**GÖKSENİN**

**Istanbul-born Turkish singer-songwriter Göksenin** picked up the guitar at the age of sixteen, stepping into the world of music through open mic stages. Over the years, she complemented her self-taught style with occasional piano and vocal training, gradually developing her own voice, shaped by blues, rock, soul, and Anatolian roots.

In 2008, she left her full-time job in the pharmaceutical industry to fully commit to music — a decision that increased both her live performances and original output. Since 2012, she recorded four albums and four singles, while also composing for radio jingles and children’s theater.

Göksenin has been an active performer for over two decades, mostly in Istanbul — a city known for its vibrant nightlife and cultural contrasts. In her concerts, she delivered a blend of classic rock staples, Turkish lyrics, original blues compositions, and reinterpreted standards. One of her most memorable moments was performing a **blues-rock concert in Cizre**, a small town near the Syrian border where blues music was virtually unknown. The concert drew a crowd eager to discover the sounds of rock, blues, and Western musical traditions.

**🎙*Women’s Blues* and International Recognition**

In 2015, Göksenin began focusing on honoring the often-overlooked legacy of great **female blues artists** like Ma Rainey, Bessie Smith, and etc. Her ongoing project **“Women’s Blues with Göksenin”** includes storytelling and performance, where she shares not just the songs but also the historical contexts behind them.

As a culmination of this project, she released the **album "Women’s Blues" in December 2020**, which received glowing reviews in the UK and the US. It reached **#9 on the Global Blues Charts** and won multiple international awards. The music video for the song *“The Dream”* won **2nd Prize in the International Women’s Freedom Song Contest** (Music Video Category).

Steven Ovadia (Blues Blast Magazine) praised her unique blend of Turkish influences and blues structure:

"Turkish blues might not be its own subgenre, but it’s one we should consider adding."  
"Göksenin creates a personal sound that internalizes the blues, instead of interpreting it from a geographic or emotional distance."

Graham Munn (Blues in Britain Magazine) wrote: "...Not only is Göksenin revisiting the female suffering embedded in blues history, but also draws attention to today, who still struggle to find their identity, throughout the world." "...a fascinating artist, who flies the Blues flag in her Turkish homeland."

**🆕 *New Album: “Gına” (May 2025)***

Following the international success of *Women’s Blues*, Göksenin returns with her **third studio album, “Gına”**, released on **May 30, 2025**. This ten-track record dives deep into the themes of societal pressure, emotional fatigue, injustice, and the need for solidarity — all conveyed through a compelling fusion of blues, country-rock, soul, acoustic rock, and Anatolian sounds.

The album features:

* **7 original songs** (3 composed solely by Göksenin, 4 co-composed with guitarist Gürkan Özbek),
* **3 reinterpretations** of blues classics, including works by **Bessie Smith**, **Alberta Hunter**, and **Yavuz Çetin** (a renowned Turkish blues-rock musician).

Highlighted tracks include:

* 🎧 *“Cart Curt İstemem”* — A raw and rhythmic Turkish blues opener, combining spoken word, groove, and a call for unity: *“We’ve got to be together — I don’t want no bullshit!”*
* 🌍 *“I Hear Ya”* — A powerful fusion of Anatolian rhythms and blues, protesting Western hypocrisy toward war and human suffering.
* 💔 *“Bul Beni”* — A haunting acoustic rock track expressing the desperate longing to be found amid emotional chaos.
* 🧨 *“Gına”* — The title track Gına (Fed Up!) channels the heaviness of burnout and resilience through country-rock textures and poetic lyrics.

**🏆 *Recent Honors***

In 2024, Göksenin and the **Blues Association-Turkey**, of which she is the founder and president, were awarded the **“Keeping the Blues Alive” Award** by the **Blues Foundation (USA)** — one of the most prestigious recognitions in the global blues scene.

**🎶 Band Line-Up on “Gına”:**

* Vocals&Guitar&Keyboards: **Göksenin**
* Lead Guitar: **Gürkan Özbek**
* Bass Guitar: **Ozan Yeşildal**
* Drums: **Soner Doğanca**
* Recording: **Göksenin**
* Mix&Mastering: **Kıvılcım Konca**

This biography reflects Göksenin’s journey as a woman, artist, and cultural bridge between East and West. Her work is not only a celebration of blues tradition but also a bold reimagination of it — infused with her own stories, struggles, and sound.

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