

SAFA



SAFA is a trio that explores the many threads and traditions of its members. Incorporating elements of Persian music with Western Classical and improvisation, this virtuosic ensemble has presented concerts at major festivals across North America. Safa's 2002 CD, "Alight", which featured compositions based on Sufi poetic themes, was met with critical success. Based out of Vancouver / Montreal, SAFA members are Amir Koushkani (tar), François Houle (clarinet), and Hamin Honari (percussion). SAFA was recently featured as part of the Aga Kahn Museum's pocket performance series, and released a new album on Afterday Audio, featuring 10 stunning original compositions.

AMIR KOUSHKANI - tar, setar, vocals

Originally from Tehran, where he trained at the Music Conservatory, Koushkani is a master of the tar and setar, bringing a deep wealth of knowledge of Persian Classical music into his compositions and arrangements.

FRANÇOIS HOULE - clarinets

Canadian clarinetist Francois Houle's reputation on the world creative music scene is well deserved. A perennial favourite at festivals in North American, Europe and Asia, his work has been hailed by the international press for its originality, profound musicality and sheer virtuosity.

HAMIN HONARI - percussion (daf, tombak, framed drums)

Born in Zahedan, Baluchistan, now making Montreal his home after growing up in Vancouver, Percussion virtuoso Hamin Honari recently took over the chair from esteemed colleague Sal Ferreras. He is a sought after collaborator, traveling all over the world performing with some of today's most adventurous ensembles; Juno-Award winner Gordon Grdina's HARAM and The Marrows, Itamar Erez, and Constantinople, among others.