



The Israeli-Iranian Musical Initiative Presents

CONVERGING PATHS

A concert of
music inspired
by Iranian and
Israeli cultures

Tuesday, March 31ST, 2015 • 7:30PM
Alliance Francaise Theater, 24 Spadina Ave

\$15 – General Admission
\$10 – Students/Seniors

Tickets available at: www.i-equal-i.com
In Person at: Soundscapes, 572 College St.
416-537-1620

Music by
Parisa Sabet,
Dan Deutsch
& Noam Lemish

Guest Artists
Shalom Bard (Conductor, TSYO)
Saeed Kamjoo (Kamanche, Montreal)

"Let the beauty we love
be what we do" - Rumi

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—PROGRAM—

***Bakesh Shalom Ve'rodfeyhu* (Pursue Peace) בקש שלום וְרֹדְפֵהוּ**

for clarinet and string quartet

by Noam Lemish

- I. What's the Distance Between Tel Aviv and Tehran?
- II. Shteim U'Shteim (Two Plus Two)
- III. Bakesh Shalom Ve'rodfeyhu (Pursue Peace)

***Pish darâmad-é "Eshgh dânad"* by M.R. Lotfi**

***Chahâr Mezrâb* by A. A. Shahnâzi**

Saeed Kamjoo, kamanche

Shahin Fayaz, tar

***Bamdad* (Dawn) بامداد**

for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, piano, and percussion

by Parisa Sabet

Conductor, Shalom Bard

—INTERMISSION—

Three Movements Inspired by Omar Khayyám's *Rubáiyát*

for flute, clarinet, violin, cello, and piano

by Dan Deutsch

Conductor, Shalom Bard

- I. Was I Sober When I Swore?
- II. Then to This Earthen Bowl Did I Adjourn My Lip
- III. Thou Art But What Thou Shalt Be—Nothing

Converging Paths: Songs from Iran and Israel

Saeed Kamjoo, kamanche

Shahin Fayaz, tar

Dan Deutsch, saxophone

Noam Lemish, piano

Michelle Colton, percussion

PERFORMERS:

Shalom Bard.....	conductor
Saeed Kamjoo.....	kamanche
Shahin Fayaz.....	tar
Izabella Budai.....	flute
Mara Plotkin.....	clarinet
Rebecca MacLeod.....	violin
Steve Sang Koh.....	violin
Maxime Despax.....	viola
Sebastian Ostertag.....	cello
Pei-Chen Chen.....	piano
Adam Sherkin.....	piano
Michelle Colton.....	percussion

PROGRAM NOTES:

Bakesh Shalom Ve'rodfeyhu (Pursue Peace), by Noam Lemish

Bakesh Shalom Ve'rodfeyhu is composed for clarinet and string quartet. It draws its inspiration largely from two popular Israeli songs. The second movement references “Viduy” (Confession) by Sasha Argov and the third movement uses themes from “Mi Haish” (Who is the Man) by Baruch Chayat.

Bamdad (Dawn), by Parisa Sabet

Bamdad is a musical portrait of my view about the relationship between Iran and Israel. While the beauty of each culture is introduced by developing melodies inspired by Persian and Jewish traditional folk tunes, the rise and fall of the relationship between the two nations is reflected by the chaotic characteristic of other sections. Eventually, as the piece unfolds, the two melodies find their way to live in harmony and peace.

Three Movements Inspired by Omar Khayyám’s Rubáiyát, by Dan Deutsch

Without any emphasis on stylistic references to Iranian or Israeli music, the piece expresses the content underlining Khayyám’s selected poems. Through the form of drinking songs, Khayyám’s *Rubáiyát* emphasize the possibility of playfulness and lightheartedness in spite of human mortality. In doing so, the poems and the music they inspire pertain to a human experience that transcends all sort of historical and cultural distinctions.

Omar Khayyám (18 May 1048 – 4 December 1131) was a Persian mathematician, astronomer, philosopher, and poet. The following three *Rubáiyát* [quatrains]—of which Khayyám probably wrote about a thousand—constitute the source of inspiration for the three movement of the piece.

I:

Indeed, indeed, Repentance oft before
I swore but was I sober when I swore?
And then and then came Spring, and Rose-in-hand
My thread-bare Penitence apieces tore.

II:

Then to this earthen Bowl did I adjourn
My Lip the secret Well of Life to learn:
And Lip to Lip it murmur'd—"While you live
"Drink!—for once dead you never shall return."

III:

And if the Wine you drink, the Lip you press,
End in the Nothing all Things end in—Yes—
Then fancy while Thou art, Thou art but what
Thou shalt be—Nothing—Thou shalt not be less

BIOGRAPHIES:

Noam Lemish is a pianist, composer, scholar and educator, currently a DMA candidate in Jazz Performance at the University of Toronto. He has appeared in numerous performances across the US, Canada, Europe, Israel, and in Bhutan having played and performed with such musicians as: Sheila Jordan, John Handy, Julian Lage, James Newton, Dayna Stephens, Frances-Marie Uitti, Donald "Duck" Bailey, Mel Graves, Babatunde Lea, Cameron Brown, Mel Martin, and many others. His most recent album, *Nightfall*, a collaboration with percussionist George Marsh was released in July 2013.

His compositions include chamber, choral, piano, numerous jazz works and "The People's King": a commissioned multi-cultural suite in celebration the King of Bhutan's 30th birthday composed while teaching music in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan in 2010. His dissertation focuses on "Israeli jazz" as a case study for musical transculturation in contemporary jazz practice.

Lemish began his jazz and classical studies in Israel. In 2002 he moved to Sonoma County, California where studied under the tutelage of W.A. Mathieu and completed his BA (Summa Cum Laude, With Distinction) in music at Sonoma State University in California. After a year of teaching music in the Himalayan Kingdom of Bhutan, Lemish returned to North America in 2010 undertaking graduate studies in Toronto. While completing his masters degree in composition at the University of Toronto, he served as 2011-2012 Composer-In-Residence for “gamUT” – the University of Toronto Contemporary Music Ensemble. At present, Lemish is continuing his studies at the University of Toronto as a doctoral student in the Jazz Performance program.

Recording projects to be released in 2015 include a duo album with improviser/composer Will Johnson and piano solo album presenting W.A. Mathieu’s *The Magic Clavier (Book I)*. www.noamlemish.com

Parisa Sabet is an Iranian composer based in Toronto. Her work covers a broad variety of acoustic and electro-acoustic music. Parisa’s compositions have a unique and lyrical quality that stems out of blending elements of Eastern and Western’s musical languages. She brings a vast range of color to her compositions by incorporating varied timbral and instrumental effects. Parisa’s repertory consists of pieces written for solo, duo, film music, small, and large ensembles.

Parisa completed her bachelor of music degree in composition at the Chicago College of Performing Arts of Roosevelt University and her master's degree in composition at the University of Toronto. She has studied composition with Keith Tedman, Kyong Mee Choi, Ka Nin Chan, and Stacy Garrop. Currently, she is pursuing her DMA in composition at the University of Toronto under the supervision of Christos Hatzis.

Parisa is a recipient of several grants and scholarships including the 2014-2015 Ontario Graduate Scholarship, and the nJohn Weinzweig Graduating Scholarship. She was also a recipient of a 2013-2014 Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Canada Graduate Scholarship to research the indigenous music by women in her native Iran and to write an original composition related to this theme.

Professionally, her compositions have won various competitions and have been performed in different venues in North America. Parisa’s solo alto flute piece, *Nay Nava*, won the 2011 Timothy Munro (eighth blackbird’s flutist) Solo Flute Competition in conjunction with the CCPA composition program. In addition, *Nawruz* for wind ensemble was selected for the 2011 Chicago College of Performing Art’s Wind Ensemble Composition Contest and has been broadcast several times on Chicago's Classical and Folk Music Radio (98.7 WFMT). Her choral composition, *Universal brotherhood*, was selected by MacMillan Singers to be performed at their

Contemporary Showcase Concert in 2014. Her recent song cycle, *Dance in Your Blood*, based on three Rumi poems won the Top Prize place at the Violet Archer Composer's Prize 2014 and will be published in the Plangere Canadian Composers Series. Parisa was also an active pianist while she was living in her hometown of Shiraz, Iran. She won awards as a pianist in the Fifth and the Seventh Festivals of Poetry and Music in 1995 and 1997 in Shiraz. For more information please visit: www.parisasabet.com

Dan Deutsch is a PhD student in the Department of Music Theory and the Centre for Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto. Dan obtained his M.A. and B.A. in music theory and composition from the Jerusalem Academy of Music, and B.A. in comparative literature from the Jerusalem Hebrew University.

As a composer and arranger Dan participated in festivals and venues in Israel and Europe, among them is the International music competition held in Greece, the annual Israeli music Celebration, *Tzililim ba Midbar* Festival [sounds in the desert], and the Piyut Festival. In addition, Dan composed and arranged for the Jerusalem symphony orchestra, the Israel Sinfonietta Beer Sheva, the "Meitar" ensemble, and many more. Dan's pieces are performed in Israel, Europe, and Canada, and are occasionally broadcasted in the Israeli National Radio. His composition professors include the late Prof. Joseph Dorfman, Dr. Ari Ben-Shabtai, Dr. Michael Wolpe, and Professor Gary Kulesha.

As a saxophone player, Dan has played with various ensembles in concerts in Israel and performed in England, France, and Russia. He played at the Knesset (the Israeli parliament), the Kremlin, the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK, the "Red Sea Jazz Festival" and many other venues. He is experienced with a multitude of musical styles and genres, ranging from classical and contemporary music with the "Jerusalem Saxophone Quartet," Latin Jazz and Salsa, and Jazz Fusion.

Dan's is currently focusing on his research about the relationship between Gustav Mahler's symphonic works and his status as Jew at fin-de-siècle Vienna. In addition, he continues composing and arranging for various artists and festivals in Israel and Canada.

Born in Haifa, Israel, conductor and clarinetist **Shalom Bard** started playing the clarinet at the age of 12. He holds Master's degrees in orchestral conducting and clarinet performance from McGill University and the University of Southern California, respectively.

After serving as Resident Conductor of Symphony Nova Scotia during the 2011–2012 season under Bernhard Gueller, Shalom took on the role of the first RBC

Resident Conductor with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra from 2012 to 2014 under the valuable mentorship of TSO Music Director Peter Oundjian. Shalom's residency with the TSO also includes the role of conductor of the acclaimed Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra. Previous appointments include three seasons as Assistant Conductor for Educational Concerts with the Herbert Zipper Orchestra of Los Angeles, and a season as Conductor of the Mooredale Youth Orchestra in Toronto. His guest conducting engagements have included the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra and the Talisker Players. Shalom made his TSO conducting debut in October 2012, with Maxim Vengerov performing Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto, and his US debut as a guest conductor with the Baltimore Chamber Orchestra. In the summer of 2011, he was presented with a fellowship award from the American Academy of Conducting at Aspen.

As a clarinetist, one of Shalom's career highlights was an invitation by Zubin Mehta to be Acting Principal Clarinetist with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra in the 2001–2002 season. Equally at home as a soloist, chamber musician, and orchestral player, the two-time Chalmers Award winner has collaborated with some of Canada's leading ensembles and orchestras. In the past fifteen years, he has played as a soloist with a number of orchestras including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and Kitchener-Waterloo Chamber Orchestra.

In the 2014–2015 season, Shalom will make his conducting debut with the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and Orchestra London while he continues as conductor of the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra.

Born in 1965 in Tehran, Iran, **Saeed Kamjoo** is a Persian musician and composer. He started learning kamanche at the age of seventeen under the supervision of Ardeshir Kâmkâr. He furthered his studies in the instrumental and vocal repertoires of Classical Persian music under the guidance of such renowned masters as Ali Akbar Shekârchi and Ustad Asghar Bahâri. He is also a graduate of Music department from Tehran University.

His approach to playing kamanche is based on his perception of the values inherent in classical Persian music. Kamjoo's style of playing kamanche combines creativity and authenticity with innovation. Although his music has its roots in Classical Persian music, he allows himself to explore the new.

Kamjoo moved to Montreal, Canada in 1997 and has since been collaborating with various ensembles in Canada, the USA and Europe. He has recorded many albums and performed in numerous music festivals around in Canada, the USA, Mexico, U.K, France, Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Norway, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, Poland, Greece, Turkey and Hong Kong. Saeed Kamjoo has also performed as a guest artist with Dastan Ensemble, one of the most renowned Persian musical

groups. He has composed music for string quartet and vocal based on poetry of Omar Khayyám (12th c.), played in Toronto, Canada in 2012. Saeed's new album "No beginning, No end" for Qheychak solo will be released in May 2015.

Shahin Fayaz started his music studies with Behrooz Hemmati and Reza Vohdani at Tehran Conservatory of Music, and Tehran Music University. He also studied with Hossein Alizadeh, Mas'oud Sho'ari, Abdolnaqi Afsharnia among others. He has recorded and performed with many ensembles such as Aftab, and Bahar Ensembles, and taught music in Tehran for several years, where he was director of Sol Music School. He has been actively involved in performing in Montreal and Toronto after his immigration to Canada in 2005. Currently he teaches tar and setar in Toronto, and is a founding member of Sarv Ensemble which has toured across Canada and performed extensively.

Shahin's experience in teaching spans over 20 years. He has an engaging and flexible teaching style to fit the needs of students of different musical backgrounds and ages.

Izabella Budai, D.M.A. has been an active flutist for the past eighteen years, performing extensively in solo, orchestral and chamber music settings. A former Principal Flutist with the Kindred Spirits Orchestra, the London Community Orchestra and a frequent extra for Orchestra London Canada in the past, she now freelances in the Toronto area and devotes most of her time to chamber music. In addition to numerous short-term collaborations with musicians in the area, she is founding member of *Duo Agilis* with pianist Peichen Chen and the duo *Flautas del Fuego* with fellow flutist Alhelí Pimienta.

Clarinetist **Mara Plotkin**, a native of the San Francisco bay area now residing in Toronto, enjoys an active career as an orchestral, chamber, solo, and recording musician. At an early age, Mara studied piano and viola in addition to taking jazz improvisation classes at the Berkeley Jazz School in California. Mara is an amateur dancer and has a budding interest in international affairs, which inspired her to participate in the International Leadership Program in New York City. Mara recently completed a Doctorate of Musical Arts at University of Toronto where she studied with Joaquin Valdepeñas and dedicated her research to the interpretation of orchestral ballet excerpts for clarinet.

Having performed throughout North America, violinist **Rebecca MacLeod** is enjoying a diverse career as a soloist, chamber musician and orchestral performer. Ms. MacLeod is a member of Pocket Concerts, where she is regularly featured as a soloist and chamber musician. She will also appear this season with The National Ballet of Canada Orchestra and as concertmaster of the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Rebecca was a prizewinner in the 2013 Glenn Gould School Chamber Music Competition. Ms. MacLeod is currently a Master of Music candidate at The University of Toronto under Jonathan Crow. She holds a BFA from Carnegie Mellon University and an Artist Diploma from The Glenn Gould School.

Being a passionate performer and teacher, **Steve Sang Koh** is currently pursuing a Doctoral of Musical Arts degree at the University of Toronto. He received his Bachelor of Arts at Rice University in Houston, and his Master's in String Performance and Pedagogy at Northwestern University in Illinois. He has been a recipient of several prestigious scholarships for both degrees. He has performed in solo and chamber music masterclasses for Cyrus Forough of Carnegie Mellon University, Paul Kantor of the Shepherd School of Music, Shmuel Ashkenasi of the Curtis Institute of Music, Hiroko Yajima of Mannes School of Music, the Philharmonia Quartett Berlin of the Berlin Philharmoniker, and for the Belcea Quartet.

Originally from Gatineau, Quebec, violist **Maxime Despax** studied at the Conservatoire de musique de Gatineau, the Conservatoire de music de Montréal and the University of Toronto. He is now finishing his Master of Music degree with Teng Li at the University of Toronto. Currently his career is focused on orchestral and chamber music. He is a member of the Orchestre Symphonique de Gatineau, and also has a string quartet, the Quatuor Despax. They have been invited to perform widely throughout the provinces of Quebec and Ontario, as well as in France and Italy. Maxime has attended the Orford Quartet Program, the Domaine Forget, and the St. Lawrence String Quartet Seminar at Stanford University.

Sebastian Ostertag likes music. All different kinds, whether it's Haydn or Hip hop. Raised in Owen Sound Ontario, he studied with Thomas Wiebe at Western University and received a Bachelors of Music Degree in performance. Further training included an Artist Diploma at the Glenn Gould School at the Royal Conservatory of Music with Paul Widner, where he performed in concerts directed by such esteemed conductors

as Mario Bernardi, Johannes Debus, Leon Fleisher and Peter Oundjian. He is currently enrolled in the Masters of Music Program at the University of Toronto, studying with acclaimed cellist Shauna Rolston.

Toronto-based pianist **Pei-Chen Chen** made her debut at the age of fifteen with the Hsin-Tien Symphony Orchestra, performing Beethoven's Piano Concerto No.5. She was invited to perform in Maestro Kerry Stratton's adult education series in 2013. Pei-Chen has won several piano competitions in Taiwan and also awarded scholarships from the 2008 IKIF in New York and scholarship from the University of Toronto. Born in Taiwan, Pei -Chen obtained her Master's Degree from the University of Toronto in Piano Performance and Pedagogy under the tutelage of Dr. Midori Koga. Aside from her role as a performing pianist, she is also a piano instructor at the U of T children's piano pedagogy program and Montcrest School. www.peichenpiano.com

Adam Sherkin is a dynamic artist who commands a multi-dimensional approach to performance and composition. Sherkin has performed at significant venues throughout Canada and Britain, including the Glenn Gould Studio, the Toronto Centre for the Arts, St Martin-in-the-Fields, Covent Garden and the Royal Albert Hall. Sherkin released his first album in 2012 on the Centrediscs label: *As At First*. Acclaim has followed; the record is described as displaying "a sense of daring," "craftsmanship:" unmistakable music by a "young, living, breathing and very gifted composer." Sherkin presents his 2014-2015 solo concert season at Toronto's St. Lawrence Centre for the Arts. www.adamsherkin.com

Michelle Colton, D.M.A. recently released her debut percussion album, *Unpredictable Nature*. She has performed in China, Japan, Cuba, Europe, and North America. She often plays with the Kingston and Toronto Symphony Orchestras. Her duo, Oregon Percussion will be Artists-in-Residence at MusicFest in May, 2015, where she will also be featured as a marimba soloist with the Montreal Wind Orchestra. Dr. Colton is an adjunct professor at the University of Toronto, and is an artist and endorser of Pearl/Adams Musical Instruments and Dream Cymbals and Gongs. www.michellecolton.com

THANK YOU'S

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our sponsors, the Anne Tanenbaum Centre For Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto and the Toronto Arts Council. We would also like to thank our community partners, North York Arts, Koffler Centre for the Arts, Alliance Francaise Toronto, and Spectrum Music.

Special thanks to our guests, Saeed Kamjoo, Shalom Bard, and Shahin Fayaz, and to the wonderful performers, Izabella Budai, Mara Plotkin, Rebecca MacLeod, Steve Sang Koh, Maxime Despax, Sebastian Ostertag, Pei-Chen Chen, Adam Sherkin, and Michelle Colton.

We are grateful for the amazing support of many individuals who have helped bring this concert to life: Carol Gimbel (Music at the Barns); Prof. Jeffrey Kopstein, Prof. Anna Shternshis, Prof. Sol Goldberg, Prof. Doris Bergen, Galina Vaisman, and Emily Springgay from the Anne Tanenbaum Centre for Jewish Studies. Lila Karim from North York Arts; Alex Johnson and Natalie Kertes from Koffler Centre of the Arts; Thierry Lasserre, Camille Viault, and Sebastien Jaunet from Alliance Française Toronto; Ben Dietschi and Spectrum Music; Rebecca Singh and Laura Grossman at the Israeli Consulate; Eric Stein of Ashkenaz Foundation; Cheryl Wetstein at the Canada Israel Cultural Foundation; Ken Stowar (CIUT 89.5 FM); Judy Maltz (Haaretz); Galya Sarnier (The Israeli Canadian Centre); Joy Tanner; Felipe Ramírez-Rodríguez; Josh Tapper; Magadhee Suraweera, Tal Cohen, and Kamran Fallah.

ABOUT I=I

The Israeli-Iranian Musical Initiative (I=I), established in 2013, encourages an intellectual and cultural dialogue between individuals and communities through artistic creations. I=I is committed to showcase the fruitful possibilities of cross-cultural musical collaboration. In doing so, it seeks to reach out to the Jewish, Israeli, and Iranian communities, as well as the general public, and promote a cultural and artistic dialogue between audiences, creators, and performers.

For more information please visit:

www.i-equal-i.com

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