

Vashaan Music Society

THE MUSIC OF PERSIA

Exploring the deep roots of Persian Classical Music



Amir Koushkani



Saeed Farajpoori



Hamin Honari

Canada Tour 2022
Vancouver - Victoria - Montreal - Toronto

DIGITAL CONCERT PROGRAM

Welcome to the Music of Persia!

We would like to begin by acknowledging the lands of the indigenous people in which this tour is presented. As we are all primarily immigrants and children of immigrants to Canada, we would like to recognize and appreciate that the Indigenous peoples have a special spiritual, cultural, and economic connection to this land that goes back thousands of years.

Thank you!

After a very long break, and many rescheduled events, we are thrilled and thankful to see you here tonight. This tour would not be possible without the support of the City of Vancouver's Cultural Services as well as the Canada Council for the Arts. We'd also like to thank Creative BC, Rumi Canada, and the Centre Musiciens du Monde. Finally, thank you to Thea Fahimivala, Kamran Noori, Hamid Abdolahi, Reza Honari, and Farzad Attarjafari contributing to this evening's presentation.

About the Vashaan Music Society

The Vashaan Music Society was established in British Columbia to support diverse musicians and echo their creative voices in North America.

"Vashaan" is the Baluchi word for "Joy", and it is with this spirit that we hope to create in music and spread joy beyond cultural lines.



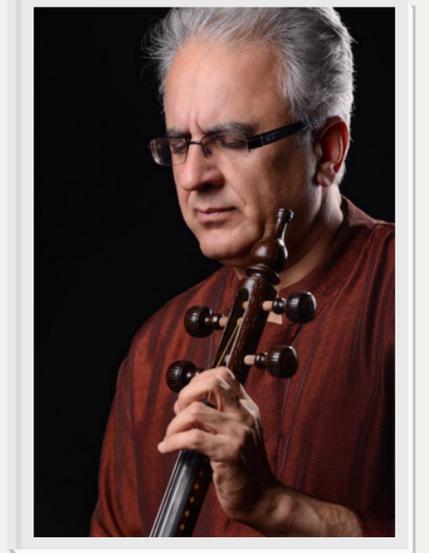
"The Music of Persia - Photo by Reza Honari

Saeed Farajpoory - Kamanche

Saeed Farajpoori, was born on February 20th, 1961 in Sanadaj, Iran. He is a composer, performer and an instructor of a classical Iranian Kamancheh.

He began his musical education at the age of 9 under Maestro Hassan Kamkar, and later studied the Iranian music repertoire (Radif) under Maestro Mohammad Reza Lotfi. Farajpoori has performed with ensembles such as: Shayda, Aref, Aava, Paivar and Dastan. At the same time, he collaborated with Maestro Mohammad Reza Shajarian for more than three decades performing at many concerts inside and outside Iran and in albums such as Shab e Vasl, Ahang e Vafa, Rosvai e Del, Dastan, Aaram e jaan, Aaseman e Eshgh, and Del Shodegan.

Farajpoori has instructed Kamancheh at Chavosh Music Center, Music Conservatory of Tehran, and several universities and art institutes inside and outside Iran. He is a recipient of Iran's highest art honor award. He also has several solo recordings such as: Kamancheh Album, Segah Homayoon, and Kurdish folklore music. In Kurdish music, he has produced the following albums such as: Awaat, Zamaneh, in memory of S. Ali Asghar Kurdestani.



Amir Koushkani - Tar

Amir Koushkani is a performer, composer and instructor of the traditional stringed instruments Tar and Setar. He holds a Master's Degree in Western Musical Composition, and a PhD in Ethnomusicology. Over the last three decades, apart from concentrating on different aspects of classical Persian music. He has composed widely for theatre, orchestra, and various musical ensembles.

Koushkani has recently published a two-volume study on the "Persian Avaz" in collaboration with Master Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Professor Robert Simms.



Hamin Honari - Tombak

Hamin Honari is an Iranian-Canadian percussionist who specializes in Iranian hand percussion (tombak, daf and dayereh). He has trained with artists such as Ramin Bahrami and Perjman Hadadi. He has also trained to adapt his playing style and technique to different musical genres.

He has toured as a member of the Dastan Ensemble, one of Iran's best-known classical Persian music ensembles. He is a principal member of ensembles such as "Les Arrivants", Gordon Grdina's "The Marrow" and "Vashaan." He has also performed alongside great musicians and singers such as Salar Aghili, Parissa, Hossein Omoumi, Saeed Farajpour and Itamar Erez. Hamin lives in Montreal (Quebec) where he is a very active musician in the fields of Persian and Middle Eastern music.



"tar" art by Shirin Golchi

Concert Program

1. Reza Mahjubi

Pishdaramad¹ in the Mode of Dashti

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation

2. Jalil Shahnaz

Chahar Mezrab² (Instrumental) in the Mode of Dashti

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation

3. Traditional

Tasnif³ Shabha Ze Eshtiaghat & Sharabe Nasazegar (composition: Baday e Negar)

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation in the Mode of Isfahan

4. Jalil Shahnaz

Chahar Mezrab (Instrumental) in the Mode of Isfahan

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation in the Mode of Isfahan 2

5. Sheida (Poetry of Sa'adi)

Tasnif³ Selseleye Mooye Doost

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation in the Mode of Isfahan 3

6. Ali Akbar Khan Shahnazi (Poetry of Malek Al Shoaraye Bahar)

Tasnif – be Isfahan Ro

7. Darvish Khan

Reng⁴ in the mode Isfahan

Tar and Kamanche Improvisation in the Mode of Isfahan 4

8. Gholamreza Minbashian (Poetry of Aref Ghazvini)

Goo be Saghi

¹Pishdaramad – a slow rhythmic piece that acts as a kind of overture to a concert

²Chahar Mezrab – A fast instrumental piece (Usually in 6/8 time signature)

³Tasnif – A rhythmic song performed with a singer usually based on poetry from a classic poet such as Hafez or Rumi

⁴Reng – A light rhythmic piece which is usually performed at the end of a concert

