

# THE SALAAM SHALOM Music PROJECT

**The Salaam-Shalom Music Project** comprises distinguished artists from Chicago's Arab and Muslim professional musician community and the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band. Drawing upon the traditional melodies of the Middle East and South Asia combined with Klezmer (Jewish music from Eastern Europe) and Sephardic music (Medieval Judeo-Spanish), Salaam-Shalom—which means "peace" in Arabic and Hebrew—affirms the possibilities for mutual learning, enrichment and good will among Muslims, Jews, and Christians.

The band members reach out to each other and to the public to teach, learn, and celebrate their heritage through music. The musicians include first-and second-generation artists from Egypt, Pakistan, Jordan (Palestine), and the former Soviet Union. This all-acoustic ensemble draws from the wellsprings of ancestral folk songs and dances for their creativity. The Oud (Arabic lute), Daf (hand-held drum), Ney (Arabic 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](http://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 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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