


A woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white ribbed sweater and a colorful patterned scarf, is shown in profile playing a dark-colored acoustic guitar. She is standing in a public space, possibly a transit station, with a blurred background of people walking. The lighting is warm and indoor. The text 'Busking Istanbul' is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

Busking Istanbul

by Peter Graham


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Busking Istanbul

January 2015, Montreal

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In November 2012, I started taking photographs of musicians in Istanbul, and continued until August 2014. Why? It's a big subject, but mainly I was looking for a colourful specialty to focus on, musicians are generally out to be seen and photographed and so good subjects, and I have a catholic love for music and musicians so I could look for those special moments to catch. In August 2014 I moved to Montreal.

Usually my subjects were busking in the Metro stations or on Istiklal Caddesi, but many of them were very talented and did not consider themselves street musicians, rather they were taking the opportunity to earn some money to augment their other efforts.

In all, I photographed over 220 musicians and groups, some many times over the two years. Of those, I've mostly picked out the ones I got to know well and to appreciate their music as well as their photogeneity. Some of them have made properly produced commercial CDs and have travelled widely to festivals, concerts and other performances, some just play in the same place on the street in Istanbul. Several have appeared on television, either as the focus of a show or as part of a show, and at least one has appeared in a movie, albeit briefly. Most have been videoed by tourists and can be found on You-Tube, some many times.

The music that they perform includes classical, improvisational, Iranian, traditional jazz, modern jazz, traditional Turkish music, various kinds of popular music and modern Turkish music. The instrumentation varies from cellos, violins, trumpet, guitar, saxophone to Turkish bendirs, darbukas, Iranian santurs, tars, and many other new and old instruments from time to time. On Istanbul's Istiklal Caddesi, on a good day with lots of visitors, there may be 15 individual or groups of buskers playing from one to several hours, and changing with others throughout the day. Peak times are afternoon and evening in the balmy winter and late afternoon to evening on hot days in the summer.





CREDITS:

Thanks to the musicians that I know, in no particular order: Özgür Yalçın (Karagunes); Cuneýt; Juan Esposito; Karasızlar; Samuel Liebovic; Mübin Dünen; Yonatan Friedman; Ajsan Balkan; Damoon Yaghoobi; Koma Hebun (Ferhat & Serhat Çelik); Tomako Otaka; Zal Juglar; Band Izafi; LeAnn McIsaac; Nominoe Crawford; Mehrdad Kholghi; Emin Sadiku; Umit Taşkıran; Birsu Şallı; David & Shekinah; Sajad Hatemi; Ahmet Mosighi Ava; Donald Heller; King Kwa Zulu; Lucas Préleur; El Absurdistan (Marta, Gael & Minino); Hitoko Ono; Ali Pourmand; Payam Ghasemi; Elliot Ayling; Uygur Vural; Tchayok; Koma Se Bira (Erkan Benli, Egmen Adal & Barış Adal); Carlos Cattano; Florin Salam; Perşan Hakkı; Gadioura; Eldar Bora; Light In Babylon (Michal Elia Kamal, Julien Demarque & Metehan Çiftçi); Elcin Medghalchi; Erol Karagoz; Sercan; Coskun Tiryakioğlu; Ousmane Samake; Daniel Slabosky; Pelin Pektaş; Ebru Soylemez; Gizli Akan; Uninvited Jazz Band (Ozan Tunc, Jansky Tamamsky, Özgün Bora); Seray Yalçın; Sinan Drgn; Irena Gerasimov; Attila Turkoğlu; Gülten Tepe; Hazal Akkerman; Bora Tanyeli; Duygu Demir; Neriman Bolat; Babacan; Necati Yılmaz; Bedri Arisoy; Hakan Tugrul; Dev Bucak; İzzet Kızıllı; İsmet Kızıllı; Mustafa Çelik; Jack Butler; Farjad Kamal Pour; Bahram Deyjour; Dilan Balkay; Aygül Erce; Jean-Christophe Gairard; Michelangelo Severgnini; Ceyhun Soso Kaya; Hakan Kaya; Üner Demir; Huseyin Korkma; Ahmet Erkan Çelik; Sepehr Shad; Mehmed Mert Baycan. My apologies to those others here whose names I do not know.





























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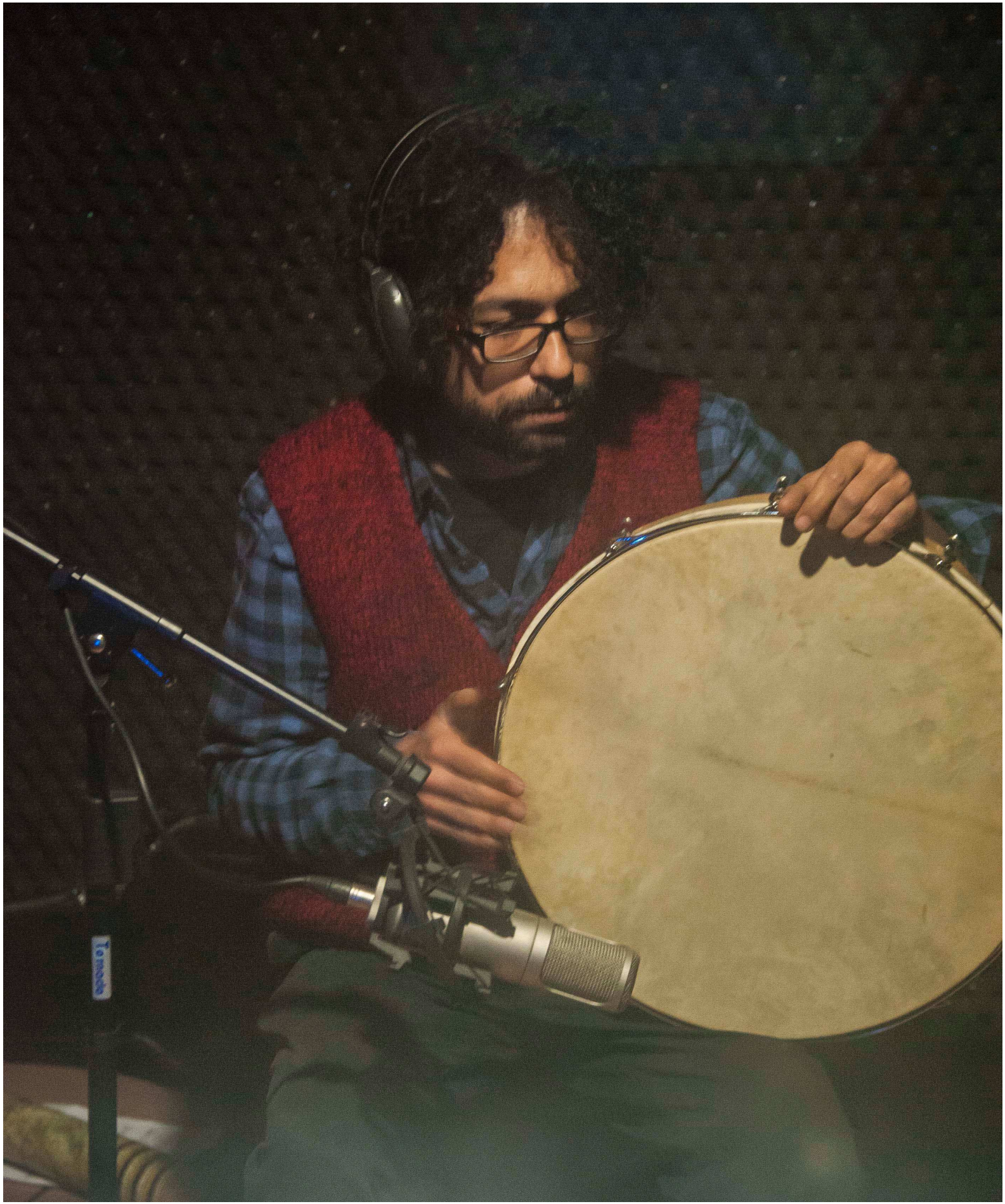
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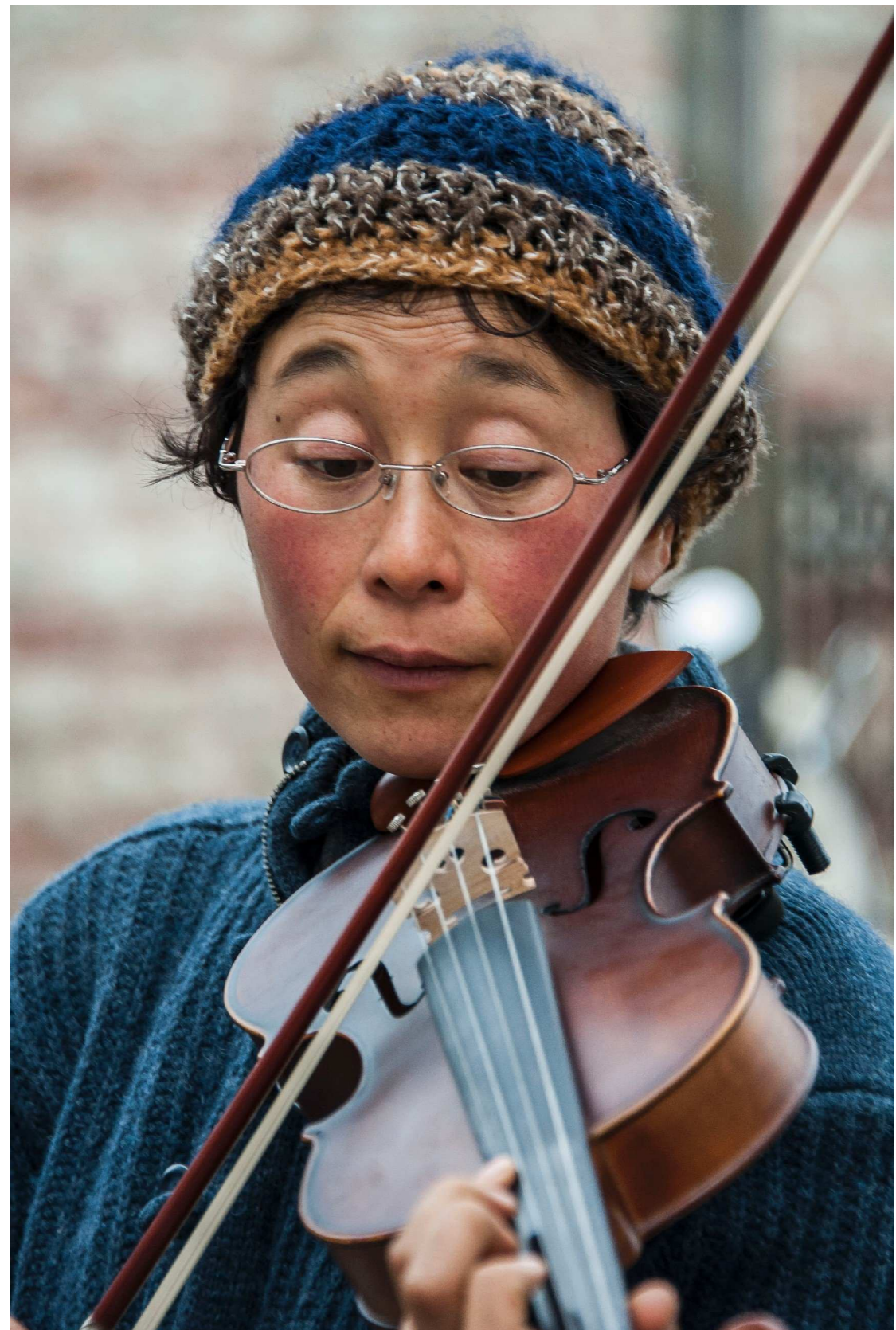


















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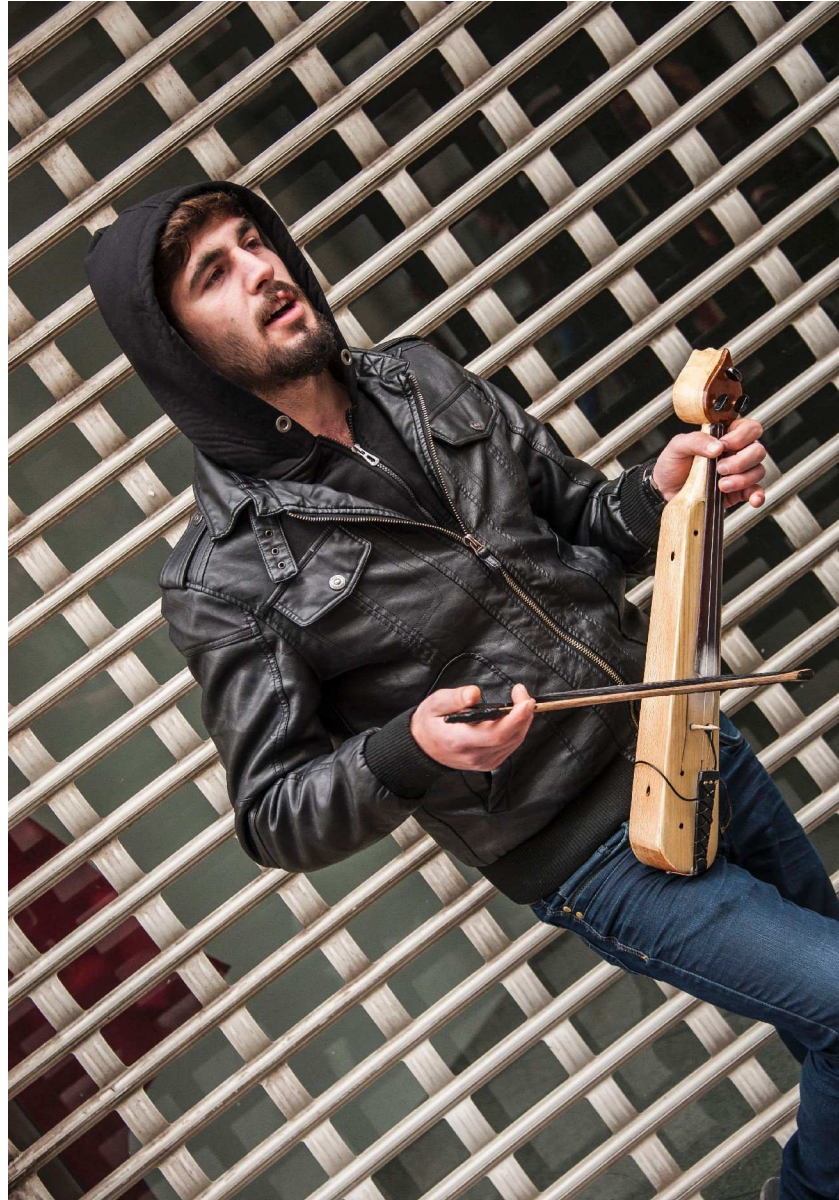


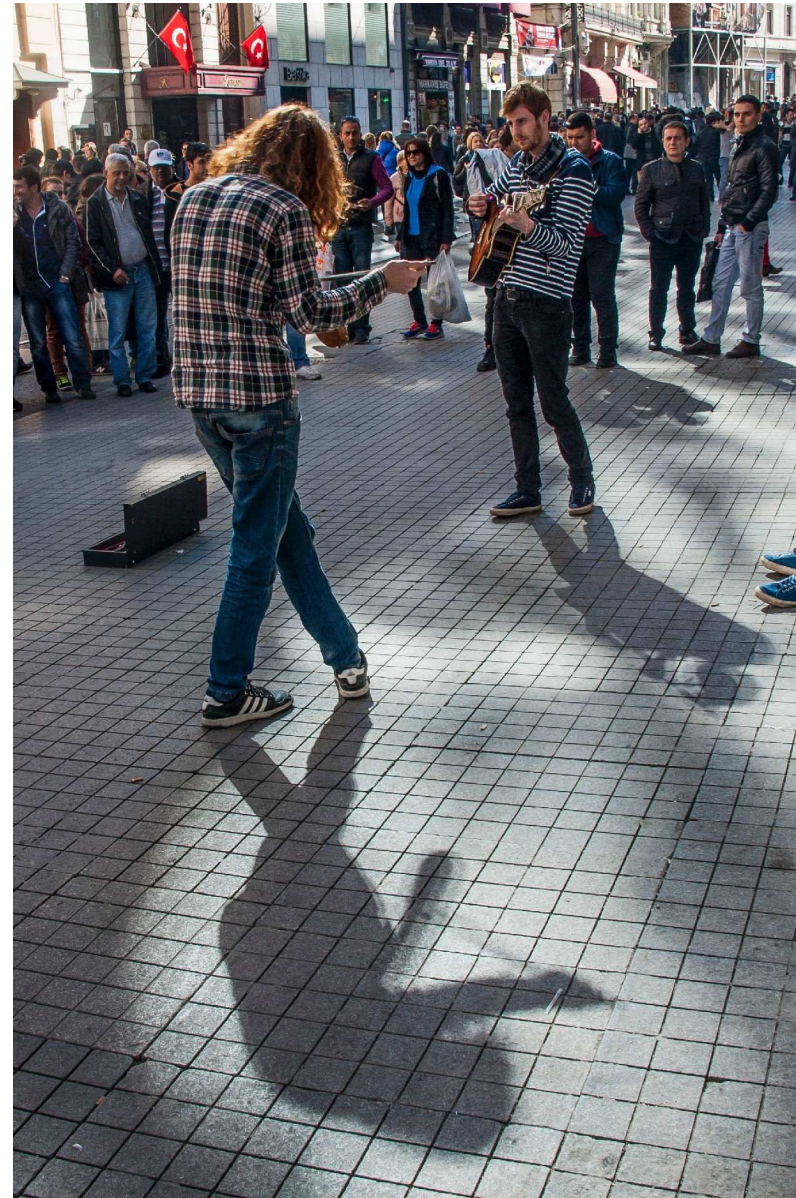
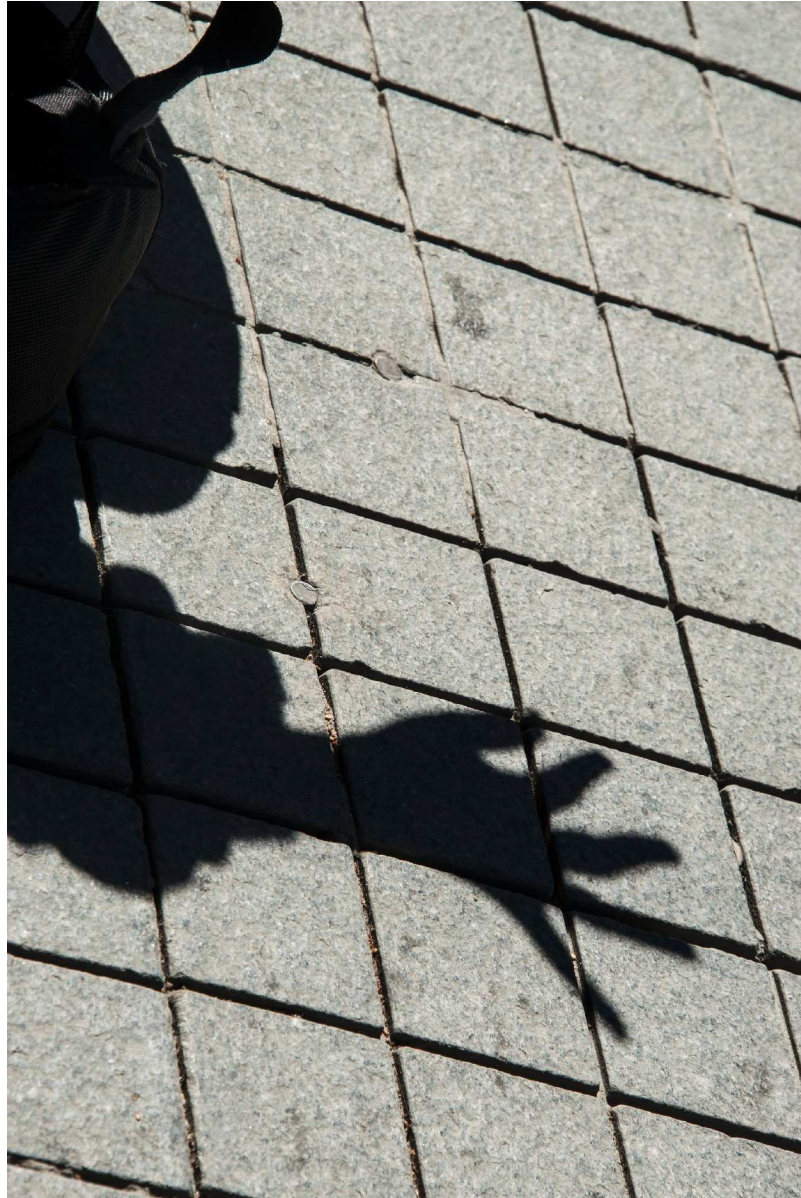
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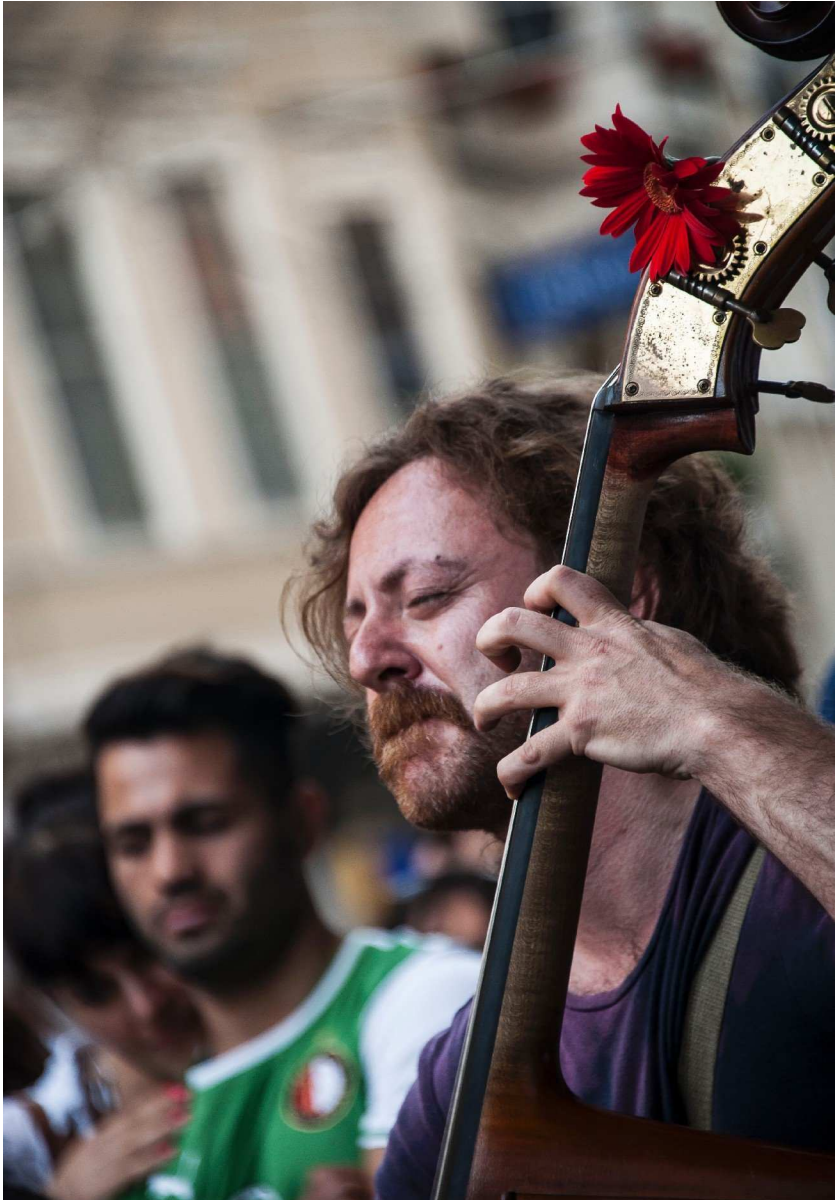


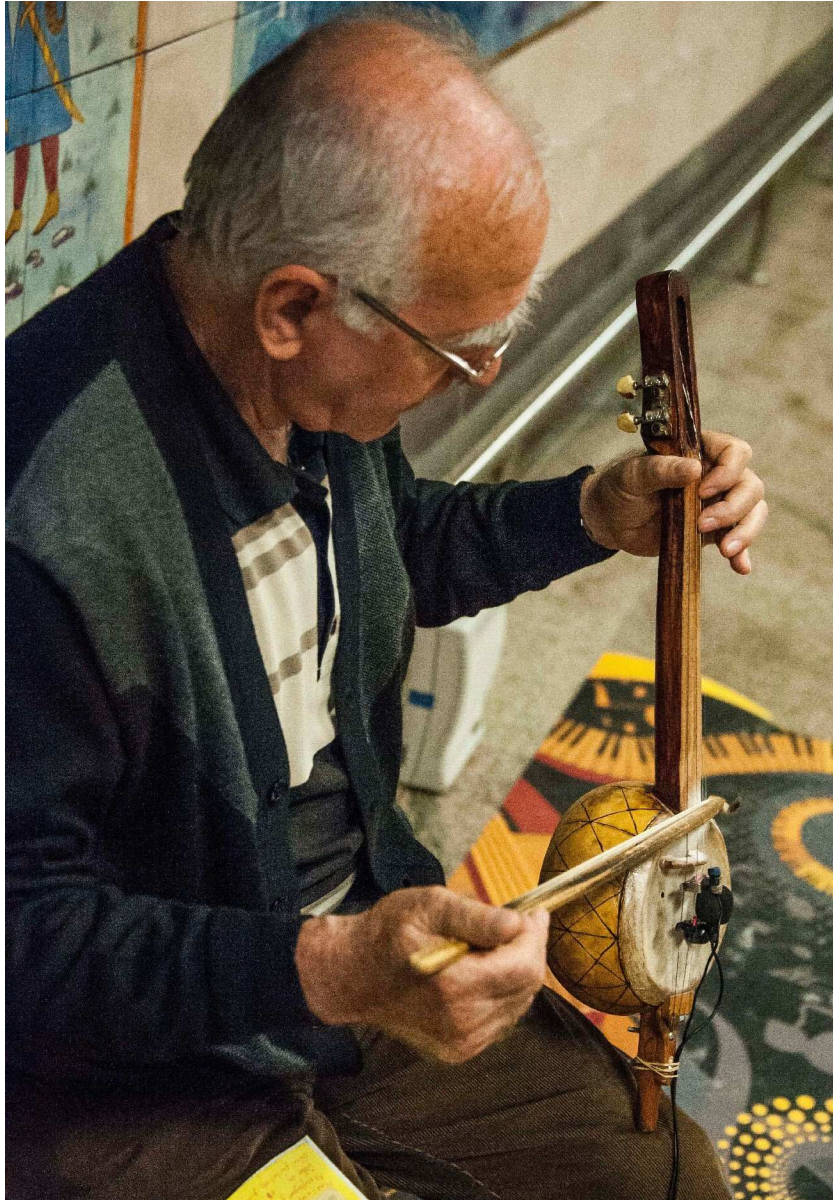




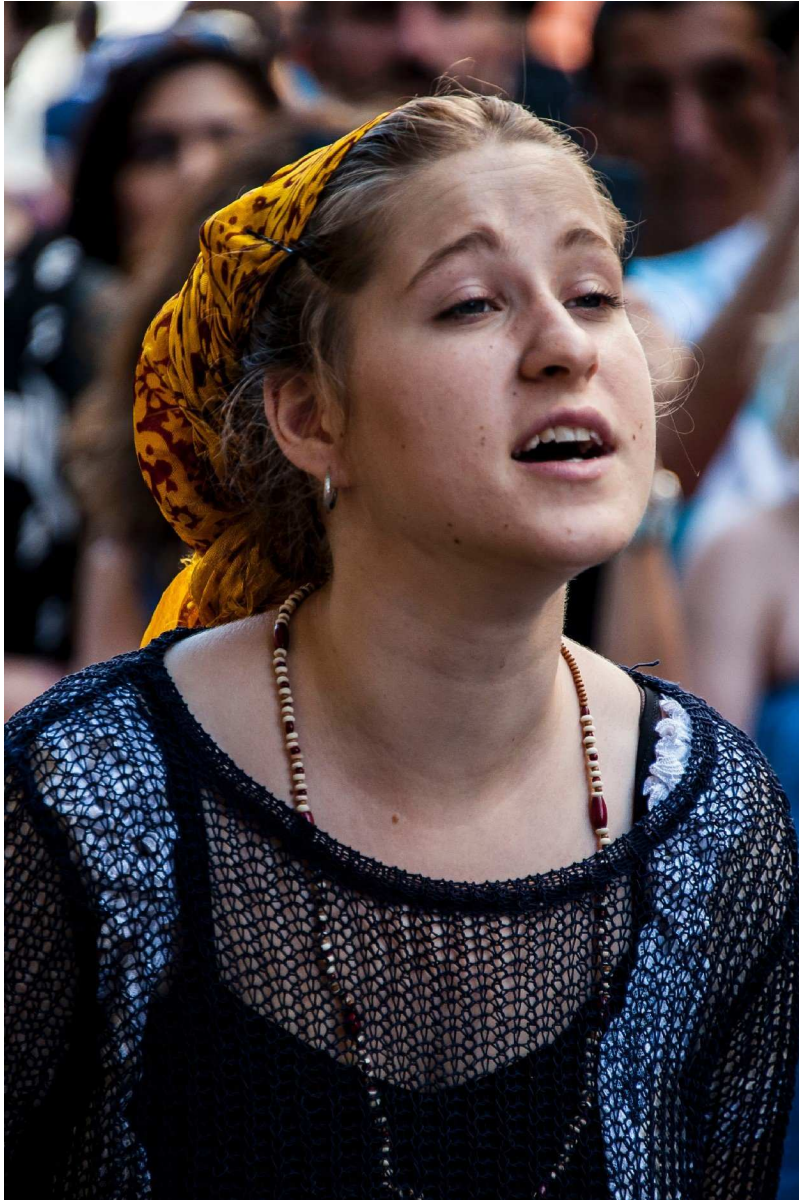


















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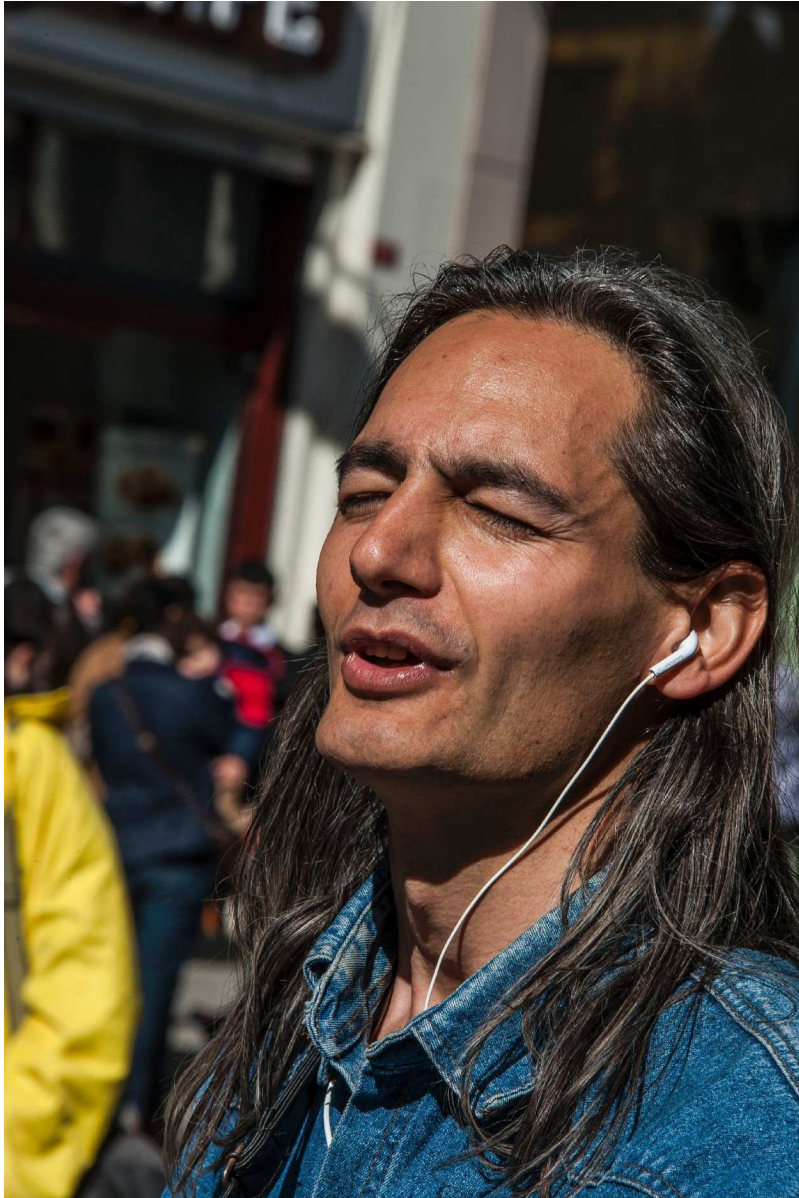
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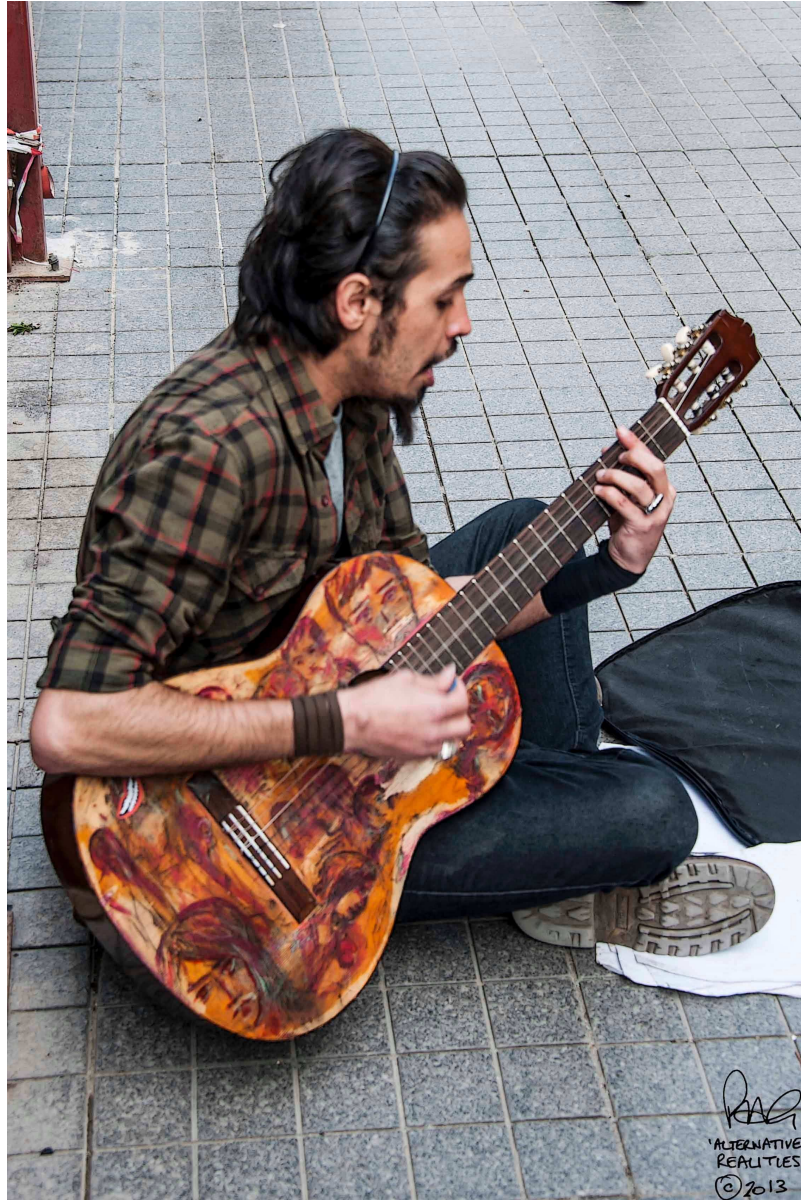






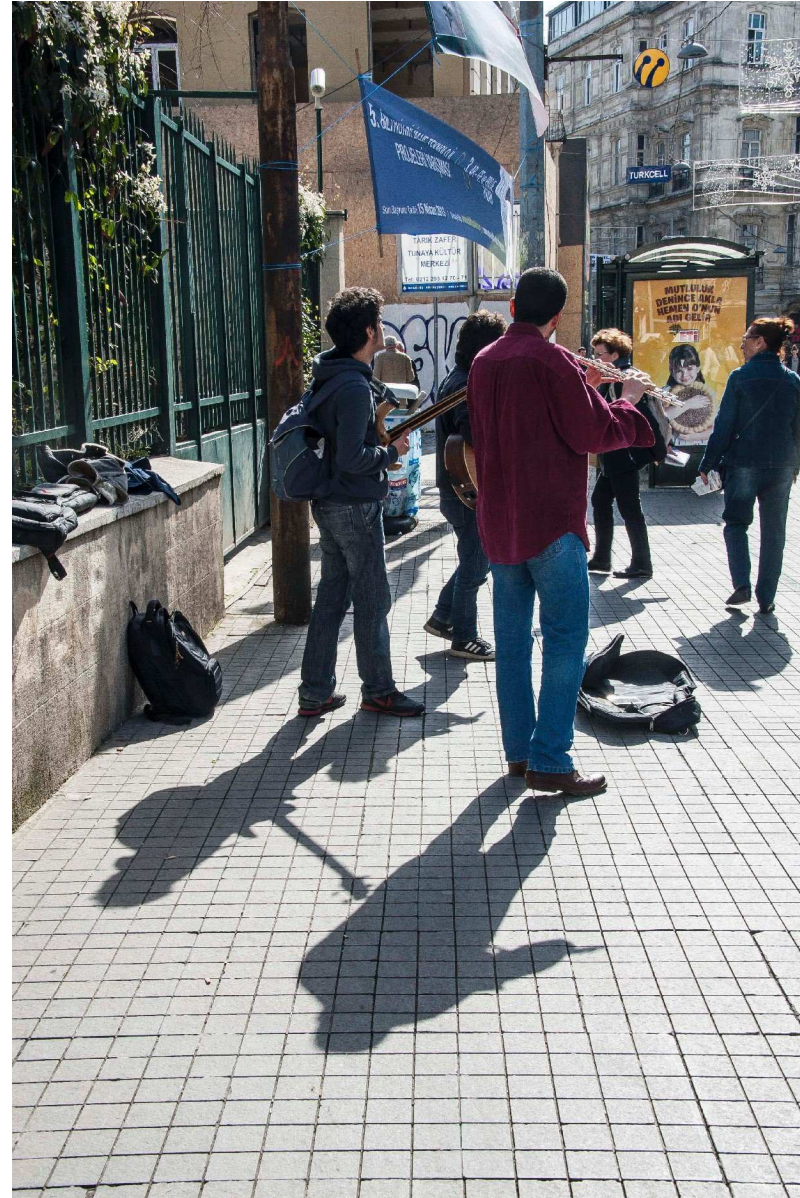
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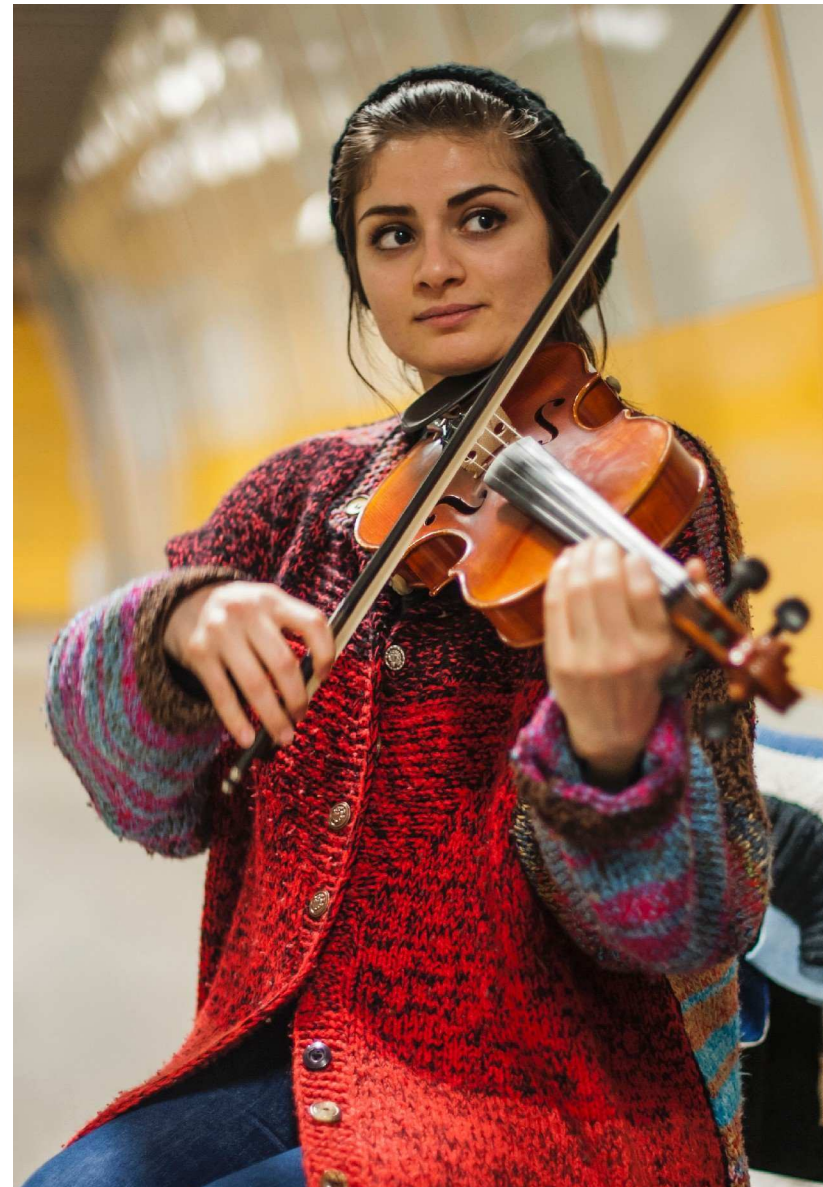




























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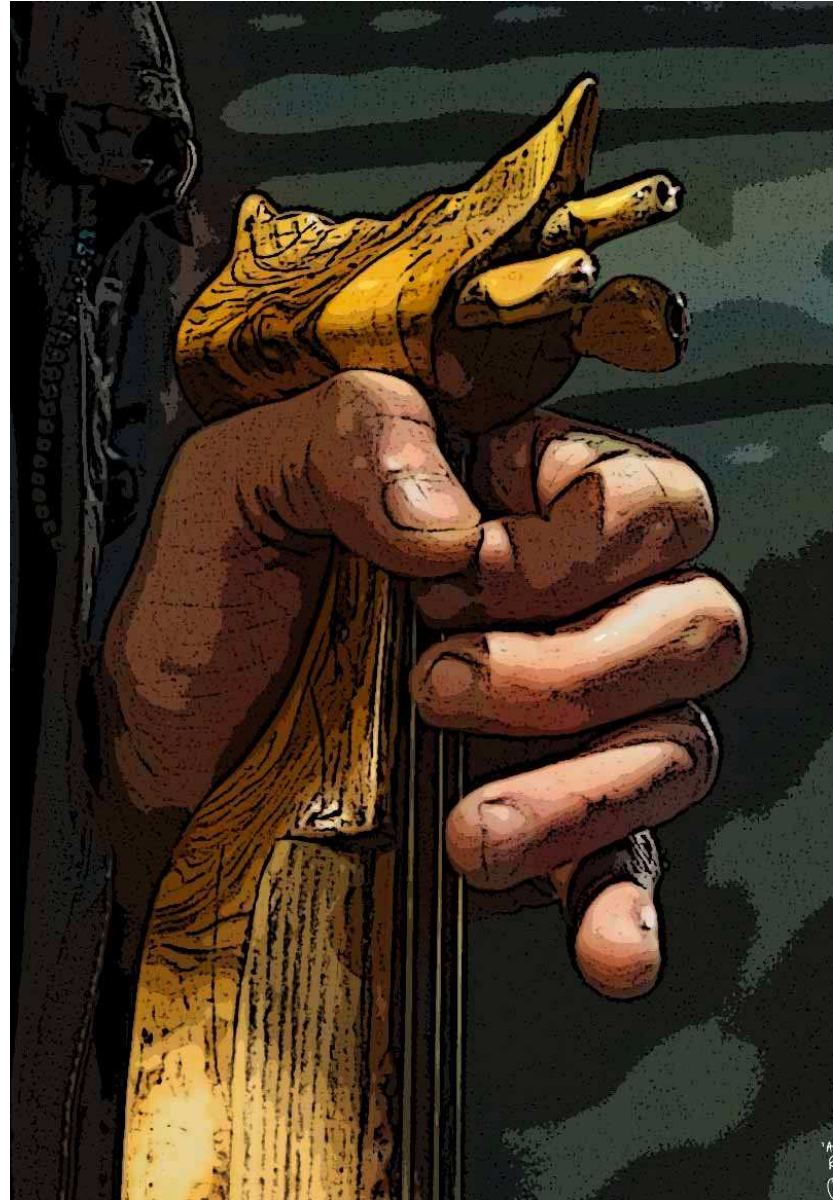
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