

**ESSAY**

Boyun Eğmeyenler (The Ones Who Don't Bow Down)

Yiğit Özatalay

BOYUN EĞMEYENLER (A.K.A. “ESKİ YOL”) is a composition which came into being during the Gezi Resistance in 2013 in Turkey. As the lyrics reveal with the phrases like “revolution winked at us” and “resistance till the victory”, this little piece of art believes in standing up for an egalitarian revolution. It was first performed by a group of artists in order to reflect the opposition against the ruling government via a video clip organised by Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Center (NHKM) in Istanbul. Being a composition of the pianist Yiğit Özatalay, this music was performed in numerous concerts and in numerous ways by *Yürüyen Merdiven*¹ a drums-piano duo formed together with the drummer Mustafa Kemal Emirel. In 2021, *Yürüyen Merdiven* recorded it as a part of his live album “Live at Yeldeğirmeni Sanat” and continues to play this little song in his every single concert, with different guests.

Last year, the song was recorded with a new arrangement and with new texts for *Yürüyen Merdiven*'s new album called “Yürümek.” In this new version which will be released approximately in November 2022, 3 texts by 3 socialist poets (“Buluşmak Üzere” by Can Yücel, “Çocuklarıma” by Aziz Nesin and “Aya Gidilecek” by Nâzım Hikmet) are read by Genco Erkal and Tülay Günel. The arrangement includes also a bass clarinet part performed by Çağdaş Engin.

1. <https://yuruyenmerdivenmusic.com/>

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WORK

Boyun Eğmeyenler

Composed by Yiğit Özatalay, 2013

The image shows a handwritten musical score for the piece "Boyun Eğmeyenler" by Yiğit Özatalay. The score is written in 3/4 time and consists of three systems of staves. The first system is marked with a box labeled 'A' and includes performance instructions such as 'pizz.' (pizzicato), 'arco' (arco), and '(arco)'. The second system is marked with a box labeled 'B' and includes various musical notations like 'c.', 'G-/Bb', 'A7', and 'D'. The third system concludes with a 'FINE: (G-)' marking. The score includes a variety of musical symbols, including notes, rests, and dynamic markings, all written in a clear, legible hand.



LYRICS

The Ones Who Don't Bow Down

Lyrics by Yiğit Özatalay

They are the “chapullers!”

They are the resisters!

They are the hundred thousands, millions!

Whatever you say they are the PEOPLE!

One day or one week is not enough

Resistance, till the victory!

In the Gezi Park of Taksim

The Revolution winked at us!

Taksim, Kizilay, Antakya

The Revolution became possible with them!

They are the hundred thousands, millions!

They are the ones who don't bow down!

One day or one week is not enough

Resistance, till the victory!

They are the “chapullers!”

They are the resisters!

Dersim, Rize, Adana

Izmir, Konya, Isparta

They are the hundred thousands, millions!

They are the ones who don't bow down!

One day or one week is not enough

Resistance, till the victory!

In the Gezi Park of Taksim

The Revolution winked at us!

Taksim, Kizilay, Antakya

The Revolution became possible with them!

They are the hundred thousands, millions!

They are the ones who don't bow down!

One day or one week is not enough

Resistance, till the victory!

FOREVER!



VIDEO

Music video of the work with English translation of the lyrics by Nâzım Hikmet Cultural Center (NHKM), Istanbul in July 13, 2013:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X2Ug0BvNAxQ>



VIDEO

Video recording of the work by *Yürüyen Merdiven* as a part of the group's live album "Live at Yeldeğirmeni Sanat" in 2021:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-M32ECqpJ_E



VIDEO

Video recording of the work by *Yürüyen Merdiven* featuring Barış Ertürk::

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H5hShrMAYSk>



VIDEO

Video recording of the work by *Yürüyen Merdiven* featuring Ülkü Aybala Sunat:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fvfKvnG7CYs>