

THE SALAAM SHALOM MUSIC PROJECT

The Salaam-Shalom Music Project comprises distinguished musicians and singers from Chicago's different faith communities: Muslim, Jewish, and Christian. Drawing upon the traditional melodies of the Middle East and South Asia combined with klezmer (Jewish music from Eastern Europe), these musicians demonstrate the possibilities of interfaith harmony through musical collaboration. The group's name, "Salaam-Shalom" means "peace" in Arabic and Hebrew, affirming the possibility of mutual learning, enrichment, and good will among all faiths.

The musicians teach each other about their own folk music heritage and then share their efforts with the audience. They include first-and second-generation artists from the Middle East, East Asia, and the former Soviet Union. This all-acoustic ensemble draws from the wellsprings of ancestral folk songs and dances for their creativity. The Qanun (zither), Daf (hand-held drum), and Ney (Egyptian flute) join the violin, clarinet, accordion and double bass to create an entrancing atmosphere of spirit and spirituality.

PERFORMANCE

- Concerts
- Workshops & Master Classes
- (instrumental, vocal, dance)

HIGHLIGHTS

- Concert at Old Town School of Folk Music
- Concert at SPACE Evanston
- Broadcast on WBEZ Chicago Public Radio's 'Worldview'

WHERE

- Community Events and Festivals
- Libraries, Schools and Colleges
- Houses of Worship

VIDEO

bit.ly/ssmpvideo



PRAISE

"The band was simply amazing. Their incredible skill was matched by their openness, flexibility and their eager and willing-to-connect personalities. Giving our students the opportunity to witness such a culturally diverse group of artists is a priceless experience. Their blend of ethnicities and spiritual backgrounds mixed with the high caliber of their talent was truly an amazing evening."

- Matthew Charnay, Jewish/Interfaith Life Coordinator, DePaul University Chicago

"This professional ensemble of Arabic and Jewish Jewish musicians—seven instrumentalists, four vocalists, and two dancers—exemplifies and promotes peaceful collaboration. They set aside religious and cultural differences to all learn and all perform the folk music of both traditions. Perhaps more important than what the Salaam Shalom Music Project does is the quality and spirit with which they do it."

- David Beach, Professor Emeritus of Psychology, University of Wisconsin-Parkside

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