

ABOUT CARAVAN ENSEMBLE

Gerard Edery (co-creator/vocals/guitar) Edery's record label Sefarad Records produces concerts and recordings that synthesize the eclectic traditional folk styles of disparate, far-flung and often inter-related cultures from the Judeo-Arab, Judeo-Spanish, Middle-Eastern, Northern European, and Eastern European musical worlds. Edery sings in fifteen languages and speaks four fluently. In December 2009, he released Sefarad's 14th recording — "Dai de Cemar"— and is currently working on three new CD's. Visit www.sefaradrecords.com for details.

Amir Vahab (vocals, saz, percussion) Iranian-born, Vahab has been called the "Ambassador for a silenced music" by The New York Times. An internationally known master of such instruments as the setar, tar, ney, and daf, he is in demand for live performances and in the recording studio. He has composed a variety of music for theater and film and has six albums to his credit as composer, singer, and player.

Ara Dinkjian (oud) Of Armenian descent, Dinkjian, who is considered one of the foremost oud players in the world, was born in the U.S. In addition to his work as an instrumentalist, he is also a composer and the founder of the quartet Night Ark, which records and tours internationally. Many of his compositions are featured on television and film soundtracks and his song "Dinata, Dinata" was performed at the closing ceremonies of the 2004 Olympics in Athens.

Glen Velez (percussion) A three-time Grammy Award-winning drummer, Velez is a master percussionist, an expert on Central Asian overtone singing, and a master teacher. He has collaborated in performance and recordings with Steve Reich, the Paul Winter Consort, Tan Dun, Israel Philharmonia, Suzanne Vega, Pat Metheny, Zakair Hussain, the NY City Ballet, and the Stuttgart Ballet Orchestra, among others. He currently teaches frame drums at Mannes School of Music and regular master classes at The Juilliard School and Manhattan School of Music.

Barbara Martinez (dancer, vocals, choreography) is a longtime member of several noted flamenco dance companies, as well as The Metropolitan Opera. Born in Venezuela to a family of artists, Bárbara grew up in New York City. She currently sings with Pasión y Arte Flamenco Company, Arts Flamenco, Edwin Aparicio Flamenco Company, Spirit of Sepharad and dances with The Oscar Valero Company. She has also sung for Pilar Rioja at El Repertorio Español and danced as a soloist in festivals at Lincoln Center, Town Hall and Symphony Space. She has also collaborated with Gerard Edery in Flamenco Sepharad since 2000. Bárbara recently had the honor of teaching master classes for The Cirque du Soleil and New England Conservatory.

Vivienne Roumani-Denn (co-creator, director) wrote, directed, and filmed the feature-length documentary "The Last Jews of Libya," which was shown at the 2007 Tribeca Film Festival and other major international venues, and received its broadcast premiere on the Sundance Channel in 2008. She has collaborated with Gerard Edery in creating musical events that capture the unique qualities of Sephardic music and culture. Their productions of "Flamenco Sepharad" and "Spirit of Sepharad" celebrate the melding of cultures, traditions, and music through many countries and centuries.

Brigitte Edery (artist) began painting at an early age. However, her natural talent for mathematics led her to the study of architecture. While at architecture school at Cornell University, Brigitte rediscovered painting and her career took shape. Brigitte studied with Leland Bell at The New York Studio School where she was inspired by the rhythm of color. She later received her Master's in Fine Arts from Parsons. Brigitte now lives in Texas with her family. She has exhibited her paintings extensively in Texas and New York. Her musical and spirited paintings grace the covers of her brother's CDs.