



# MUSIC IN-TAKHT

THE BAY AREA'S EGYPTIAN HERITAGE ENSEMBLE

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**Music in-Takht** is an instrumental ensemble dedicated to sharing and preserving Egyptian musical heritage within the San Francisco Bay Area. Music in-Takht is committed to serving the San Francisco Bay Area community with the highest professional standard of musical performance. The ensemble members are devoted musicians who value the mission of this ensemble and with humility, hard work and confidence in their abilities they take the responsibility of being amongst the “Keepers” of Egyptian musical culture within the San Francisco Bay Area.



**Basma Edrees** is a violinist, performer, and educator based in the SF Bay Area. She is the founder of Music in-Takht. Passionate about introducing the world to the rich music of her native country, Egypt, Edrees has given Arabic music workshops at UC Berkeley and Stanford. She also taught Arabic music and European counterpoint at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and is currently on the violin faculty of Santa Clara University's department of Music. A graduate of Mannes School of Music and The Juilliard School in New York, Edrees also enjoys a career playing and teaching European classical music as well as Argentinian Tango music.



**Moe Elshazly** is a self-taught oudist who started his musical journey in 2006 as a guitarist in Cairo's progressive rock scene. After releasing an album as part of the duo “Auburn Mary”, Moe developed a strong interest in modal improvisation and jazz fusion. He found his way to Arabic music through early 20th century influences of Abdel Wahab and El-Qasabgi, as well as the improvisation-oriented folk traditions around the Mediterranean. Moe pursued his studies in Maqam theory at the Canadian Arabic Conservatory of Music and is committed to serving local music.



United States, where he has continued his music career and a career as a National Soccer Referee.

**Mohamed Radi** began teaching himself to play Doumbek when he was about 6 years old. At 19, he began playing percussion in an ensemble that performed American and international music in Egypt. Soon after, he began performing and recording with critically acclaimed composers, singers, and musicians including Hamid El Shaery, Ehab Tawfik, Mahmoud Ellithy as well as Mohamed Mounir, who pioneered the introduction of Nubian music into the musical language of Egypt as a whole. His family being from the beautiful city of Aswan in the South of Egypt, Radi possesses a unique knowledge of the Egyptian

Nubian rhythms used in the south. In 1995, he moved to the



**Reda Darwish**, a native of Cairo, has been playing various percussion instruments since childhood. At eight years old, he was featured weekly on Egyptian television. Soon after he was playing for Egypt's most famous dancers and singers including Fayza Ahmed, Nagat Al Saghira, and Samira Said. He later toured with Hani Mahanna's orchestra, including to the United States where Darwish has now made his new home. He has also recorded his own compositions and was commissioned to compose the soundtrack for Reader's Digest's Wonders Sacred and Mysterious series covering Egypt and Turkey.



Born in the US to Egyptian parents, bassist Amr Topozada began his musical journey as a child playing European classical violin. Growing into a multi-instrumentalist with interest in a wide range of musical styles, he spent many years playing bass, guitar, drums, keyboards, and violin in various Bay Area bands. Amr found an opportunity to explore Arabic music in earnest in 2010, when he became the bassist for Aswat Ensemble. Amr balances his love of music and building community through the arts with his career as a biochemist.