



Makam Baklava plays truly sweet songs -- like their namesake -- from Turkey and the Balkans. The band includes a rotating cast of up to 10 musicians featuring folk and classical instruments, but at Finnish Bistro, Makam Baklava will present an intimate vocal trio of Orhan Ucer, Lara Akal, and Rada Kolarova, with Orhan supporting on guitar. They will share with you Azeri, Bulgarian, Macedonian, and Turkish folk and art songs. Enjoy!

Lara Akal is a soprano, musical theatre actress, pianist and character entertainer with a degree in Vocal Music from the University of Minnesota. As Publicity Chair of the Turkish American Association of Minnesota, she aims to engage both our local Turkish-American community and the wider Minnesotan community in outreach through the power of social media and cross-cultural connection, especially in an arts capacity.

Rada Kolarova is a versatile vocalist who has trained in Bulgarian folk and classical music, most recently winning the Minneapolis songSlam in January with a composition in Bulgarian. She started singing as soon as she could speak and hasn't stopped since. Originally from Sofia, Rada and her family moved to the Twin Cities, where she grew up surrounded by a diverse range of music. To this day, she enjoys exploring different vocal styles (as part of local folk ensembles) and processing her reality by writing songs, including for her band Rada K & The Cicadas.

Orhan Ucer is an amateur Turkish musician, and lover of all music. He is the self-appointed ambassador of Turkish Music in Minnesota. His goal is to spread Turkish music to his fellow Minnesotans, and also to learn the music of other cultures. In addition to the Guitar, he loves and plays the Turkish Folk Instrument the Baglama.