



ROAD ENSEMBLE

PHOTO: IIDA LIIMATAINEN

Founded: 2015

Genres: Traditional Folk Music of Iran and Kurdistan

MUSICAL FOCUS

- Ancient Persian & Kurdish Scales and Rhythms
- Siah Chmaneh (Kurdish Vocal Style)
- Cross-Cultural Musical Collaborations

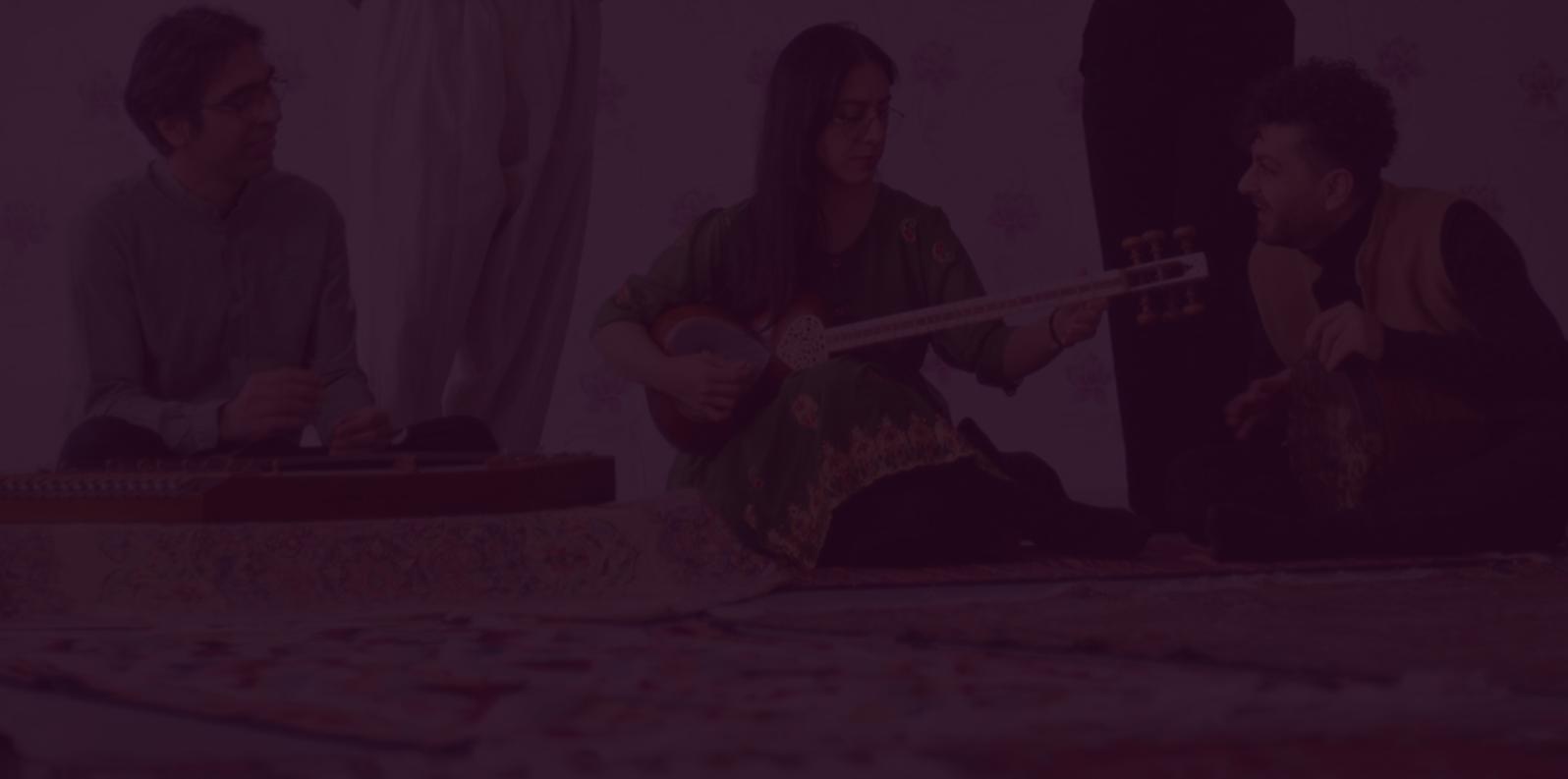
MEMBERS

- Farzad Mehdi Nia: Vocals
- Lotta Maria Heiskanen: Violin
- Farshad Sanati: Santour and Vocals
- Fardin Abbasi: Percussion, and Vocals
- Sheida Sanati: Bass Tar

ABOUT ROAD ENSEMBLE

Road Ensemble is a Iranian and Kurdish music group dedicated to preserving and showcasing the rich traditional folk music of Iran and Kurdistan. Since its inception in 2015, the ensemble has become renowned for its masterful use of ancient scales, intricate melodies, and complex rhythms that evoke the heart and soul of these ancient cultures. Known for their captivating performances, Road Ensemble offers a truly immersive experience that connects audiences across borders and eras.

By blending musical traditions from Iran and Kurdistan with Finnish and international collaborations, Road Ensemble bridges cultural gaps and creates a sound that is both timeless and contemporary. Their unique approach includes the revival of the melancholic Kurdish vocal style known as Siah Chmaneh, which tells poignant stories of exile, love, and loss—further showcasing their dedication to keeping endangered traditions alive for new generations.



SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2025

- 31.1.2025 – Live Performance, Gothenburg, Sweden
- 1.2.2025 – Live Performance, Stockholm, Sweden
- 15.2.2025 – Live Performance, Jyväskylä, Finland

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2024

- August: Middle East Jam Festival, Helsinki
- July: Kaustinen Folk Music Festival – Performances and Workshop
- April: Stoa, Helsinki – Collaboration with Global Music Center
- March: Karavan Music Center, Gothenburg, Sweden

2023

- February: Culture House Laikku, Tampere
- February: Culture House Villa Rana, Jyväskylä
- January: Annual Startup Refugees Network Ceremony
- November: 10th Anniversary of Didar, Setlementti Tampere
- July: Kaustinen Folk Music Festival
- May: Espoon Kulttuurikeskus, Louhisali
- March: Nowruz Celebration, Multicultural Center Gloria, Jyväskylä
- December 2022: "Road to Freedom" Tour (Tampere, Helsinki, Jyväskylä, Turku)

2022

- November: Concert, Saarijärven City Hall
- May: Concert, Pekka Ervast–Temppeli, Jyväskylä
- March: Nowruz Concert, Romanikulttuurin Museo, Helsinki
- February: Performance, Äänekosken Valtuustosali

2021

- December: Finland Independence Day Performances (Jyväskylä, Vantaa)
- August–October: "An Entry to Iranian Music," Series of Lectures & Concerts, Museum of Impossible Forms, Helsinki

SELECTED PERFORMANCES

2018–2020

- May 2019 – 60th Anniversary of the Red Cross, Paviljonki, Jyväskylä, Finland
- May 2018 – Music Without Borders, Telakka, Tampere, Finland
- April 2018 – Wäinö Aaltonen Museum of Art, Turku, Finland
- November 2017 – Arkadia International Bookshop, Helsinki, Finland
- July 2017 – Poppari, Jyväskylä, Finland
- March 2017 – Nowruz Celebrations, Multicultural Centre Gloria, Jyväskylä, Finland

2016–2017

- July 2016: Jyväskylä Summer Festival
- August 2016: Middle East Jam Festival, Helsinki
- March 2016: Multicultural Center Gloria, Jyväskylä

Road Ensemble's music intertwines complex rhythms, emotional vocal performances, and a rare glimpse into ancient storytelling traditions through music, leaving audiences moved and inspired wherever they perform.

Contact:

- Facebook: [Road Ensemble](#)
- Instagram: [@roadensemble](#)
- YouTube: [Road Ensemble YouTube Channel](#)