

East of the River  
**BALADI**  
*A Rhythmic Journey*

**Daphna Mor and Nina Stern**, recorders, ney, and chalumeau

**John Hadfield and Shane Shanahan**, frame drums and percussion



"Recorder virtuosi" (*NY Times*) Nina Stern and Daphna Mor, together with percussionist/drummers Shane Shanahan (The Silk Road Ensemble) and John Hadfield (recently featured in *Modern Drummer*) present a performance with special emphasis on rhythm, highlighting Shanahan and Hadfield's cross-cultural styles and thrilling technique. Based on a program created for New York's prestigious concert series "Music Before 1800," the repertoire spans centuries, from 12th century Armenian chants to original 21st century improvisations. BALADI is a common Middle Eastern rhythm that becomes entirely uncommon in the hands of these dueling percussionists and recorder players, performing battle songs and dance music that dazzle across time and borders.

## PROGRAM:

Oor Yes Mayr Im	Anonymous (13 <sup>th</sup> century Armenian)
La Seconde Estampie Royal	Anonymous <i>Chansonnier du Roi</i> Paris, Bibliothèque Nationale
Havoon, Havoon Ghaetta	Grigor Narekatsi (950-1003) Italian, 14 <sup>th</sup> century (London, British Library, <i>Add.29987</i> )
Baladi	Shanahan/Hadfield
Dulab Hijaz Longa	Traditional Egyptian Traditional Turkish

## INTERMISSION

Fantasia en echo Batali	J.van Eyck (c 1590- 1657)
Prélude Suite en Sol	J. M Hotteterre (1674-1763) Michel Blavet (1700-1768)
Musette de M. Rameau – Menuet dans Les Indes Galantes –Rigaudon and Menuet dans Zoroastre -Tambourins Des Indes Galantes	
Battement	Hadfield/Shanahan
Belasicko horo Kopanica	Traditional Bulgarian

*East of the River* was founded by internationally renowned recorder players Nina Stern and Daphna Mor. The project explores gems of the European classical repertory together with haunting and virtuosic melodies of traditions to the East, arranged and interpreted by musicians whose backgrounds include classical, jazz and world music. Together they create the unique blend that is East of the River.

Stern and Mor each have impressive careers as soloists and chamber music players and have appeared as a duo with groups as varied as The New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's and world music ensemble Pharoah's Daughter and in venues including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Music Before 1800 concert series. In East of the River they collaborate with acclaimed kanun virtuoso Tamer Pinarbasi, Balkan violin sensation Jesse Kotansky, and Yo Yo Ma's "Silk Road Ensemble" percussionist Shane Shanahan. They frequently invite guests such as John Hadfield (percussion), Kane Mathis (oud and kora), Max ZT (hammered dulcian) and Uri Sharlin (accordion) .

The group has performed at venues including Bargemusic, Joe's Pub, and Le Poisson Rouge, on concert series such as Early Music Now (Milwaukee), San Francisco Early Music Festival, The Academy of Early Music (Ann Arbor), and The Five Boroughs Music Festival and on many university campuses. Festival appearances include Connecticut Early Music, Madison Early Music, and Indianapolis Early Music. East of the River was invited to create a special solstice concert for the prestigious PEAK Performances at Montclair State University and has been invited for three consecutive years to perform for WQXR/WNYC's 'Live at the Greene Space'.

The ensemble released their first album "East of the River" in 2009 and "Levantera" in the spring of 2013.

Both highly regarded for their educational initiatives, Stern and Mor have made outreach to the community and musical education a centerpiece of the East of the River mission. When traveling to perform, the group is eager to reach out to the local community by engaging in workshops and performing in schools, community centers, and cultural organizations.

## BIOGRAPHIES

**Nina Stern** (recorders and chalumeau) has carved a unique and astonishingly diverse career for herself as a world-class classical clarinetist and recorder player. She performs widely as a soloist and as a principal player with the finest orchestras including The New York Philharmonic, Philharmonia Baroque, Apollo's Fire, Opera Lafayette, The American Classical Orchestra, and New York City Opera. She has recorded for Erato, Harmonia Mundi, Sony Classics, Newport Classics, Wildboar, Telarc, and Smithsonian labels. Nina Stern's latest projects include performances and recordings of traditional music of Eastern Europe, Armenia, and The Middle East, as a soloist, and with her ensembles Rose of the Compass and East of the River (Daphna Mor, co-director.) Recently, Rose of the Compass has collaborated annually with the conductor Kent Tritle and the Choir of St. John the Divine in creating programs for the "Great Music in a Great Space" concert series at the Cathedral. That collaboration resulted in the recent release of the album "The Four Quarters of Jerusalem" on the Pro Organo label. Also in 2015, Stern released a solo album "Amaryllis", with percussionist Glen Velez, for MSR Classics. Ms. Stern was appointed to the faculty of Juilliard's Historical Performance program in 2012 and has served on the faculties of the Mannes College of Music, the Civica Scuola di Musica (Milan), and Oberlin Conservatory. The founder and Artistic Director of S'Cool Sounds, an

award winning music education project in New York City public school classrooms, she has traveled throughout the U.S., in Europe, and in East Africa to introduce her innovative instrumental program to school children and their teachers. ([www.ninastern.com](http://www.ninastern.com))

**Daphna Mor** (recorders, voice, ney) has performed throughout Europe and the United States as a soloist and ensemble player. Her appearances include solo recitals in the United States, Croatia, Germany and Switzerland. She has performed as a soloist with The New York Collegium, the New York Early Music Ensemble and Little Orchestra Society, and as a member of the orchestra with the New York Philharmonic, New York City Opera and Orchestra of St. Luke's. Ms Mor was awarded First Prize in the Settimane Musicali di Lugano Solo Competition, and the The Boston Conservatory Concerto Competition. Mor is frequently involved in performing and recording of new music. She recorded on John Zorn's Tzadik Label, and has performed the world premiere of David Bruce's 'Tears, Puffes, Jumps, and Galliard' with the Metropolis Ensemble. Mor is the Music Director of 'Beineinu' in NYC and is a researcher, performer and teacher of liturgical music of the Jewish diasporas. She is an active musician in the World Music scene, performing in festivals and on stages around the world including New York's "Summer Stage" and Munich's Gasteig. She appears on Sting's album "If On A Winter's Night" for Deutsche Grammophon. Ms. Mor leads programs as a musician for the Education Department of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. ([www.daphnamor.com](http://www.daphnamor.com))

**Shane Shanahan** (percussion)Percussionist/composer/arranger Shane Shanahan has combined his studies of drumming traditions from around the world with his background in jazz, rock and Western art music to create his own unique style. Since 2000 he has been touring around the globe performing with Yo-Yo Ma as an original member of Grammy-Nominated Silk Road Ensemble. His arrangements and compositions are featured on several of the group's recordings for Sony Classical and he can be heard and seen on Mr. Ma's Grammy Award Winning holiday CD/DVD release, "*Songs of Joy And Peace*." He has performed and/or recorded with Bobby McFerrin, Aretha Franklin, James Taylor, Philip Glass, Alison Krauss, Deep Purple, Jordi Savall, Sonny Fortune, Chaka Khan, and Glen Velez, among others. Shane's dynamic performances have brought people to their feet in the greatest concert halls of the world, including Carnegie Hall, after which the New York Times proclaimed, "By the time he finished in a virtuosic jester's dance, limbs flying as he whirled back and forth between doumbek, cymbals and body parts, the audience roared with delight." He has also performed twice for President and First Lady Obama, including once at the White House.

A strong believer in the transformative power of education, Shane frequently presents workshops and clinics at the world's leading universities, including Princeton, Harvard, and Cornell. He is a Guest Artist at the Hartt School and is also the Lead Teaching Artist for the Silk Road Project's arts-integrated education initiative, Silk Road Connect. Shane has also played in the pit orchestras of several Broadway shows including *Caroline, or Change*, *The Color Purple*, *Shrek*, *Spider-Man*, *Fun Home*, and *Tuck Everlasting*. [www.shaneshanahan.com](http://www.shaneshanahan.com)

As a percussionist, **John Hadfield**'s dedication to music has taken him from his native Missouri to concert halls and clubs across the world. His ability to cross genres has allowed him to appear with a broad range of ensembles and artists, including: Yo-Yo Ma, The Silk Road Ensemble, The Saturday

Night Live Band on NBC, and Kinan Azmeh's City Band. He has collaborated on more than 80 recordings as a guest artist, including the GRAMMY award winner Yo-Yo Ma and Friends, *Songs of*

*Joy and Peace* (SONY BMG 2008).

He has also released two records of his own compositions: *The Eye of Gordon* (2008) and *Displaced* (2010). In his work, he seeks to combine a variety of musical styles, including, but not limited to, jazz, classical western music, Carnatic music, and electronic music, to develop compositions that integrate improvisation and structure.

John Hadfield's work has received significant critical acclaim. *Time Out New York* has noted: "John Hadfield's percussion is so impeccable" and *Modern Drummer* featured Hadfield in 2016. In a review of John's record *Displaced*, Downtown Music Gallery founder Bruce Lee Gallanter has stated that "[w]hat makes this special is that Mr. Hadfield knows how to use percussion in a more organic way that rarely deals with any sort of (logical or overused) beats, yet the music remains consistently fascinating throughout."

John Hadfield currently serves on the Jazz faculty of New York University, where he teaches drum set and the World Percussion Ensemble. [www.jhadfield.com](http://www.jhadfield.com)

