

Özay Günay started her education in National Conservatory of Mimar Sinan University in Performance Arts and Opera in Istanbul. She received her voice coaching from Prof. Güzin Gürel, and stage and performance training by Aydın Gün.

Mrs Günay had made her professional singing debut while she was still a student, performing many solo recitals. Following an invitation by the Istanbul European Choir in 1993, she performed the alto solo in Mozart's *Missa Brevis* under the baton of Sylvene Maire. In 1995, she performed in the Turkish premiere of Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. The latter was also performed in Othello Castle and Bela Pais Monastery in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Among her notable performances, *Asya* in Uzeyir Hacibeyov's signature operetta *Arsin Mal Alan* in the Turkish premiere in Cemal Resit Rey Concert Hall can be noted.

One of her many solo recitals was in the framework of the 25th International Istanbul Music Festivals' Young Soloist Series, followed by her portrayal of the alto solo in Beethoven's *Scottish Songs* accompanied by the Istanbul Chamber Music Ensemble, which was another premiere in Turkey. 1998 marked the debut with the Istanbul State Opera and Ballet. Her performance of the alto solo in Mozart's *Requiem* with the European Choir of Istanbul under Maestro Stephan Lomas was highly acclaimed.

Besides her busy performance schedule, Mrs Günay also attended master classes in Istanbul with Leyla Pınar on Baroque music, and with famed soprano Leyla Gencer, in Vienna with Prof. Eva Blahova, then in Istanbul with Mauro Trombetta. In year 2000, she won the second prize in International Prof. Josef Dichler Young Musicians Competition held in Vienna. This was followed by a performance of the alto solo part of Bach's *Magnificat* at Istanbul Hagia Irini Church, also in Antalya Aspendos Theatre with Akbank Chamber Orchestra and Madrid Choir under Cem Mansur. Mrs Günay was invited to perform in many festivals around Europe in such countries as Czech Republic, Slovak Republic, and Austria. In 2002, she gave some very notable concerts with Bratislava Opera Orchestra within the 47th International Piestansky Music Festival and the 57th Teplice Music Festival, under Martin Majkut.

Besides her singing career, Mrs Günay has been working in the medical field, within the Faculty of Medicine Department of Ear, Nose and Throat, the Phoniatics Department of the Istanbul University, Voice and Speech Therapy.

As a member of the Istanbul State Opera, her performances as soloist in *Rigoletto*, Mozart's *Sever Misiniz?*, *La Traviata*, *Trouble in Tahiti* were appreciated by large audiences. Being the 'Mezzo soprano of the premieres', she was also invited to perform her brilliant portrayal of Meg Page in the Turkish premiere of Verdi's *Falstaff* in 2004. The year 2005 was marked by her performance as soloist in the gala concert of the Istanbul State Symphony Orchestra, under Vesna Souc. The latter has also been recorded and published for music lovers. The Austrian Cultural Center became the stage of her recital with her twin brother baritone Önay Günay. Meike Nollmann was more than proud to conduct her alto solo performance and the Borusan Philharmonic Orchestra and Pera & European Voices Istanbul Choir for Bach's *Weihnachts Oratorium*. Miss Günay is currently singing within Istanbul State Opera and Ballet. She performed Emilia in Verdi's *Otello* in 2006-2007 season.

Moreover, she performed as soloist in several Baroque Music Concerts and alto soloist part in Beethoven's *'Symphony No.9'* during 2007-2008 season. She's been performing Opera Twins concert series together with her twin brother Baritone Önay Günay in and out of Turkey. In 2009-2010 season they were invited by Izmir State Opera and Ballet for a performance in Elhamra Theatre. She gave recitals in Ankara State Opera and Ballet in November 2011 and in Istanbul Caddebostan Cultural Center in March 2011. In October 2012 she took part in International Pera Arts Festival as a soloist. She gave recitals in the opening concert of 1st Izmir Baroque Days in 2013 and in Leyla Gencer Opera and Arts Centre in April 2016. In 2017, she appeared in Vivaldi's *Bajazet* as Andronico in Istanbul State Opera and Ballet. In 2018, she performed as soloist in Amsterdam De Rode Hoed Concert Hall, gave a recital named *Lieberabend*, performed Baroque Concert with the Chamber Orchestra and appeared in Verdi's *Aida* as Scardotessa in 25th Aspendos International Opera and Ballet Festival.