



CENTER FOR WORLD MUSIC

AND RELATED ARTS



Hossein Omoumi

Hossein Omoumi taught and performed Persian ney music for the Center for World Music in 2003. He was born in 1944 in Isfahan, Iran, and began his music education singing with his father. At the age of 14, he started studying the Iranian end-blown cane flute (*ney*). While officially a student of architecture, he was accepted at the National Superior Conservatory of Music in Tehran, where he worked with the great masters Mahmud Karimi and Farhâd Fakhreddini. He subsequently studied also with another great master of the ney, Hassan Kassâei.

Omoumi's performance career has included appearances at many major festivals and concert halls in Europe and the United States, including San Francisco's World Music Festival, UCLA's Schoenberg Hall and Wadsworth Theater, the Getty Center in Los Angeles, the World Music Institute and the Asia Society in New York, and the Theatre de la Ville in Paris.

He is a noted scholar and teacher of Persian music, having served on the faculty of the National Conservatory, Tehran University, the Center for Conservation and Diffusion of Music (Iran National Television) in Tehran, the Center for Oriental Music Studies of Sorbonne University in Paris, as well as the ethnomusicology departments of the University of California Los Angeles and the University of Washington, Seattle. He has also served as the Maseeh Professor in Persian Performing Arts at the University of California, Irvine. He has arranged and composed eleven lessons to teach the principles of classical Persian music under the title "Pish Radif." His research into the construction of the ney and Iranian percussion instruments has inspired significant innovations to the construction of the ney, the goblet-shaped drum (*tombak*), and the frame drum (*daf*).