

Projects of Iranian Music /Ensembles

Maryam Akhondy & Ensemble Barbad Classical music from Iran

Besides leading the chorus Maryam Akhondy works as a classical singer with her Ensemble Barbad and her 3 or 5 musicians. They all are classical trained artists. Barbad has been touring all over Europe for more than 15 years.

Maryam Akhondy and Ensemble Barbad's main project is called "Sarmast", which means "intoxicated" – intoxicated from the beautiful lyrics of the greatest Iranian poets (such as Hafez and others). These lyrics have always fascinated Maryam and inspired her to write beautiful songs. So this Sarmast-project are all her own compositions, in the manner of classical Persian art-music.

Watch: [Barbad 1](#) [Barbad 2](#) [Barbad 3](#)

Maryam Akhondy & Banu All-female a-capella group from Iran

In countries like Iran the public appearance of female singers is characterized by largest difficulties. Only for religious rituals, called *Tazieh*, it is allowed to make and to listen to music. For men it is forbidden to listen to the singing of women. Therefore singing is possible only in private sphere, where women are alone or among themselves: at the cradle, at the housework and work in the fields or on women's celebrations. Maryam Akhondy made it her business to bring traditional women's songs back to life again. Over years she has been collecting songs. With these songs she wants to give a voice to the Persian women, who were not present with there songs on the stages of the concert-halls and music-festivals until now.

Banu (Persian word for noble lady or distinguished lady) is a kind of musical expedition to the different regions and cultures of Iran. It gives an informative view of the singing culture and self-confidence of the Persian women. Most of these songs are full of live and energy, being accompanied by various percussion-instruments. This is quite unusual for Iranian music which is often more serene and melancholic. But these old folk-songs are funny, ironic and give a view on the Iranian woman when she is in private.

Listen: [Banu 1](#) [Banu 2](#) **Watch:** [Banu 3](#) [Banu 4](#) [Banu 5](#) [Banu 6](#) [Banu 7](#)

Maryam Akhondy's Paaz Persian Voice meets Jazz & Worldmusic

Maryam Ahondys brand-new band „Paaz“ get started in 2013. Its lyrics are Persian, but the music sounds international, includes a lot of jazzy grooves and different colours of world music. Therefor Maryam Akhondy pooled three highly talented young instrumentalists with Iranian, Belorussian and Israeli roots to start her inspiring new musical journey.

Watch & Listen: [Paaz 1](#) [Paaz 2](#)