



### Mehdi Mirzaei

Born in Tehran (Iran) in the year of 1972, Mehdi became interested in Persian traditional music from early childhood.

Following his passion and interest in the realm of music he commenced training at the age of 15 on his own singing known songs. At the age of 18 he began professional training under the supervision of Master Shapoor Rahimi for a number of years focusing on traditional modal systems (Radif-e Avazi) in vocal techniques.

Continuing his intense training he followed onto participation in solfège and music theory under the supervision of Mrs. Soodabe Shams, one of the well-recognized and respected Masters of solfège and musical theory of Tehran.

His in-depth understanding and perception in Persian literature and poetry was obtained from his correlations with Master Mohamad Reza Ahmadian.

He has participated in a number of concerts in Iran and Australia as solo vocalist and is well recognized nationally for his techniques in singing and fluidity of his voice.

### Find

& Habibolah Badi'ee in renown venues internationally such as Volks Theater in Vienna, Gratz, Paris, Oslo, Moscow, Almati, Hamburg, London, Toronto, Ottawa & Australian venues and events such as International Arts Festival at the Sydney Opera House.

Having established superior techniques & his own distinct adroitness & style on Daf and Ney Toofan is a well-respected Iranian musician Internationally.

Toofan is now actively involved in concerts and musical events and tours with the Mehr ensemble, Sivan Perwer and Davod Azad internationally.

### Samira Karimi

Born in North of Iran 1980, Samira began her journey in the path of music at the early childhood ages.

With a gifted voice, and passion to express her love in music, she began vocal training in 1994 and at the age of 19 she began playing the Setar and went onto playing the Kamanche.

With professional training in music theory, Persian classical style singing and harmony under the supervision of masters Sharif Lotfi & Amir Eslami and training of Setar at the school of Master Zolfanoon, she is a special up and coming talent in the realm of Persian music with much to offer in her vocal techniques and in the instruments she plays.

She has been active in renown ensembles such as Sepidar, Tehran University chorus (official ensemble) and is currently working with the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

### Pooya Mehman Pazir

Born in Shiraz (Iran) in the year of 1977, Pooya showed interest in music from early childhood and embarked on playing the Setar. Progressively improving his techniques and knowledge in traditional Iranian musical modal systems, at the age of 15 he commenced professional training under the supervision of music masters such as Master Behnam Vadani simultaneously brushing up on techniques on the instrument Tar. Pooya successfully passed the mandatory stringent examinations required by the institutions and met all necessary pre requisites, gaining entrance to the Art University of Tehran at the age of 22.

Completing the 4 year course he obtained his bachelor in music and was offered 3rd national postgraduate position (out of 5 offered) in the field of composition.

During the process of his tertiary education Pooya obtained valuable knowledge on instrument techniques from: Behnam Vadani, Mohamad Reza Ebrahimi, Darioush Talai, Mehrbanu Tofiq, and the theory of music, solfeggio, and composition from Hosseyn Dehlavi, Sharif Lotfi, Amir Eslami, Siavash Beyzai.

Pooya began performing with the "Sepidar" & Art university Ensembles as well as the Austrian cultural consulate choir from the year of 2000 in a number of noteworthy concerts in renown venues of Iran.

Having established the "Mehr" ensemble in Tehran and after migrating to Australia in 2006, he is continuing activities with relevant members in Melbourne, his primary focus remains in creating compositions of unique nature. He has also worked in conjunction with Radio and Television in Tehran and composed music for films and theaters as well as teaching in the Art University of Tehran since 2002, and voluntarily in the school of "Asaye sepid" for the blind.

Pooya actively teaches students theory and instrumental techniques in traditional Persian music both privately and at the institute of Iranian cultural & arts society of victoria.

Pooya currently leads the Mehr Ensemble in progressive projects and forthcoming concerts and repertoires.



### Joel Christian Cerdor

Joel Christian Cerdor Was born in Melbourne 1985. At an early age Joel moved to many different small towns around Australia and befriended many individuals from various cultures predominantly from the middle eastern region. Having developed a liking for the culture and the music of the middle east, he listened to world music from a young age and proceeded onto learning classical guitar from his father Christian Cerdor.

Having researched music of many different countries, he discovered Persian music by listening to Master Shajarian and Lotfi and this became the point at which directed his life, love and focus towards Persian classical music.

In search for a teacher who could assist him in the learning of setar he met Pooya Mehman Pazir who has been assisting him in the learning of Setar, Tar and Bamtar as well as training in the theory of Iranian Radif.

Being from a non Persian background, people have found that there is an element of surprise and depth hidden in his capability at playing these instruments.

He is currently a member of the Mehr Ensemble and plans on futher his journey in Persian music by going to Iran.

Mehr Ensemble



### Mehr Ensemble

The Mehr Ensemble is principally formed by specialized musicians for specific projects and compositional pieces. The flexibility within the ensemble is fundamentally the use of relevant instrumentalists which are suitable for the performance of particular music pieces and arrangements, depending on the composition and projects at hand.

The Mehr ensemble began in Tehran, Iran in the year of 1999 in by Pooya Mehmanpazir and has continued its active operation to date. The members of this ensemble are currently skilled instrumentalists in their own fields and the ensemble members may increase and vary depending on projects and tours.

The focus of this ensemble is to create new revelations in the light and framework of Persian ancient Radif musical systems with embedded energy which is intended to lift the soul and the hearts of the lovers of cultural music.

The current members and the infrastructure of this group are: Pooya Mehman Pazir, group leader and instrumentalist on the Tar and Setar, Mehdi Mirzaei, Vocals, Samira Karimi, Kamanche and Setar & Toofan Toghiani, Daf, Dayereh and Ney.

The focus of the Mehr ensemble is purely aimed at creating music which is highly filtered and fine tuned to high standards, irrespective of ensemble size. To create complex musical pieces in pure form and create a new dimension to sounds that effect both human soul and spirit.

### Contact:

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### Toofan Toghiani

Toofan was born in Tehran (Iran) in 1978. He embarked on his study of Persian music from the age of nine, under the supervision of Master Khaledi, training in the Iranian classical

style piano. Subsequent to his migration to Australia, at the age of thirteen he continued his own familiarization and study of Iranian classical, folk and Sufi music.

Toofan was tremendously seduced by the immense strength and depth of his exploration and he began the learning of Ney, deriving techniques as played by master Ney players, Mohamad Mousavi, Mohamad Reza Kiani Nezhad and Jamshid Andalibi.

Journeyming deeper towards the magnetic attraction of Persian Sufi music, he began a very intense training in the playing of the Daf.

Toofan has since performed Persian Sufi and classical style music pieces, participated in movie soundtracks (Serenades) and Performed in concerts, festivals TV and Radio programs with Master Musicians and singers such as Sivan Perwer, Davod Azad &