

East of the River

Nina Stern and Daphna Mor, directors

Solstice: Darkness Is Your Candle

Daphna Mor, voice, recorders
Nina Stern, recorders, chalumeau
Ara Dinkjian, oud
Tamer Pinarbasi, kanun
Jesse Kotansky, violin
Omer Avital, bass
Shane Shanahan, percussion

Groong
Bardezum

Komitas Vardapet (1865-1935)
Gusan Sheram (1901-1973)

Achot Ktana

Traditional Moroccan
text: R. Abraham Haza Girundi
(Spain, 13th century)

Lama bada

Traditional Andalusian

Fly Away

Ara Dinkjian

Sandansko Horo

Traditional Bulgarian

“Solstice”
Petrona

Shane Shanahan
English, 14th century
(London, British Library
Add. MS 28850,
Robertsbridge Codex)

Makedonsko Sedenka (Kopanica)
Belasicko Horo
Bucimis

Traditional Macedonian
Traditional Bulgarian
Traditional Bulgarian

Slide Dance
Hija Mia

Ara Dinkjian
Traditional Sephardic Song
(Instrumental interlude by
Kane Mathis)

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 melodies and virtuosic dances 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 have appeared as a duo with groups as varied as the New York Philharmonic, Orchestra of St. Luke's, and world music ensemble Pharaoh's Daughter and in venues including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall, and the Music Before 1800 concert series. East of the River 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 Concert Series, the Academy of Early Music (Ann Arbor), and the Five Boroughs Music Festival, as well as on many university campuses. Festival appearances include Connecticut Early Music, Madison Early Music, Seattle Early Music, Chautauqua Institute, and Indianapolis Early Music. Known for their innovative programming, East of the River was invited for three consecutive years to perform for WQXR/WNYC's "Live at the Greene Space." The ensemble has released two albums: "East of the River" and "Levantera." www.eastoftherivermusic.com

"Darkness Is Your Candle"

Inspired by ancient communal gatherings celebrating the winter solstice, East of the River explores music of the Mediterranean, the Balkans, Armenia, and the Middle East, presenting the earliest songs and traditional instrumental repertory of those extraordinary cultures. The musicians take the audience on a spiritual journey from the darkest of darks back to light - beginning in a contemplative lunar mood and gradually shifting, giving way to daylight and rebirth and highlighting the yearning for new beginnings at the time of the winter solstice.

"Darkness is your Candle...You must have shadow and light source both." (13th-century Persian poet and Sufi mystic Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Balkhi 'Rumi')