

# simon shaheen



New York's Near Eastern Music Ensemble (NEME) was formed in 1982 by Simon Shaheen. NEME consists of seven extraordinary musicians who have gathered from around the Arab World to preserve and perform this rich and elaborate music repertoire and to increase the awareness and appreciation of Near Eastern music through concerts, recordings, workshops, and lecture demonstrations.

They perform the full repertoire of Near Eastern music—from traditional classical and folkloric music to new works by living composers of contemporary and innovative Near Eastern music. NEME provides a highly professional and polished showcase for the preservation and advancement of this musical legacy.

Since its inception, NEME has presented concerts at major universities, festivals, community centers, and museums in North America and Europe. It has performed in concert halls as notable as the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall, and at prominent institutions such as Columbia University, MIT, Princeton, Yale, Harvard, University of Washington, and Juilliard. Over a decade of performing and recording has focused attention on the ensemble, establishing them as the foremost exponents of Arabic music in the United States.

The Near Eastern Music Ensemble's 1992 recording "Turath (Heritage)" with CMP Records, was selected by the Library of Congress as an outstanding traditional recording of that year. This anthology of classical Near Eastern music features solo improvisation and ensemble works by 19th and 20th century composers from the Arab world and Turkey.

## Near East Music Ensemble

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT



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