

**Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)**

*"Drumming is a meditation for me; rhythm is the sound of life. Playing music with others is my greatest joy. I dedicate every performance to increasing multicultural awareness and building relationships of mutual respect and appreciation across cultures." — Ahmad Yousefbeigi*

Ahmad Yousefbeigi is a dynamic and versatile hand percussionist with over 25 years of performance experience. He is equally fluent in playing the traditional, energetic folk rhythms of his native Kurdistan, as he is versed in contemporary experimental improvisation and progressive world music.

In December 2020 Ahmad was proud to perform by invitation in the virtual **ADL In Concert Against Hate** produced by the Anti-Defamation League. Currently he is a member of a Seattle band called **The Crown**, which has produced original songs and has several vinyl LPs. Since September 2010 Ahmad has been a founding member of **Yesod**, an acoustic, ambient improvisational collaboration which has produced more than 35 recording sessions.

Born in Sanandaj, Kurdistan, Ahmad's passion for rhythm was fostered by the musical nature of Kurdish community life. At the age of twelve he began formal study of tonbak, a wooden goblet-shaped drum and Kurdish daf, a large frame drum lined with chains.

Upon arriving in the Pacific Northwest Ahmad co-founded several traditional folk music ensembles performing Kurdish, Farsi and Pan-Arabic music: **Kamand**, **Mashriq** and **Shorouk**. In these groups he played a mix of Kurdish and Arabic drums: tonbak, daf, dayre, dohol, riqq, and darbuka.

For three years—in 2006, 2008 and 2009—Ahmad produced, organized and performed with **Kamand** and other guest artists to create a two hour music and dance concert called **Norooz**—a celebration commemorating the Iranian New Year and the first day of Spring—at Town Hall Seattle. In these concerts he played hand percussion on tonbak, daf, dayre and dohol, sang traditional and classical songs in Kurdish and Farsi with Kamand, created and directed a local Iranian-American community choir and played hand percussion with invited guest artists as well.

Ahmad's curiosity, love of cultural exchange and collaboration has led him to perform with many musicians and bands outside of his native traditional Kurdish musical roots. On multiple occasions, Ahmad has performed daf as a guest percussionist with the **Seattle Peace Chorus**—playing in an interpretation of Mozart's Requiem and Ode to Joy. Ahmad was a member of the Seattle-based Eastern European fusion band called **Alchymeia** and Balkan dance band **Kafana Republik**. He was also a member of **Sin Fronteras**, a Latin American folk music ensemble. In addition to his native drums, Ahmad also plays cajón, Argentine bombo, maracas, and güiro.

Other performance highlights include appearances on Seattle Public Radio Stations KUOW and KBCS; on Big Night Out on the Seattle Channel; at Benaroya Hall; Seattle City Hall; Kirkland Performance Center; Bellevue Community College; South Seattle Community College; UW Meany Hall, and Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma. Ahmad performed with Kamand for Rick Steve's Iran: Yesterday and Today presentation. In 2014 in Vancouver, Canada, Ahmad had the privilege of performing with the celebrated Kurdish singer Nasser Razazi.

Ahmad is an enthusiastic and accomplished teacher of daf, tonbak, and Kurdish line dancing. He has presented Kurdish music and dance workshops regularly at colleges and schools throughout the Pacific Northwest. He has performed and taught regularly at the Northwest Folklife Festival at the Seattle Center as well as Folklife in the School's K-12 music program. He taught Kurdish folk songs and daf at Mendocino Middle Eastern Music and Dance Camp, taught darbuka and riqq at Mendocino Balkan Music and Dance Camp and taught darbuka, riqq, and frame drum at bakanalia! music camp in Portland, OR.

YESOD

Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeiqi

Strings: Bill Wolford

Listen: <https://yesod.bandcamp.com/album/improvisations-1>

[music](#)
[community](#)

# Improvisations 1

by Yesod

I Could Dream 00:30 / 06:12

Digital Album

Streaming + Download

Includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more.

**Buy Digital Album \$10 USD** or more

[Send as Gift](#)

Full Digital Discography

39  
releases

Get all 39 Yesod releases available on Bandcamp and save 25%. Includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality downloads of [We Are Not Sick](#), [E-Clipse](#), [Deep State](#), [The Avant Guys](#), [Yesod with Arrington de Dioniso Pt.1 and 2](#), [Live at the Chapel Nov. 21 '15](#), [Ezid music by Yesod](#), [Live at The Chapel 2015](#), and 31 more.

**Buy Digital Discography \$305.99 USD** or more (25% OFF)

[Send as Gift](#)

1. I Could Dream 06:12

buy track

2. Milfoil 06:05

3. Rolls Down Hill 06:04

4. Bobbing for Queso 06:48

5. First Comes Lungs 05:25

6. Freshman 20 06:18

7. Wrong Way Holmes 02:46

8. Chicharones 05:32

Recorded live on February 15, 2011 and March 15, 2011 at Vidsound Studios.

released March 15, 2011

Bill Wolford: Guitar, Banjo, Mandolin, Found Objects, Voice  
Ahmad Yousefbeigi: Percussion, Found Objects, Voice  
Jerry Schroeder: Bass, Found Objects, Voice

© all rights reserved

Yesod  
Seattle, Washington

[Follow](#)

YESOD is a meeting of Middle Eastern and Middle Western musical influences where pure musical impulses flux between sound... [more](#)

Facebook  
Twitter  
ReverbNation  
vidsoundrecordings.com

Recommendations

discography

We Are Not Sick  
Jul 2020

E-Clipse  
Jul 2019

Deep State  
Mar 2019


[more releases...](#)

The Crown

Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeigi

Listen: <https://thecrownroyal.bandcamp.com/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/thecrownroyalemusic/?hl=en>

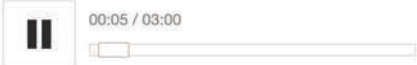


Instagram Facebook Twitter YouTube GooglePlus

music community

## Prince of Rabbits

by The Crown



00:05 / 03:00

**Digital Track**  
Streaming + Download

Includes unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app, plus high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more.

**Buy Digital Track \$1 USD** or more

[Send as Gift](#)

During a meal conversation with Robert Fripp, he explained that the odd meters (especially 5 and 7) have an enlivening, energizing quality. Later, yours truly recognized that 5, in particular, is the number of human contact: 5 fingers with which to caress our aspiration; 5 toes on which to balance our humility (humus is literally the earth); 5 senses with which to apprehend the cosmos; 5 feelings (wish, hope, belief, acceptance, love) hidden deep within the breast. Five is the number of enlivened and energized human contact. In Watership Down, Fiver the Rabbit, descendent of Prince of Rabbits., is named so because of his contact with a larger world. :-)


Dedicated to Natasha Natalevna

released September 8, 2020  
Petra Haden - vocals  
Lucius Gregory Meredith - electric guitar  
Beth Quist - vocals, hammered dulcimer  
Ahmad Yousefbeigi - percussion  
Dennis Staskowski - electric bass  
Nigel Gavin - slide guitar (solo)  
Sonia Wilson - vocals  
Igor Adamovitch - piano


Taylor Carroll - engineering  
Tony Geballe - production, mixing, mastering

Hannah Adams - artwork

Recorded at Bear Creek Studios

 some rights reserved


**Tags**  
[world](#) [glossolalia](#) [Seattle](#)



PRINCE OF RABBITS THE CROWN

[Share / Embed](#) [Wishlist](#)


supported by




**The Crown**  
Seattle, Washington

[Follow](#)


discography



**Alexanderplatz Blues**  
Dec 2020



**Pivot & Pirouette**  
Oct 2020



**Prince of Rabbits**  
Sep 2020

[more releases...](#)

**contact / help**

[Contact The Crown](#)

[Streaming and Download help](#)

[Redeem code](#)

[Report this track or account](#)



Ahmad Yousefbeiği • Hand Percussionist • kurdishdrum@gmail.com • www.kurdishdrum.com

2019 Kurdish Rhythms & Free Improvisation with Arrington de Dionyso & Amy Denio  
Live at the Chapel Performance Space  
Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeiği

Listen: <https://arrington.bandcamp.com/album/kurdish-rhythms-and-free-improvisation-live-at-the-chapel-performance-space>

bandcamp Search and discover music

sign up log in

music merch video community

## Kurdish Rhythms and Free Improvisation: Live at the Chapel Performance Space

by Ahmad Yousefbeiği, Arrington de Dionyso and special guest Amy Denio

04:00 / 13:15

Digital Album  
Streaming + Download  
Includes high-quality download in MP3, FLAC and more. Paying supporters also get unlimited streaming via the free Bandcamp app.

Buy Digital Album name your price

Send as Gift

buy track

- Ahmad and Arrington Duo, section one 04:00
- Ahmad and Arrington Duo, section two 04:00
- Ahmad and Arrington joined by Amy Denio 12:15

This concert was recorded at The Chapel Performance Space at the Good Shepherd Center in Seattle on February 29, 2019.

The recording showcases the unique duo language developed between Dîtes çîrînetî (also playing Lalove, the sacred flute of Central Sulawesi) Arrington de Dionyso, with Ahmad Yousefbeiği, a master of traditional Kurdish percussion instruments such as the Dab and also a seasoned improviser. For the last third of the concert we are joined by Amy Denio on vocals and clarinet.

Ahmad ends the show with a solo performance of a traditional Kurdish song, dedicated to the memory of his brother.

released March 1, 2019

some rights reserved

supported by

Share / Embed Wishlist

discography

Arrington de Dionyso  
Dioniso, Washington

Follow

Arrington de Dionyso  
reciprocates Ullat's  
Rhythms with  
multilingual vocal  
work & minimalist  
instrumentation. It's  
a rhythmic, serene,  
more

Tumblr  
Facebook  
arringtondedionyso.bi  
gcartel.com  
YouTube

Recommendations

Honey and Poison  
(2019) MALAIKAT  
DAN SINGA  
2019/03/01

JAJOUKA BARAKA: A

https://arrington.bandcamp.com

**Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)**

Watch Ahmad Teaching at the World Rhythym Festival:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1\\_smgje0A4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1_smgje0A4)



## LEARN TO PLAY DAF, KURDISH FRAME DRUM



Ahmad has been playing Daf and persian Tonbak since he was 12 years old. He performs Kurdish and Persian music with local Seattle band, Kamand.

### LEARN TO PLAY DAF, KURDISH FRAME DRUM

The Daf is a large frame drum with small metal rings on the inside rim. Traditionally it is played in Kurdish Sufi rituals. Today the Daf is also used in popular folk and classical Persian music.

- ALL LEVELS WELCOME
- PRIVATE & GROUP LESSONS
- WORKSHOPS
- SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS



Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)

Alychymeia

Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeigi

Listen: <http://folksoundsrecords.com/alchymeia.html>

# ALCHYMEIA

Nadia Tarnawsky, vocals  
Brandon Vance, violin  
Brad Hawkins, cello

Steve Rice, accordion  
Yusuf Kilgore, guitar  
Ahmad Yousefbeigi, percussion



**Thursday October 25  
-8pm-**

THE  
**Royal Room**

[www.THEROYALROOMSEATTLE.com](http://www.THEROYALROOMSEATTLE.com)

Together, the musical languages of each musician form exotic twist on Celtic and Eastern European music.

**Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)**

Kafana Republik

Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeigi

Watch on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HODcc8u745A>



6

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2014 AT 7:30 PM PST – 11:30 PM PST

**Kafana Republik at Vancouver Int'l Folk Dancers (Canada)**

Moberly Park Hall, 7647 Prince Albert St. at E. 59th Ave., Vancouver B.C. Canada



**Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)**

2008 Mashriq at South Seattle Community College  
Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeigi

Watch on YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmXZolnRzXY&feature=emb\\_title](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rmXZolnRzXY&feature=emb_title)



**Māshriq**  
middle eastern  
music

8pm  
**Saturday**  
December 6, 2008

**Olympic Hall**  
South Seattle Community College  
6000 16th Ave SW, Seattle WA 98106

For Online Tickets:  
[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/48935](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/48935)

Or call Brown Paper Tickets:  
**1.800.838.3006**

Omar Haggag  
oud, vocals

Ahmad Yousefbeigi  
percussion, vocals

with special guest  
David McGrath  
arabic nay

[www.mashriqseattle.com](http://www.mashriqseattle.com)



Kamand

Percussion: Ahmad Yousefbeigi

Lead Singer: Ahmad Yousefbeigi



2009 Kamand at Classical Tuesdays in Old Town Tacoma

**City Scene**  
TACOMAWEEKLY  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

**NORTHWEST  
ART AT  
TAM  
C2**  
SECTION C, PAGE 1

## Tuesdays are for Old Town

### *Fifth season of Classical Tuesdays in Old Town welcomes world music, local talent, community pride*

**By Matt Nagle**  
[mnagle@tacomaweekly.com](mailto:mnagle@tacomaweekly.com)

Traditional and classical Persian music, accomplished violinists, masses of harps, a salute to Tacoma composers – this and more is on the season playbill for the fifth annual Classical Tuesdays in Old Town, a series of free chamber music concerts held on the second Tuesday of each month at Slavonian Hall beginning Oct. 13 and running through Feb. 9.

Presented by the Old Town Business and Professional Association, Classical Tuesdays in Old Town is under the artistic direction of Pamela Ryker, a flutist and lover of chamber music. She puts a lot of care into bringing together Tacoma musicians, mixed with a few surprises to keep things fresh each season. “We provide the unexpected,” she said. “There’s always something new for the ear.”

And that’s exactly what’s on tap for the series’ opening night Oct. 13 when Kamand Ensemble takes the stage for an evening of Persian classical and traditional music. Already known to audiences at the Northwest Folklife Festival in Seattle, Kamand Ensemble is comprised of musicians Ahmad (an Iranian Kurd), Milad and Ali (both of Tehran) performing on the barbat and setar (Persian lutes), and daf and tonbak (percussion instruments). These men have studied with the great masters of traditional Persian music and state that they “dedicate every performance to increasing multicultural awareness and building relationships of respect and appreciation within the community.”

“I think we all want to become more familiar with the fine traditions of Middle Eastern culture,” Ryker said. “(Kamand Ensemble) plays wonderful music that we’re not very familiar with, so I thought it was something to celebrate, these fabulous musicians and very great people.”

In the coming months, there are many outstanding local performers to see and hear:

- Nov. 10 – “A Few of Our Favorite Strings” featuring returning violinists Maria Sampen and Timothy Christie, on faculty at University of Puget Sound.

- Dec. 8 – A special event to benefit Classical Tuesdays in Old Town with Tangoheart Quartet, to be held at John Connelly Law Offices in Old Town. Tickets: \$25.

- Jan. 12 – Chamber pieces by Tacoma composers Greg Youtz, Deborah Anderson, Clem Reid and more.

- Feb. 9 – An evening with the Puget Sound Strings Harp Ensemble made up of harpists of all ages from University of Puget Sound Community Music Department.

With four successful seasons of Classical Tuesdays in Old Town already past, looking back Ryker noted the important social aspect of the concert series that people seem to enjoy so much. Musicians mingle with the audience, audience members reunite and meet newcomers and everyone gets to enjoy a bit of informal Old Town hospitality.

“This series has created a nice sense of community for the musicians and the audience,” Ryker said, which is particularly welcome during the winter months when Tuesday nights in Old Town are normally



Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • kurdishdrum@gmail.com • www.kurdishdrum.com

2009 Norooz Music & Dance Concert, Town Hall Seattle



CELEBRATING  
THE PERSIAN  
NEW YEAR

# Norooz 2009

CONCERT

*Music:* Kamand  
Members of Shabava  
Christos Govetas  
Saba Choir  
and other guest artists

*Dance:* Delshodeh  
Dance Ensemble  
  
Karavans  
Dance Troupe

**Saturday, March 21st**  
**7:30 pm**  
*Doors open 6:45 pm*

**TOWN HALL**  
1119 EIGHTH AVE.  
SEATTLE 98101

*Tickets: & Information:*  
[www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52319](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/52319)  
Tickets also available at local Persian groceries & restaurants.

**1.800.838.3006**  
[www.kamand.org/Norooz](http://www.kamand.org/Norooz)

General	\$18
Students	\$10
Seniors	\$10
Family	\$40
2 adults + 4 kids under 18	





Ahmad Yousefbeigi • Hand Percussionist • [kurdishdrum@gmail.com](mailto:kurdishdrum@gmail.com) • [www.kurdishdrum.com](http://www.kurdishdrum.com)

2008 Norooz Music & Dance Concert, Town Hall Seattle



# Kamand

*Classical & Folk Music of Iran*

Ahmad, percussion, voice | Paymon, oud, barbat, voice  
Anahita, santoor, voice | Kavous, ney, voice  
Paria, tar, voice | Ashley, tar, voice.

featuring guest artists:

Bobak Salehi on Kamancheh, Violin and Setar  
Mojdeh Hooshmand, Voice | Taraneh Mohajeri, Voice  
Helene Eriksen's International Dance Theater  
Karavans Dance Troupe, Directed by Mish Mish

# Norooz

*Music & Dance*

*An Inter-cultural Celebration of Spring Renewal & the Persian New Year*

**Saturday March 15, 2008 @ 7:30 PM**

*Doors will open at 6:45 PM*

**Town Hall Seattle**

# PANGÉO

*Music of Greece and the Balkans*

Christos Govetas, clarinet, voice | Ruth Hunter, accordion, voice  
Kane Mathis, guitar | Will Dowd, doumbek, defi, daouli

featuring guest artists:

St. Demetrios' Church  
of Seattle "Akrites" Dancers  
directed by Vassili Dikeakos

[www.kyklosmusic.com](http://www.kyklosmusic.com)

# Kamand

*Classical & Folk Music of Iran*

Ahmad, percussion, voice | Paymon, oud, barbat, voice  
Anahita, santoor, voice | Kavous, ney, voice  
Paria, tar, voice | Ashley, tar, voice.

featuring guest artists:

Bobak Salehi on Kamancheh, Violin and Setar  
Mojdeh Hooshmand, Voice | Taraneh Mohajeri, Voice  
Helene Eriksen's International Dance Theater  
Karavans Dance Troupe, Directed by Mish Mish  
[www.kamand.org](http://www.kamand.org)



Sponsored by  
U.S. American Community Alliance  
unity. diversity. community.

Information line 1-800-838-3006

Tickets: [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26005](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/26005)

\$18 General Admission | \$10 Student, Seniors, Low Income | \$40 Family (2 adult & 4 youth under 18)

2006 Norooz Music & Dance Concert, Town Hall Seattle

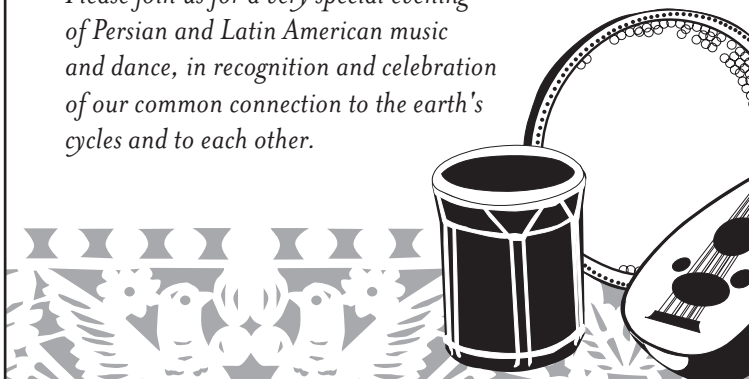


*Kamand*  
*persian music ensemble* & *Sin Fronteras*  
*pan american music ensemble*

*It's time for a good spring cleaning!*

Traditional Iranian musical ensemble, KAMAND, and local Pan-American music group, SIN FRONTERAS, in association with La Casa de Artes, invite you to celebrate the ancient Iranian tradition of Norooz -- a New Year festival that coincides with the earth's cycle of springtime renewal, rebirth, and rejuvenation. In Iran, Norooz is celebrated by cleaning the home, gathering with family and friends, making peace with the troubles and challenges of the past year, and starting anew with celebratory music, dance, and community gatherings. The universal themes of Norooz -- forgiveness, renewal, unity -- are celebrated in many cultures around the world, in a multitude of ways.

Please join us for a very special evening of Persian and Latin American music and dance, in recognition and celebration of our common connection to the earth's cycles and to each other.



A small poster for the Norooz Concert. It has a yellow top half and a green bottom half. The word "Norooz" is written in a large, red, stylized font. Below it, "CONCERT" is written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The phrase "A Celebration of Spring!" is written in a red, cursive script. Below "Norooz", the words "Kamand &amp; Sin Fronteras" are written in a red, stylized font. Below that, "persian music ensemble" and "pan-american music ensemble" are written in a smaller, red, sans-serif font. The date and time "Sunday, March 19th, 2006 at 7pm" are written in a red, sans-serif font. Below that, the location "Town Hall • 1119 8th Avenue • Seattle, WA 98101" is written in a red, sans-serif font. The text "Order Tickets Online: www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3087" is written in a red, sans-serif font. Below that, the ticket prices are listed: "\$10 Students/Seniors/Low-Income", "\$18 General Advance", and "\$40 Family (2 adults &amp; 4 youth under 18)". The text "Info Line: 1-800-838-3006" is written in a red, sans-serif font. Below that, the contact information "Contact: www.kamand.org" and "sinfronteras2002@hotmail.com" is written in a red, sans-serif font. The text "Sponsored by La Casa de Artes" is written in a red, cursive script. The bottom half of the poster features a green background with a pattern of stylized plants and musical instruments, including a stringed instrument, a drum, and a flute.



2006 Norooz Music & Dance Concert, Town Hall Seattle  
Featuring Sin Fronteras & Kamand



## *Sin Fronteras*

*pan american music ensemble*

Diego Coy: *bongos, quena, quenacho, zampoñas*  
Pamela Emerson: *charango, vocals*  
Patricia Mazuela: *charango, cuatro, guitar, vocals*  
Arthur Santora: *lead guitar*  
Ahmad Yousefbeigi: *bombo, darabukka, hooves*

Sin Fronteras ("Without Borders") is a six-member, Seattle-based, Pan-American music ensemble that interprets songs from across Central & South America and the Caribbean. They draw heavily from the Nueva Cancion movement with an emphasis on Andean instrumentation, vocal harmony, Chilean composers, and a fusion of Middle Eastern percussion traditions. They are committed to unity among all peoples of the Americas and beyond..

## *Kamand*

*persian music ensemble*



Ashley Biria: *tar, vocals*  
Heather Carman: *ney, violin, vocals*  
Paymon Elahi: *oud, vocals*  
Ahmad Yousefbeigi: *daf, dohol, tombak, vocals*

From the meditative grooves of classical Persian music to the pulsing rhythms of Kurdistan, Kamand takes the listener on a journey to the heart of Iran. As Seattle's only traditional Iranian ensemble, Kamand seeks to represent, musically, many of Iran's diverse regions. The sheer joy of music energizes the group members' collaboration and a passion for promoting intercultural appreciation drives their commitment.