

Reza Filsoofi

Interdisciplinary Musician | Composer | Educator | Production Manager
Nashville, TN

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Teaching and Playing Daf, Tonbak, Setar, and Santur since 1998.

Updated: December 2025

Education

2000–2001

Advanced studies in Setar under Master Masoud Shaari, Kamkar Music Institution, Tehran, Iran

1998–2001

Advanced studies in Tonbak under Masters Naser Farhangfar and Arash Farhangfar, Tehran, Iran

1997

Associate of Science (A.S.), Textile Engineering, Kashan Azad University, Kashan, Iran

1994–1997

Advanced studies in Daf Magham under Mehrdad Karim Khavari, Chavosh Institution, Tehran, Iran

Advanced studies in Kurdish and Sufi Daf traditions under Sadegh Tariff, Tehran, Iran

1985–1987

Studies in Santoor and Radif under Masters Mohammad Javad Zarabian and Hossein Malek, Sama Music Institution and Malek Music Institution, Tehran, Iran

Professional Contributions

Founder & Director, Caravan Ensemble – Miami, FL

Founder, Rug and Roll – Nashville, TN

Co-Founder, NIRMA Project (Nashville Immigrant and Refugee Music and Art Project), Nashville, TN

Selected Grants

2025

Thrive Grant, Metro Arts Nashville, for the "Rug and Roll" project – Nashville, TN

2022

Metro Arts Thrive Grant, in collaboration with Global Education Center – Nashville, TN
Project: "Caravanserai: A New Year, A New Home"

2021

Tennessee Arts Commission Grant, in collaboration with Raheleh Filsoofi – Nashville, TN
Project: "Listening: The Fourth String"

Residencies

2025

Loghaven Artist Residency, Knoxville, TN

2024

Franconia Sculpture Park Residency, Shafer, MN

2019

HistoryMiami Museum Artist-in-Residence, Miami, FL (January–April)

Selected Solo Performances

2025

NICE 20th Anniversary Gala, Performance for the Nashville International Center for Empowerment, Rocketown, Nashville, TN

2024

Window on the World (WOW) Festival, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN

Iranian Music Performance, Nashville Musicians Association, Nashville, TN

2023

Festival of Light, with Global Education Center, Darkhorse Theater, Nashville, TN

2022

Iranian Sufi Music Performance, Festival of Lights, Darkhorse Theater, Nashville, TN

2021

Iranian Music Performance, Festival of Lights, Father Ryan High School, Nashville, TN

Iranian Music Presentation and Performance, Global Education Center, Nashville, TN

Virtual Iranian Music Performance, Mandel Public Library of West Palm Beach, Palm Beach, FL

Poetry and Music, Iranian Women in Network, San Francisco, CA

2020

Celebration of Yalda, Zoom performance, Iranian Dental Association of Ontario, Ontario, Canada

2019

Melodies of Iran: An Introduction to Iranian Music, Talk and Performance, Department of Music, Georgia Southern University, Statesboro, GA

Didar O Goftar, in association with the Persian American Association in Tampa Bay, Persian American Association Center, Tampa, FL

2018

Culture Fest 305, HistoryMiami Museum, Miami, FL

2017

Asian Festival, Spice and Food Park, Homestead, FL

2015

1001 Nights, Micro Theater, Miami, FL

2013

Concert for the Iranian American Foundation, Stephen Clark Government Center, Miami, FL

Reading with Moniro Ravanipour, Iranian Cultural Society, Florida International University, Miami, FL

2012

Center for Middle East Studies, Aslan Media, University of Denver, Denver, CO

2011

Asian Festival, Spice and Food Park, Homestead, FL

2008

Asian Festival, Spice and Food Park, Homestead, FL

2003

Iranian Festival, West Palm Beach, FL

Asian Festival, Spice and Food Park, Homestead, FL

Iranian Music Performance, in conjunction with Shirin Neshat solo exhibition, Miami Art Museum, Miami, FL

Selected Group Performances and Concerts

2025

Music City Baroque, Concert, Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN

The Hum of Earth, Performance, Telfair Museum, Savannah, GA

Melodies of Crossing: An Immersive Night of Music Across Rooms, Curb Center, Nashville, TN

Rug and Roll, all-day music event, Parthenon, Nashville, TN

NICE Event, Performance part of the Nashville International Center for Empowerment Fundraising, Xao Bao, Nashville, TN.

Nowruz Celebration Performance, part of the NIRMA Project (Nashville Immigrant and Refugee Music and Art Project), Frist Art Museum, Nashville, TN

The Resonance of the Land, performance, Visual Arts Building, University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Iranian–Afghan Music Night, part of Rug and Roll Project, Nashville Musicians Association, Nashville, TN

Kurdish Music Night, part of Rug and Roll Project, Darkhorse Theater, Nashville, TN

2024

Celebrate Nashville Festival, Kurdish Ensemble performance, Centennial Park, Nashville, TN

The Resonance of the Lands, group performance at "Nashville Without Borders" event, City Winery, Nashville, TN

Caravanserai Festival, in collaboration with Global Education Center, Darkhorse Theater, Nashville, TN

2023

A Fabric of Sound, multifaceted concert with instrumental music, operatic song, and rhythmic poetry, with Daniel Arite, Darkhorse Theater, Nashville, TN

Shehzade in Exile, collaborative performance with Sangeetha Ekambaram and Jennifer McGuire, Frist Museum of Art, Nashville, TN

Nowruz Celebration, in collaboration with Afghan musicians Shafiq and Zaid, Casa Azafran, Nashville, TN

Benefit Concert for Iranian Musician Yasaman Najmedin, Global Education Center, Nashville, TN

Sufi Concerts with Maestro Davood Azad, Sivananda Ashram, Nassau, Bahamas

2022

Global Education Center Birthday Bash, with Charlie Gilbert and Carlos Duran, Father Ryan High School, Nashville, TN

Nowruz Concert with Caravanserai students, Metro Arts Thrive Project Finale, featuring Charlie Gilbert and Carlos Duran, Casa Azafran, Nashville, TN

Iranian Music Performance with Charlie Gilbert, OZ Arts, Nashville, TN

Window on the World Festival with Charlie Gilbert and Carlos Duran, Tennessee Tech University, Cookeville, TN

Iranian Music Performance with Carlos Duran, Sofar Sounds, Nashville, TN

Nowruz Celebration Concert with Charlie Gilbert and Carlos Duran, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

2019

Melodies, Susana Behar Ensemble, Musi Mélange, The M Building, Miami, FL

Persian Sufi Concert with Maestro Davood Azad, Sivananda Ashram Yoga Center, Paradise Island, Bahamas

Music Performance with Susana Behar, Miami Limmud Youth Program, FIU Kovens Conference Center, Miami, FL

Persian Music Presentation & Discussion with Hussein Fathi, FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Miami, FL

Caravan Ensemble, Yalda Night Celebration, FIU Herbert and Nicole Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Miami, FL

Found in Translations with JP Soars and Alfred Jahanforuz, ASOFAR, ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Caravan Ensemble, as part of HistoryMiami Museum Residency and Miami Dade Live Art

2018

The Night of Kurdistan, Iranian Cultural Society, Florida International University, Miami, FL

Trio Fez, SOFAR Sounds, FAT Village, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Persian Classical Performance with Namaad Ensemble, 12th Biennial Iranian Studies Conference, UC Irvine, CA

Presenting Iran, with Roshana Nofret, World of Dance event, Nityananda Yoga Center, Miami, FL

Persian Classical Performance with Mojgan Shajarian and Amir Nojan, ArtServe, Fort Lauderdale, FL

Persian Classical Performance, Carrollwood Cultural Center, Tampa, FL

Persian Sufi Concert with Maestro Davood Azad, Sivananda Ashram, Bahamas

Caravan Ensemble, Yalda Night, Iranian American Foundation, FIU South Campus, Miami, FL

2017

Caravan Ensemble, Lantana Library, Lake Worth, FL

Indigo Dreamers Band, Art After Dark, Norton Museum, Palm Beach, FL

Caravan Ensemble, Asian Festival, Homestead, FL

Persian Sufi Concert with Davood Azad, Sivananda Ashram, Bahamas

Tasnif Khani with Kourosh Taghavi, Iranian Cultural Society, Florida Atlantic University, North Campus, Miami, FL

Tasnif Khani with Kourosh Taghavi, Persian American Association, Keiser University, Tampa, FL

Kaveh Piano Band, Bayanihan Arts & Events Center, Tampa, FL

Collaboration with Pouya Pourtahmasbi, SOFAR Sounds, Pompano Beach, FL

Caravan Ensemble, Yalda Night Celebration, FIU, Miami, FL

2016

Hijaz Trio, Nowruz Celebration, FIU, Miami, FL

Adio Kerido Sefard, with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz, FIU South Campus

Florida Folk Festival, with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz, White Springs, FL

Art After Dark, Norton Museum, with Susana Behar & Jose Luis de la Paz

Atlanta Sacred Music Festival, performance with Susana Behar, Jose Luis de la Paz & Ian Maksin

Performance with Mahan & Golnar, Graham Center Ballroom, FIU South Campus

Armenian–Iranian Concert with Joe Zeytoonian and Miriam Eli, Art at St. John Church, North Miami Beach, FL

2015

Armenian–Iranian Concert with Joe Zeytoonian and Miriam Eli, FIU North Campus, Miami, FL

Trio Fez, Art After Dark, Norton Museum, Palm Beach, FL

Old Table Clock, musical play with Soheila Ghodstinat and Roshana Nofrat, performed at:

- Unitarian Universalist Church, Fresno, CA
- Central Stage, San Francisco, CA

- Little Theater, University High School, Irvine, CA
- Morgan-Wixson Theater, Santa Monica, CA
- Seminole State College, Orlando, FL

Persian/Sufi Concerts with Davood Azad at:

- Asia Society, New York, NY
- Alumni Center, University of South Florida, Tampa, FL
- Rebeca Sosa Theater, Florida Atlantic University, Miami, FL

Iranian–Armenian Concert with Harmonic Motion, Lantana Library, Lake Worth, FL

2014

Persian/Sufi Concert with Davood Azad, FIU North Campus

Faramarz Aslani & Ardeshtir Farah, Makan and Jasmin Foundation Annual Concerts, at:

- Nova Southeastern University, Fort Lauderdale, FL
- University of South Florida, Tampa, FL

Iranian–American Concert, with Joe Zeytoonian and Myriam Eli, Lantana Public Library, Lake Worth, FL

- *Old Table Clock*, musical play with Soheila Ghodstinat and Roshana Nofrat, performed at:
- Rebecca Sosa Complex, Miami, FL
- Mos'Art Theater, Palm Beach, FL

2013

Caravan Ensemble, monthly performances at Piano Bar, Fort Lauderdale, FL

The Essence of Time, concerts with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz, at:

- Next@19, North Miami, FL
- Miami Auditorium, Miami, FL

Sephardic Trio, with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz, Art Garage, Delray, FL

2012

Caravan Ensemble, International Night, University of Miami

Makan Foundation Concerts with Kaveh Karandish, at:

- Coral Gables Museum, Miami, FL
- Georgia Tech University, Atlanta, GA
- National Museum of Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia

Lullaby, concert with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz, Next@19, North Miami, FL

Caravan Ensemble, Persian New Year Celebration, FIU North Campus, Miami, FL

2011

Performance with Kaveh Karandish, Globe Café, Miami, FL

Rumi Poetry Recital with Peter Rogen, Art at St. John, Miami, FL

Music Night with Kaveh Karandish, Art at St. John and Van Dyke Café, South Beach, FL

2010

Makan Foundation Concerts, Café Vivaldi (NYC), Washington, DC

2009

Makan Foundation Music Concert, Tampa, FL

2004

Music Night and Poetry Reading with Peter Rogen, University of Miami

Iranian Festival of South Florida, with Amir Aslan Vahab, Bayfront Park, Miami, FL

Teaching & Workshops**1998–Present**

Private and group instruction in Daf, Tonbak, Setar, and Santur

2025

"The Resonance of the Lands": Ceramic Drum Circle and Clay Drum Workshop, Crealde School of Art, Orlando, FL

2024

"The Resonance of the Lands": Ceramic Drum Circle, Department of Art and Design, East Tennessee State University, (Johnson City, TN. (with Raheleh Filsoofi)

"The Resonance of the Lands": Ceramic Drum Circle and Sound Workshop, Sarratt Cinema, Vanderbilt University (with Raheleh Filsoofi)

Iranian Music Demonstration, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Guest lecture and workshop, Middle Tennessee State University (Dr. Mei Han's class)

2023

Workshop on Iranian Music, Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN (Dr. Mei Han)

2022

Guest Workshop: Iranian Music, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University (Prof. Isidora Miranda)

Presentation and performance, Friends Life Community, Nashville, TN

2021

Workshop: Jazz Ensemble Class, Vanderbilt University, Blair School of Music (Prof. Isidora Miranda)

2019

Instructor, Metro Arts Thrive Project, "Caravanserai: A New Year, A New Home", Nashville, TN

Workshop series, HistoryMiami Museum, Miami, FL

2013

Workshop: Introduction to Persian Music, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Collaboration with Visual Artists

(All projects in collaboration with visual artist Raheleh Filsoofi unless otherwise noted)

2025

The Imagined Landscape – Sound and music arrangement and production for (UN)GROUNDED exhibition, Telfair Museum, Savannah, GA

The Hum of Earth – Sound and music arrangement and production for inaugural exhibition at ZieherSmith Gallery, Nashville, TN

2024

The Hum of the Earth – Live performance, Untitled Art, Miami Beach, FL

The Theater of Dust: Act I – Witness – Music for performance, part of *The Parable of the Now* series, Hatcher Library, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

The Resonance of the Lands – Performance, Gallery 204, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

Community Drum Circle – Workshop, Ball Hall, Department of Art and Design, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

Embodied Connection through Clay, Circle, and Collective Creativity – Workshop, Ball Hall, Department of Art and Design, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN

Embodied Connection through Clay, Circle, and Collective Creativity – Workshop, Space Maker Studio, St. Augustine, FL

2023

Say Their Names – Performance, NCECA 2023, Cincinnati, OH

Listening: The Fourth String – Performance, Ingram Hall, Blair School of Music, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

2022

Listening: The Fourth String – Performance, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

Listening: The Fourth String – Performance with Raheleh Filsoofi and Michael Hix, Austin Peay State University, Clarksville, TN

2019

Aural Memorabilia – Lecture and performance, Middle Eastern Studies Program, University of Texas at Austin

2018

The Peace Cylinder – Performance with Linda Behar and Susana Behar, Rosemary Duffy Larson Gallery, Davie, FL

2016

The Peace Cylinder – Performance with Linda Behar, Raheleh Filsoofi, and Shahab Mahidashti, Lantana Public Library, Lake Worth, FL

2015

The Peace Cylinder – Performance with Linda Behar and Reza Filsoofi, Peace Corps Iran Associate Conference, University of Texas at Austin

Multimedia Installation Production Assistance and Management

(Production support, sound design, and technical collaboration for installations by Raheleh Filsoofi)

2025

Imagined Boundaries, Ismaili Center, Houston, TX

2024

Through the Eyes of Past and Present, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC

2023

Imagined Boundaries, Gibbes Museum of Art, Charleston, SC

2021

Interactive Multimedia Installation, part of *South Arts 2021 Exhibition*, Bo Bartlett Center, Columbus, GA

2020

Interactive Multimedia Installation in Tenacity, Strohl Art Center, Chautauqua, NY

2019

Interactive Multimedia Installation in Inh(a/i)bited, Spinello Projects, Miami, FL

2018

Interactive Multimedia Installation in Being in America, Manifest Gallery, Cincinnati, OH

2016

Interactive Multimedia Installation in YOU AM I, Veronique Wantz Gallery, NCECA, Minneapolis, MN

2014

Interactive Multimedia Installation in Ugly Birds, Palm Beach Cultural Council, Lake Worth, FL

Interactive Multimedia Installation in Dual Frequency, Art and Culture Center, Hollywood, FL

Interactive Multimedia Installation at Bailey Contemporary Art Center, Pompano Beach, FL

2013

Multimedia Installation in Confluence, Schmidt Center Gallery, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL

Discography

2020

Anusim: What Is Hidden Is Never Lost — Collaboration with Dance NOW Miami (Guest Artist)

2019

South Bound I-95 — JP Soars (Guest Artist)

2018

Silent Whisper — Kaveh Karandish (Guest Artist)

Tapiz — Collaboration with Susana Behar and Jose Luis de la Paz

2014

Old Table Clock — Musical collaboration with Soheila Ghodstinat

2011

Rain — Kaveh Karandish (Guest Artist)

2007

Whisper of Persia — Solo Album

Selected Bibliography

2019

"Meet Reza Filsoofi." *VoyageMIA*, April 25, 2019.

<http://voyagemia.com/interview/art-life-reza-filsoofi>

"Interview with Reza Filsoofi." *HistoryMiami Museum*, January 2019.

<http://www.historymiami.org/reza-filsoofi>

Selected Community Engagement

2025

Fundraising Event, Nashville International Center for Empowerment (NICE), Nashville, TN

Ongoing

- Community-centered music and arts programming through:
- *NIRMA Project* (Nashville Immigrant and Refugee Music and Art Project)
- *Global Education Center*, Nashville, TN
- *Metro Arts Nashville*
- Educational outreach through workshops, Nowruz events, and refugee community performances