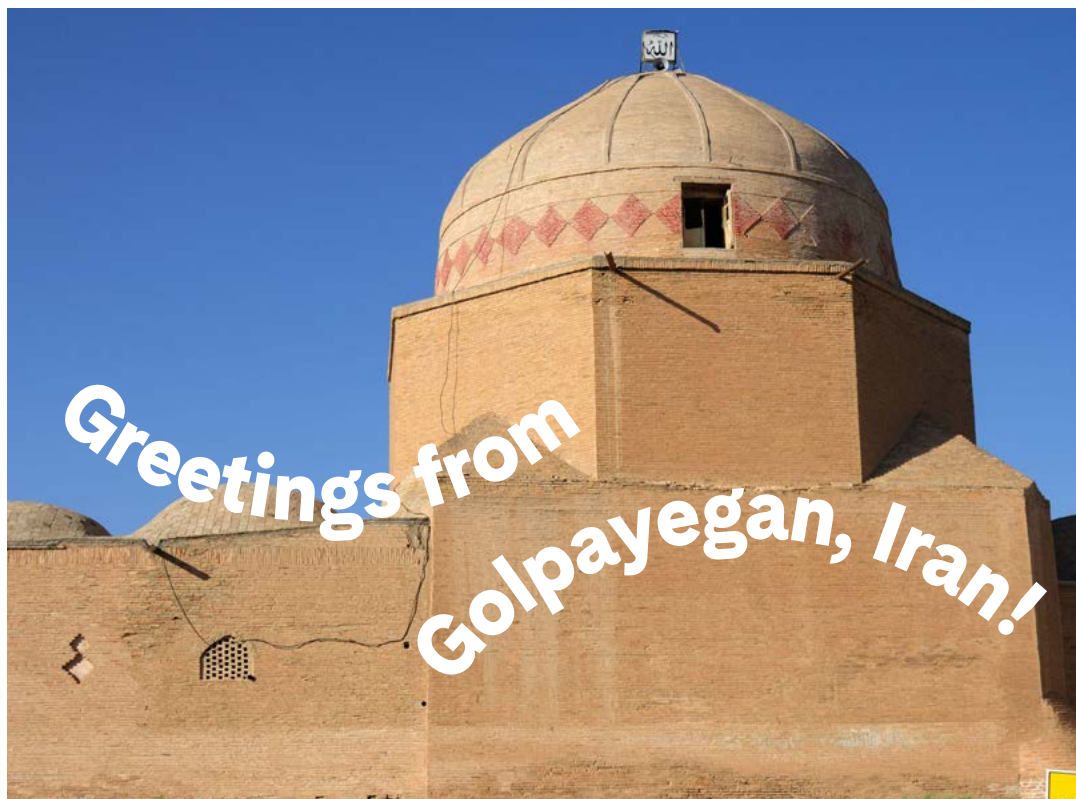


Meet Mehrnam!



Doroud o Salam, Musical Explorers!

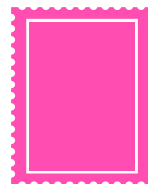
My name is Mehrnam. In Persian, my name means “a person whose name is love” or “the sun.” I sing and play music, and I’ve traveled a long way from Iran—on the other side of the world—to share it with you.

What do I play? The kamancheh.

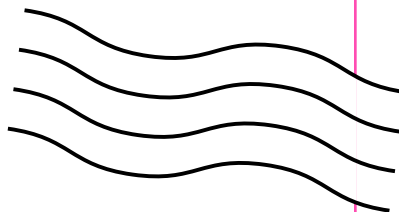
What does it sound like? Let’s find out!

Mibinametoona! (See you!)

Mehrnam



Musical Explorers
c/o Carnegie Hall
881 Seventh Avenue
New York, NY 10019





We asked Mehrnam ...

Where were you born and what was it like to live there?

I was born in a small town in Western Iran, called Golpayegan (in the Esfahan Province). It was beautiful, but there were no music schools, cinemas, or theaters. So it was tough to learn music, let alone become a musician. Then I moved to Tehran when I was 19 years old and experienced the excitement of living in such a big city. I grew up speaking Persian. Now I speak English and Persian.

When did you start playing music?

I've been playing music since I was 12, but it started even earlier—with a toy guitar and simple melodies, I played instinctively. My first serious instrument was the tombak, but soon, the violin caught my interest. Then came the kamancheh, which stole my heart. With no teachers in my town, I had to wait until I moved to Tehran for university to finally start learning kamancheh with a great maestro.

What are some signature foods from Iran?

Some of my favorite dishes include ghormeh sabzi (persian herb stew), fesenjoon (a sweet and tangy Iranian stew), and gheyme (another traditional Iranian stew), as well as kebab, and particularly the Iranian kofta kabab (grilled skewers of meat) made from tender ground lamb. For breakfast we often enjoyed tomato omelets, eggs, fresh bread, cheese, and a variety of veggies.

What was your favorite childhood Iranian folk tale?

One of my favorites is “Namaki.” It tells the story of a girl who gets trapped by a ghouel after forgetting to close the seventh and final door of her house at night. The ghouel sneaks in and snatches her away, but she ultimately manages to escape using her wisdom.