenizYatırım, Deniz Real Estate Investment Trust, Deniz Asset Management, DenizLeasing, DenizFactoring, fastPay, Intertech, NEOHUB, DenizKültür, Ekspres Bilgi İşlem ve Ticaret, Açık Deniz Radio – TV and Bantaş are the group's domestic subsidiaries while Eurodeniz, DenizBank AG and DenizBank Moscow are its international subsidiaries.

About Başak Doğan

Having completed her postgraduate studies at the Royal Danish Academy of Music as the first Turkish citizen to be admitted to the institution, Başak Doğan is the founding art director of Vokal Akademi. As the first and only one to practice the Denmark-originated improvisation method Vocal Painting in Türkiye, she is also the Türkiye representative of the World Choir Council. She continues her works with her choirs Chromas and Vokal Akademi Pop & Jazz Choir.

About Vokal Akademi

Vokal Akademi has been proudly representing Türkiye internationally for over 10 years. It is an art platform founded to make culture and arts accessible in Türkiye, to offer a safe space to people for artistic expression and to raise audience, critics, technical staff and artists for the sector.