

simon shaheen



The Qantara group was formed in 1995 by internationally heralded composer and musician Simon Shaheen. Fascinated and moved by his musician alliances with a diverse musical cultures, he was inspired to develop new works that would bridge the two musical worlds and a group that could evoke the musical emotion of these culturally crossed exotic and rhythmically charged sounds. Shaheen's compositions for this ensemble fuse his Arabic musical heritage with the contemporary sensibilities of postmodern jazz. His works encompass strong classical Arabic and Spanish musical elements that are sensually crafted to integrate with jazz musical components, which provide the harmonic and formal structure for this ensemble's musical repertoire.

Qantara is comprised of world-renowned musicians whose diverse and uniquely versatile musical styles lend to this rare blend of traditional world music infused with jazz concepts. The instrumentation for the group is comprised of Shaheen on the 'oud and violin, complimented by artists performing on nay, flute, saxophone, classical guitar, double bass, and world percussion instruments. Qantara is the Arabic word for arch. Hence, the name Qantara reveals the gateway to a new musical expression. After much collaboration with Shaheen, the musicians of Qantara have acquired the requisite knowledge of Arabic music, and each adds their own distinctive sounds to Shaheen's compositions creating an exciting mix of intricate melodies and counter rhythms.

The music of Qantara allows different styles of performance and improvisation to stand out while providing a musical structure that goes beyond the stylistic boundaries. This has resulted in multinational and global musical exchange, which is both electrifying and enriching. The ensemble is a remarkable and distinctive example of world acoustic jazz.

Qantara

FOR BOOKINGS CONTACT



608/664.8160
gigs@sroartists.com
WEB
www.sroartists.com