

**Shahriyar Jamshidi** is known as a Kurdish Kamanche player and composer was born in Kermanshah, Iran and was raised up in a traditional Kurdish community that the members had a tight connection to the music in their daily life. He remembers when he was seven, his father took him to the Sufi celebration events annually. In that abundant mysterious rituals, the audiences who were sitting cross-legged on the floor politely and formal sang and clapped spiritually. The group of musicians played Tambour entire night. The mythical harmonies gradually gave him the best passion he needed and brought him to the sky. Shahriyar found that music has the power and capability to change his sense more than his family members. Therefore, his routine became to listen to live music on Kurdish radio channels every night. Due to political issues and eight years of war in Iran, Shahriyar did not have an opportunity to learn music until age seventeen.

He holds a Bachelor of Music from the Tehran University of Art in 1988. Shahriyar received his Kamanche training with celebrated musicians such as Mahmood Merati, Mojtaba Mirzadeh, and Ardeshir Kamkar, focusing on the study of Kurdish music in order to reconstruct the old songs of the Kurds, his people.

In developing countries, cultural capital, especially music is in danger of extinction. He believes that an effective way to retain ethnic music is to bring this type of music to daily life. Over 28 years of his career, He has been attempting to recreate the classical Kurdish music in an understandable way for younger generations. Shahriyar considers this effort as a cultural bridge between past and

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future. In 2003, He founded the Dilan Ensemble (derived from the name of the Kurdish musician Qadir Dilan), which has since performed numerous times in Tehran and other cities of Iran. He has also performed on several well-known Kurdish TV channels including Kurdistan, Newroz, and Kurdsat, 2002-2007.

Since settling in Canada in 2012, Shahriyar has consistently sought new musical languages, thereby crossing cultures with his Kamanche Solo music. He has already performed at Toronto's Tirgan Festival, International Society for Improvised Music (ISIM) in Switzerland and Canada, High-Fest in Armenia, Festival du Monde Arabe, Ontario Contact, 33rd World Conference of International Society for Music Education, Baku, Azerbaijan, University of Minneapolis School of Music, the US and Cello Biennial in the Netherlands and frequently appearing at the Aga Khan Museum and the Small World Music series in Toronto.

As a composer, Shahriyar has devoted his career to preserving the ancient music history of Kurdistan by composing and arrangement pieces for Kamanche, vocals, and orchestra. He has released four albums including Alvanati (2004), call of the Mountains (2008), A Yellow Flower (2014), Kamancello (2017) and The lullaby of A Nomad (2018).

In addition, Shahriyar Jamshidi has received awards from Canada Arts Council, International Society for Music Education ISME, SOCAN Foundation and Toronto Arts Council.

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