

America / Canada 2006

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Hossein Behroozinia

Hossein Behroozinia was born in 1962 in Tehran Iran. He studied Tar with Reza Vohdaney, Barbat with Mansour Nariman and the Radif with Mohammad Reza Lotfi. He was a student at the Conservatory of Persian Music, and later the Music Director of Ensemble Khaleghi as well as the Director of Music Education at the Center of the Preservation Persian Music. Behroozinia is the greatest living barbat player from Iran and noted for his brilliant compositions and powerful improvisations on this ancient lute, which is the predecessor of the ud, and various European lutes. He has also performed and collaborated with many of the prominent music ensembles in Iran including Aref and Mowlana and joined Dastan Ensemble in 1992.



Jamal Mohammadi

Jamal Mohammadi was born in 1968 as son of a family of artists in a village named Kafshgar Kala Djuibar in the province of Mazandaran. During his childhood he took great interest in folkloric music. His first teacher was his father who was a singer, a poet and a famous Lelewa player in his time. Mohammadi showed a great ability in playing the Kamantche and the wind instruments such as the Lelewa and the Sarna. He studied the folkloric music of Mazandaran with Master Ahmad Mohsein pour and Master Hussein Tayebi to the point of perfection.



Houman Pourmehdi

Houman Pourmehdi is a percussionist and a composer. He was privileged to study Tonbak under guidance of the late Grand Master Amir Nasser Eftetah. At sixteen he continued his studies at the Center for Preservation and Propagation of National Music, where he completed the techniques of playing Tonbak under supervision of Master Morteza Ayan. His interest in the spiritual path of Sufis introduced him to the Ghaderi Sufi order's virtuoso Daf players, such as Haj Agha Sadeghi, Mirza Agha Ghosli, and Darvish Karim, with whom he studied the heart-to-heart traditional techniques of playing Daf. His knowledge of traditional repertoire and intimacy with Sufis make for a very personal style of interpretation in his compositions. He is one of the founder members of the Lian Ensemble. Pourmehdi has played a pivotal part in advancing the Daf, and Tonbak's role in ensemble work with his distinct style in playing tonbak. He currently lives in Los Angeles, and teaches Persian Percussion at the California Institute of the Arts (CalArts).



Alireza Shirvani

Alireza Shirvani born 1980 in Shirvan, North Khorasan. He started to learn playing the Dotar from the early age of seven under the teaching of his father and brother. Later he continued to study different modes and tunes of the folk music from Khorasan with local prominent Masters: Hamrah Gol Afrooz, Ali Bakhshi Afrooz and Haj Helder Kargar.

In recent years, Alireza has been invited to perform in many folk music festivals in Iran. He was awarded with the first prize in Kerman Festival of Folk Music and won the Higher Status in the first and second Festival of Khorasan Music.