

# *An Intimate Evening of Qawalis and Sufis*

## **January 25, 2014**



### *Performances by:*

- ♦ *Taal Karisma and Tabassum Javed*
- ♦ *Mir Ali*
- ♦ *Amir Vahab (Soroosh)*

### **Event Schedule**

5:00 PM Salat ul Maghreb

5:30 PM Dinner

6:30 PM Part 1

8:00 PM Salat ul Isha

8:30 PM Part 2



**Cost:** \$47 per person

**Location:** Masjid el-Hussein  
414 West Avenue  
Medina, NY 14103

*\*Child care on site*

**Please RSVP to Bilal Huzair**

Call (585) 520-1105

or

Email [bilalana@yahoo.com](mailto:bilalana@yahoo.com)

*By the Authority of the Shaikh of the Order*  
*Dr. Asaf Durakovic el Alemi el-Husseini.*

## Alan Simon

(Tablist/Percussionist/Composer)

Alan Simon has been playing the Tabla for more than a decade. He has been under the tutelage of Ustad Bashir Khan, an exponent of the Punjab Gharana in Karachi, Pakistan.

Alan graduated from the National Academy of Performing Arts (NAPA) in Karachi. After graduating he delved into Percussions from different regions: Afro-Cuban rhythms, and the Drumset. Alan transposed a lot of the tabla rhythms that he learnt onto the drums and wrote interlocking parallel rhythms for the instruments he played.

He formed his World Music project TAAL KARISMA where he collaborated with musicians from the US, Netherlands, and India.

With his diverse knowledge on percussion, he has been globe-trotting and has managed to perform in Pakistan, India, Thailand and the US.

Alan has had the honor of performing for ex-President of Pakistan Pervaiz Musharaf, at the National School of Drama in New Delhi, India and with Bollywood singer/actor Ali Zafar at the Rosen Shingle Creek in Orlando, Florida; just to name a few of his performances.

He also featured on most of the music related shows for television in Pakistan, and also been named 'The Pioneer of Body Percussions in Pakistan', The News 2010.

## Tabassam Javed

(Singer/Harmonium Player)

A resident of Rochester, New York and retired psychologist, Mr. Javed is passionate about music with a powerful voice and expertise in playing the harmonium. Mr. Javed has performed at several venues in and around New York state.

## Mir Ali

"Mesmerizing and hypnotic"

National Public Radio

Since winning his first competition at the age of thirteen, Pakistani-born guitar virtuoso and composer Mir Ali has been described by Acoustic Guitar Magazine as "an exceptional nylon string guitarist," as "mesmerizing and hypnotic" by National Public Radio, and as "innovative and eclectic" by Soundboard magazine.

Ali has written music for movies, theater, radio, television commercials, and most recently for the documentary "Roots and Branches," which won the "Award of Excellence" from the prestigious Film Advisory Board in Hollywood. His recent tours include performances and master classes in India, Romania, Spain, Italy, and Canada. Mir is active as an adjudicator and clinician at prestigious guitar competitions and festivals in the United States and abroad. His publications are available through Mel Bay and Clear Note Publications.

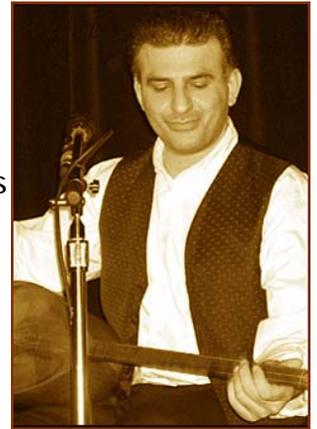


Mir serves as Director of the Amherst School of Guitar and has been President of the Buffalo Guitar Society and Artistic Director of the Rantucci International Guitar Festival and Competition for the past 15 years: [www.rantuccifestival.com](http://www.rantuccifestival.com) He spends his time equally between Buffalo, NY and Pittsburgh, PA. Mir is represented by Performing Arts Management by special arrangement with Leona Zachary. [www.mir-ali.com](http://www.mir-ali.com)

## Amir Ali Vahabzadegan

The New York Times calls him the "ambassador for a silenced music."

Honored as a peacemaker and virtuoso, Amir Alan Vahab is one of New York's most celebrated and distinguished composer / vocalists of sufi and folk music. He sings in many different languages with a unique mystical style. The virtuosos of Amir weave fiery instrumentals and songs of the Ancient land of the Middle East that include Persian, Turkish, Azeri and beyond. As an instrumentalist, he plays and teaches the tar, setar, tanbour, saz, oud, ney, daf and zarb.



He began his musical studies at an early age and by his late teens, Amir Vahab was already an accomplished musician and a music teacher.

Amir studied in London from 1976 to 1979 and went to University of Paris from 1979 to 1981. After completing his degree in Linguistics at the University of Paris, he moved to Switzerland to study horology and jewelry design. In 1981, Amir Vahab moved to his current home of New York City. Here in New York, he established himself as a professional musician, both in live shows and in recording studios. He has played before audiences ranging from select private shows to crowds of 6,000 people. In addition, he has composed eclectic music for theatre, film and performed for several television and radio stations in the United States. His performances have been recognized world wide and have inspired many music students to appreciate the classical delicacy of the unique sounds created by the mystical instruments that he has mastered. Today, Amir has seven albums to his credit, for many of which he is the composer, singer and player.

In his work, Amir Vahab tries first of all to illustrate the beauty of Iranian traditional music, which he believes is part of the global heritage, and needs to be both taught and preserved. Secondly, he has also attempted to take new approaches to traditional works in order to attract the young generation of music enthusiasts - a venture which has proven most successful.

Amir Vahab is currently Teaching and lecturing private and group classes in universities, libraries, museums and cultural centers on the one hand, and organizes music therapy workshops on the other.

*"Music should be so powerful such that one is powerlessly dragged to the unknown. It should invade the listener's mind to the point of losing awareness."*

*-Amir Vahab*