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Ahmed Moneka

Iraq
Vocals, percussion



Since arriving in Canada from Iraq 4 years ago, my contributions as a performing artist in music and theatre have been welcomed and notable. The scene has warmly embraced my Iraqi artistic heritage, its stories and songs, into its own growing cultural narrative. I've found myself enriched through many collaborations!

Ali Massoudi

Iran
Persian percussion



I play several percussion instruments and work with scholars and orchestras including Tehran Symphony Orchestra and Iran National Music Orchestra. Since coming to Canada, I've been collaborating with various groups and at many festivals including Tirgan. I'm an author of 5 training books for Tonbak, Daf and Udu.

Andrew Kay

Canada
Saxophone, woodwinds, Himalayan singing bowls, tuning forks, percussion



I am passionate musician who has dedicated his life to learning, performing, and teaching music around the world. I grew up in Toronto, and graduated from Humber College in 2009, working as a professional musician, playing concerts and festivals. I'm passionate about Indian music.

Anna Shabalina

Russia
Cello, vocals, musical saw, piano



I'm a musician with a huge performing and recording experience. I arrived in Toronto just a couple of months ago and I would like to find more like-minded professional musicians to carry on my musical passion and create new interesting projects.

Banafsheh (Violet) Reza

Iran
Vocals



I am a singer and songwriter, mostly in indie rock genre but I also have a classical background. I've lived in Canada for almost a year, so besides immigration difficulties I am really into developing my career as a musician.

Camilo Giraldo

Colombia
Afro-Colombian drums, Colombian gaita, marimba de chonta



I was born in Colombia in a family of well-known musicians, and specialize in Afro-Colombian music. I was involved in music at an early age. I studied at the Bellas Artes Faculty of Fine Arts, and spend most of my time studying Latin American music, instrument making and percussion.



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Gloria Gift Nankunda

Uganda

Vocals, piano, xylophone, adungu, drums, thumb pianos



I am passionate, driven, ambitious, hardworking, and above all, compassionate and kind. I inspire many people and fellow immigrants as I believe we don't have to struggle working in factories to make our living here. We should follow our dreams instead, with all the resources and support provided by Canadian government, anything is possible!

Hossein Soleimani

Iran

Kamancheh, vocals



I'm a musician with 20 years of experience in Iranian traditional and fusion music. I play kamancheh and am also a composer. I have released 3 albums and participated in several music festivals inside and outside Iran and won several awards in composing and playing Kamancheh.

Jafar Zabeh

Iran

Tar



I have 25 years of experience as an independent musician in Iranian traditional music. I am a singer and multi-instrumentalist and I play Tar, Setar and Tonbak. I have spent 10 years learning Iranian classical music from one of the greatest Iranian musicians, composers, Ostad Hossein Alizadeh. Additionally, I have also learnt from and played with legendary maestros Arshad Tahmasabi and Ostad Mohammad Reza Lotfi.

Karla Garcia

Chile

Vocals, guitar, piano, drums, ukulele



I am a classical guitar performer. When I moved to Canada in 2016, I wanted to continue playing classical guitar concerts as I did back in Chile. I joined the Toronto Guitar Society's Orchestra, and this experience showed me that I was craving for something else beyond playing classical music concerts,

something where I could be more creative and more myself. I became interested in music production because I found this as an opportunity to expand myself creatively as an artist.

Linar Rizatdinov

Russia

Bass (guitar, fretless, double bass), vocals



I am a newcomer and an experienced musician. I moved to Toronto 3 months ago and I'm looking for opportunities to join musical community, create my network and perform in Toronto and Canada. I hope this program will help me to share my musical vision and to find musicians to collaborate.

Marta Solek

Poland

Cello, bilgoray suka, plock fiddle, Greek lyra, sarangi, morin khuur, gadulka, folk bass



I am a new immigrant; I came to Canada 2 years ago. I have a master's degree in classical cello



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and knee fiddles. I play all kinds of music, from classical, trough folk, world, jazz, film music, video game music, pop, rock. I am creative, hardworking, dedicated, friendly and open to new connections and experiences that will help me to build my name in Canada.

Majd Sekkar

Syria
Clarinet, vocals



I am a Syrian clarinetist, a member of the Canadian Arabic Orchestra and a clarinet and Arabic music theory teacher at the Canadian Arabic Conservatory. I performed with famous Arabic singers at many stages in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Algeria. I moved to Canada in 2016 and have since performed with many Canadian artists.

Mari Palhares

Brazil
Conga, cajon, pandeiro, maracatu drums, bongo



I focus on Brazilian music and culture however I'm always interested to learn and experience

new ways of creating music and art. I would love to connect with musicians from different cultures and backgrounds as it would help me to evolve as an artist and make my music transcend.

Nathan Dell-Vandenberg

Canada
Trombone



I graduated with honours and awards from Humber College, collaboratively built local funk band The Soul Motivators into solid standing with record label backing from Do Right! Music, toured internationally and won many awards with Lemon Bucket Orkestra, and worked freelance within a wide breadth of genres including Klezmer, Serbian Trubaci, Ukrainian Polyphonic Choral, Funk and Soul, Jazz, and many others.

Nour Kaadan

Syria
Percussion (darbuka, frame drum, tar, cajon)



I started my music career in Damascus, Syria in 2011. After the

war happened the chances of me learning, developing and building my career as a musician became small to none. I'm a founding member of Toronto's own Diar band. We aim to revive the Syrian/Middle Eastern heritage by merging traditional Arabic lyrics with upbeat music and rhythms.

Padideh Ahrar Nejad

Iran
Tar



I am a musician, arranger, composer, and educator who plays and teaches tar, an instrument central to Persian music. I graduated from Tehran Art Music School and Art University of Tehran, and studied with renowned players including Behrouz Hemati, Hossein Alizadeh, and Hooshang Zarif.

Shaho Andalibi

Iran
Ney, vocals



I started learning and performing Persian classical singing and Maqam music at the age of 4 under



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my father's teaching, Iraj Andalibi, a well-known Persian musician.

Sardar Mohamadjani

Iran
Tar, oud



I have been playing for 30 years and had many opportunities to perform with many great artists around the world as Shahram Nazeri, a well-known singer from Iran. I performed at many festivals including WOMEX, and in great auditoriums like Theatre de la Ville and Opera Bastille in Paris.

Tajkiran Grewal

Canada
Vocals, African percussion



I am a music artist and I go by the name Mizz Taj. Being born in Rexdale to Punjabi and Sikh parents I was introduced to East Indian music and art at a very early age. Being exposed to Caribbean sounds and dances such as reggae, dancehall, soca, calypso, chutney and the street sounds of hip hop

from America, I began to combine Rap with Bhangra and Reggae.

Tan Vu (Tony)

Vietnam
Classical/choral/musical theatre voice



I am a Vietnamese singer-actor-mover that has performed with artists from more than 20 countries. I'm a storyteller who has mounted plays that serve as satirical reflections of modern Vietnamese society and a director of youth theatre productions that mobilized community support for charitable causes. I yearn to keep growing professionally I am thrilled to build cross-cultural bridges via music.

Tarek Ghiri

Syria
Flamenco guitar



I have been playing guitar for over 16 years. I began my studies at a music school in Syria where I studied for 2 years. After several

years of playing in the classical style, I discovered Flamenco music.

Zaheer-Abbas Janmohamed

Canada
Tabla



I was born in Scarborough and brought up in Calgary, where I began learning tabla at the age of 9. As a recipient of an Arts Fellowship award from the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, I moved to India between academic years in 2005-2006 and in 2010-2011 to pursue my study of classical tabla.

Zoë Santo

Canada
Violin, viola



I am a classically-trained violinist and violist whose performance focuses on folk music from around the world. My musical practice blends pathos with the physical presence of sound. Much of my work focuses on live performance and improvisation, while I have followed many paths including but not limited to Balkan, Celtic, Trubacci, and Klezmer. I regularly play with the Toronto Klezmer



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Society, and have performed in the past with The Turbans, Völur, Lemon Bucket Orkestra, Moskitto Bar, The Double Cuts among many others. I'm currently completing a Bachelor's Degree in Sculpture at OCADU.

**Suba Sankaran –
Artist Mentor**
Canada
Vocals



The program's Artist Mentor is DORA award-winning, thrice JUNO-nominated world/fusion vocalist Suba Sankaran. She has effortlessly combined musical worlds, performing across North America, Europe, the UK, Asia, Australia and Africa with Autorickshaw, master drummer Trichy Sankaran, a cappella, live-looping duo FreePlay and Retrocity (80s a cappella revue), to name a few. Performance highlights include performing for Peter Gabriel, Nelson Mandela and Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and performing with Jane Siberry, Lorraine Segato, Bobby McFerrin and the Swingles.