

Tarkan's Official Biography

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"COME CLOSER"

International pop icon Tarkan is back with his highly anticipated English language album entitled, *Come Closer*. The new album, a captivating collection of riveting songs, marks Tarkan's most stirring work to date. Tarkan is an entertainer who has broken the mould of the meaning of a pop star and set the standard for a new breed of artist. He is a force that has managed to overcome countless barriers, simply because he sees none. The album *Come Closer* is a testament to the infinite appeal of an artist who is a true original.

Born in Alzey, Germany on 17 October 1972, Tarkan is the fifth child of six siblings. He was reared by his loving mother who noticed his talents and encouraged his artistic ability. Coming from humble beginnings, music was a form of release from his realities in Germany. Seeing how music moved their child's very being, was reason enough for Tarkan's family to encourage his journey into the world of music. He began on his quest by taking lessons in Turkey in order to study the craft of traditional Turkish song. Studying at Turkish classical musical institutions, Tarkan was surrounded by some of Turkey's most respectable songwriters & musicians. It was at this very young and impressionable age that Tarkan absorbed the essence of music.

After graduating from high school, Tarkan had a string of jobs that led him nowhere in the music arena. Experiencing this disappointment, Tarkan was planning on moving to Germany and leaving his dreams of pursuing music and stardom behind. However, prior to his departure, destiny had different plans in store for him as Tarkan met producer Mehmet Sogutoglu. Mehmet eventually signed Tarkan to his record label, Istanbul Plak. This resulted in the release of Tarkan's debut album *Yine Sensiz* in 1993 in Turkey. The first single "Kil Oldum Abi" quickly struck a chord with the public, garnering airplay at nightclubs & eventually hitting Turkish radio's Top 20 charts. The songs "Cok Ararsin Beni" and "Vazgecemem" perpetuated the album's success. Tarkan's look was one that was never before seen, with his boyish charm and searing eyes, he managed to win the hearts of the youth. He ultimately sold over 700,000 units, taking his place among Istanbul's prominent artists.

Tarkan's sophomore album entitled *Aacayipsin* was released in 1995. The title track, a collaboration with Sezen Aksu (Turkey's acclaimed composer/producer/lyricist/performer) became the singer's first number one single. In 1995, Tarkan held 74 live concerts throughout Turkey & Europe. A New York Palladium concert was broadcast live in Turkey nationwide, to rave reviews. The album's sales jumped to over 2.5 million units, more albums sold than any other artist that year, cementing Tarkan as a force to be reckoned with in the world of Turkish music.

Following his successes throughout Turkey, Tarkan chose to leave Turkey to collect his thoughts & learn English, relocating to NY. Prior to his departure, as fate would have it, Tarkan met Atlantic Records founder & executive Ahmet Ertegun, who decided to take the talented musician under his wing and consequently became a guiding force in Tarkan's life, silently grooming him for the world's stage.

Tarkan's third album, *Olurum Sana*, was released in July 1997. The single "Simarik", known as "Kiss Kiss" internationally, was written by Turkey's legendary Sezen Aksu. The powerhouse song exploded onto the international market, topping the Billboard Charts Hot 100 lists worldwide garnering highest marks, resulting in close to 4 million units sold. "Simarik" was translated into many different languages in order to accommodate the international demand. Furthermore, the music video's appeal resulted in steady rotation on international music markets including MTV & MCM throughout Europe, as well as profiles on international news outlets including CNN. Tarkan progressed by embarking on a sold out stadium tour nationwide. Following his appearances in Turkey, Tarkan made appearances in over 17 cities in Europe, with additional stops in South America. His entrancing vocals, dynamic dance, and spectacularly staged shows appealed to the worldwide demographic & Tarkan was received everywhere with open ears, arms, & hearts. In 1998, PolyGram France licensed the album, re-releasing it internationally. As a result, the album was certified platinum in Mexico, & hit gold in France, Holland, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg, Sweden, & Columbia.

1999 continued with even more tour dates, including appearances in Germany, France, England, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Austria, Portugal, Morocco, Australia, & Tunisia until the horrific 1999 earthquake hit Turkey. The devastating effects on its people led Tarkan to hold a moving performance in honour of the victims of the 1999 earthquake, where thousands of Turkish citizens were lost & perhaps even more so were

left homeless. This aid concert held in Istanbul was a highlight for the people of Turkey and helped the people of Istanbul regain hope and find the determination to rebuild their lives.

Karma was released in August 2001 to a hungry audience, which saw a side of Tarkan never before publicly exposed. Karma was a touching, introspective, and deeply personal work, which shined a light on all of the experiences, Tarkan had endured throughout the recent years of pandemonium. Fans witnessed an artist, who in the wake of the new album was a more spiritually centered and private man. "Kuzu Kuzu", the first single off the album, was released in May 2001 & held the # 1 position for three months. Karma also was also a ravishing success in Russia and a surprising change in the landscape of the Russian music market. In spite of economic & political crisis at the time in Turkey, the album "Karma" sold over 2.5 million units.

Following this success, Tarkan was asked to compose & perform the official song of the Turkish National Soccer Team (third place medallist in the World Cup). Furthermore, music from the album Karma was also used for documentary films produced by the Turkish Ministry of Tourism, which also rewarded him for his contributions to Turkey & for the poignant representation of his country, through his music and throughout the world.

Dudu, the fifth album, was released in summer 2003 and was the latest in the series of record-breaking recordings from Tarkan. The album, a gift from Tarkan to his fans, steadily climbed the charts & matched Tarkan's unchallenged record sales. The album release followed with yet another successful tour. Stops included concerts throughout Turkey and international shows in Germany, Moscow, Baku, and Alma Ata.

In terms of sales & popularity, Tarkan is the biggest star of the last decade in Turkey, spilling over his success throughout Europe, South America and Australia. He has charted Top 40 singles, every single year from 1992 to current. His songs, which include "Simarik", "Sikidim", "Hup", "Kuzu Kuzu", & "Dudu" have become contemporary pop standards. His image has garnered interest & endorsements of international brands such as the omnipresent "Pepsi", by which Tarkan & his tour were sponsored. Tarkan has also shot two commercials as the face of "Pepsi".

Tarkan's music has always flowed to the beat of pop culture with his heart drumming to its ever-changing pulse. As an artist driven clearly by passion and always one step ahead of the game, the new album entitled Come Closer his long awaited English debut, a result of years in the making and a work of collaboration by world class composers, musicians, & technicians, as well as guest appearances by artists and producers such as Wyclef Jean, Pete Martin, Brian Kierulf and Josh Schwartz aka KNS, Devrim Karaoglu, Billy Mann, Lester Mendez, David Werner, Dexter Simmons, the Jettsonz, Supaflyas, Ozan Colakoglu, etc. When asked about recording the album Come Closer in America, Tarkan said, "I live here, this is one of my homes...It felt natural to record in the States." Come Closer was recorded & mixed at the following studios in the US including, Pacifique Studios, The Hit Factory, Oasis Mastering, Etc.

Tracks on Come Closer : "Just Like That", "In Your Eyes", "Why Don't We (Aman Aman)" featuring Wyclef Jean, "Mine", "Over", "Start the Fire", "I Wanna Hear Love Speak (SHHH)", "Bounce", "Come Closer", "Don't Leave Me Alone", "Sikidim", "I'm Gonna Make You Feel Good", "Mass Confusion", "Touch", and "If Only You Knew".

Come Closer brings to the forefront of the international music scene what has been bubbling just under the surface for years. It is an electric combination of unsurpassed talent, unmatched vocal prowess and dexterity, unanticipated and pulsating production, & Tarkan's unsettling charm and passion. A lethal combination, which after years of simmering is about to boil over and pierce the hearts of anyone exposed. The sweltering eyes that have penetrated the souls of millions of fans are about to ignite...worldwide.