

# MEADOW CITY ACADEMY OF MUSIC



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Ronald Maltais, DMA, President, Artistic Director  
Phillip Schroeder, Ph.D. Vice President  
Niki Sebastian, MA, Secretary  
David Ponder, MM, Treasurer

## *A Taste of Persia*



*Sourena Sefati*, santour/award winning Iranian composer

*Javier Saume Mazzei*, percussion

*Janosch Armer*, violin

**Saturday, November 5, 2022 7:30 p.m.**

**Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom**

**Las Vegas, New Mexico**

**Admission: \$20**

**Students: Free**

Advance ticket sales online at [www.meadowcitymusic.org](http://www.meadowcitymusic.org)

*Presented by Meadow City Academy of Music*

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Next upcoming event. Purchase tickets online

[Taste of Persia](#)

## An Update on Meadow City Academy of Music \_\_\_\_\_

Although Las Vegas struggled with unprecedented challenges this summer due to wild-fires, flooding etc., it was wonderful to see our community come together for an afternoon of music on Sunday, June 26 at Ilfeld Auditorium, performed by almost 20 local musicians. The concert, billed as a *Benefit Concert for Fire Relief*, was presented by the Academy, and I am happy to report that we raised about \$ 3,400.00 in donations that day. The funds were transferred to the Las Vegas NM Community Foundation for grants to Mora and San Miguel counties nonprofits working with fire relief programs. Surely, this was an event we won't forget!

Sharing the role of artistic director with Kevin Zoernig in this unique music marathon format, we were able to introduce the numerous soloists and ensembles to the large audience and to occasionally join in as performers. Special thanks to New Mexico Highlands University and to Kevin Zoernig for their assistance in making this event possible! Two participating high school pianists, Joaquin Romero and Aaron Garcia, had previously received music scholarships through the Academy. They are now respectively students at Colorado College and The New Mexico School for the Arts in Santa Fe. I am happy to say that both are continuing their music studies and are well on the way to becoming advanced musicians! See the attached concert program for a complete list of the soloists/ensembles.

The Academy also offered a special music class to West Las Vegas middle school students in July and early August. This 6-week pilot project, titled the *Meadow City Music Club*, was taught by West Las Vegas music teacher Quintin Leger, and the 7 enrolled students worked together with the goal of presenting an ensemble performance at Traveler's Café on Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>. The result was truly astonishing, and the program included an original song composed by the students for the occasion! It is notable that the students had initiated the idea for a summer music class which prompted their instructor to ask for Academy collaboration and support. Two student pianists also participated in this impromptu event which greatly impressed an audience of about 50 people. We hope to sustain this program as an after-school activity involving East and West Las Vegas students. See the attached photos and program.

On Saturday evening, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm, the Academy will present a concert at the Historic Plaza Hotel Ballroom titled *A Taste of Persia*, featuring Iranian santour virtuoso and vocalist Sourena Sefati. He will appear with Janosch Armer, violinist and Javier Saume Mazzei, percussionist. Sefati previously gave a performance with Gregory Gutin at the Plaza Hotel Ballroom in November, 2019. At that time, he performed a

program of his own compositions. We are very excited that Sefati has agreed to return to Las Vegas with two accomplished musicians we have not yet heard! Biographies of the artists are attached.

Our final event in 2022 will be a piano recital at Ilfeld Auditorium/New Mexico Highlands University, scheduled for Wednesday, December 7, at 7 pm. Kevin Zoernig has agreed to share this program with me. The program will likely feature an original work by Kevin and one by myself.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to Academy board members, staff and donors for assisting me and helping our organization to thrive during these unusual and challenging times!



Sincerely,

Ronald Maltais

President/Artistic Director  
Meadow City Academy of Music

## Benefit Concert for Fire Relief

Ronald Maltais and Kevin Zoernig, Artistic Directors

Sunday, June 26, 2022  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Ilfeld Auditorium  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

### Soloists

Joaquin Romero, piano, UWC graduate  
Lily Diaz, voice, New Mexico School for the Arts  
Susan Sanocki, voice  
Aaron Garcia, piano, New Mexico School for the Arts  
Ronald Maltais, piano  
Kathleen Dudley, voice

### Ensembles

**Contrafact** with Chris Barela, bass guitar; Danny Sharp, guitar; Brandon Gallegos, drums; Jamie Garcia, vocals, trumpet and trombone; Janie Chavez, vocals; Jordan Jones, vocals and sax; Steve Leger, flute and trumpet

**Smooth Riders** with Ed Harrington, bass and trombone; Bruce Holmes, sax; Ralph Marquez, drums; Kevin Zoernig, piano, keyboards



**Los Tropicales** with Steve Leger, flute and trumpet; Leroy "Pato" Lucero, vocals and guitar; Mike Romero, vocals and guitar; Ralph Marquez, drums



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## MUSICAL NOTES

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### **Administrative Note - Our New Mission Statement**

Meadow City Academy of Music aims to integrate professional performance artists into the community of Las Vegas, New Mexico by providing quality training for underserved local youth and by enriching the culture of our city through the presentation of concerts and educational programs.



**Karri K Scott**  
Technical Assistant

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### **New Technical Assistant to the President**

It brings me great joy to assist in keeping the eyes of the Las Vegas community on Meadow City Academy of Music by updating its website with ongoing events, projects, and growth opportunities. Taking these updates directly to the community members is now possible with the creation and publication of the quarterly newsletter. The Academy is built on great local talent and experience. As such, I see grant writing as increasing the scope of musical education and events to bring what the Academy has to offer to all ages of the community to improve and enhance their lives. We all need music in its many forms. Meadow City Academy of Music is the place to find it.

# REFLECTIONS



Meadow City Music Club Student Performance

The Meadow City Music Club was a great success. The mission was to provide an environment to foster the musical creativity of our youth (middle school students in Las Vegas, NM) and provide inclusivity to all instruments and styles. This was achieved and so much more. When the students first met, they were at wildly different skill levels. In fact, the drummer, Elijah Pena, had never played the drum set before. But after six weeks he was fluent in basic pop and rock rhythms.



The bass player, Gabriel Serna, had never played bass before but took to it with grace. Both guitar players, Sierra Casias and Caydin Encinias, had prior experience but developed their improvising ability further. Our bass clarinetist, Santiago Lucero, adopted his instrument to the atypical scenario of a rock band and melded seamlessly. And Noah Probst, the pianist, provided a mature layer of depth to the group and also expanded his soloing abilities.

The students met twice a week for two hours each day and worked diligently, preparing for performance. From the onset, the instructor, Quintin Leger, championed improvisation and cooperation as core values of the club. With that in mind, they chose two popular songs to learn and also began crafting a song of their own. They learned the basics of music theory, cueing, showmanship as well as the fundamentals of musicianship. The camp concluded at Travelers Cafe to a full crowd and a standing ovation.

**“...championed improvisation and cooperation as core values...”**

-QUINTIN LEGER

See attached recital program.



Traveler's Café  
Las Vegas, New Mexico

**Recital**

featuring

Wednesday, August 10, 2022 5:00 pm

Meadow City Academy of Music

Meadow City Music Club

(Music Students at West Las Vegas Middle School) Directed by Quintin Leger

Gabe Serna, bass guitar/vocals Elijah Peña, drums Caydin Encinias, guitar Noah Probst, piano Santiago Lucero, bass clarinet Sierra Casias, guitar

and

Theo Willamson, piano Jonathan Koste, piano

All music selections will be announced

**Meadow City Music Club** is a 6-week summer music class which was launched by Meadow City Academy of Music in July, 2022. Quintin Leger conducted this class at the West Las Vegas School campus. We hope to continue this project as an after-school program in the fall of 2022. Talented students from West/East Las Vegas Schools will be admitted through music auditions.

**Meadow City Academy of Music**, founded by Artistic Director Ronald Maltais in 2017 is registered as a non-profit 501 C (3) organization and is incorporated in the State of New Mexico. Now in its fifth season, the Academy presents professional musicians and dancers in concerts at various venues throughout our city. We also provide music scholarships for talented local youth in need of financial assistance for private instruction, and special funding for educational projects.

Please visit us at [www.meadowcitymusic.org](http://www.meadowcitymusic.org).



Theo Williamson  
performing as a  
soloist



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## *A Taste of Persia*

### **BIOGRAPHIES**

**Sourena Sefati**, Heir to a Persian musical heritage that stretches back millennia, Iranian santour virtuoso Sourena Sefati carries that tradition into the modern era with stunningly original compositions that reveal the extraordinary breadth of expression concealed in this ancient instrument's small wooden frame. The grandfather of China's yanqin, Eastern Europe's cimbalon, and the United States' hammered dulcimer, the santour is played with delicate felt-tipped mallets, or mezbabs. Its structure has changed little since its first representation in inscriptions in Susa, Iran, dating back to 699 BC. Born in Ramsar, a small, beautiful city in Northern Iran, Sefati fell under the sway of the santour upon his first experience with the instrument at age 11, dedicating his life to mastering this trapezoidal box's 72 metal strings. Sefati earned a bachelor's degree in music in 2002 from the University of Tehran and went on to achieve a master's degree in Iranian music performance in 2009 from Art University in Tehran, where he won the award for Best Composer of Iranian Music. In his native country, Sefati launched a successful career as a performer, a recording artist with appearances on more than 50 albums, and as an in-demand composer with numerous commissions. He has appeared in concerts in Africa, Asia and Europe, both as a member of

prestigious ensembles and as a soloist. He has appeared as a featured soloist with the Iran Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra, the Iranian Chamber Orchestra and the Mehrnavazan National Orchestra. In 2016, his album *Az Roozegare Rang Amiz* (From Deceitful Ages) won him the award for Best Composer of Iran. Sefati dedicated himself to teaching at Art University and Elmi- Karbordi University in Tehran from 2008 to 2014. In 2014 he published *Dorrab* — 117 Etudes for Santour, the first work of its kind for the instrument, offering a structured approach to santour technique. In addition to his accomplishments as an instrumentalist, Sefati is a dedicated vocalist, having devoted significant time to learning the technique of Persian singing called Avaz. In 2014, Sefati moved to the United States, allowing him the opportunity to spread awareness of his beloved motherland's musical heritage and his own classical compositions, which are marked by lyricism, rhythmic complexity and fast tempi requiring highly technical playing. In 2015, Sefati started working with Rahim AlHaj, the Iraqi oud master who settled in Albuquerque. In 2016, they first performed together at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, and Sefati continues to tour the world as a member of the Rahim AlHaj Trio. They released the album *One Sky* in March 2018 on Smithsonian Folkways. In 2017, Sefati organized the Alborz Trio with Deborah Ungar (clarinet) and Gregory Gutin (percussion), performing Sefati's original works and traditional Persian compositions in regional concerts. In 2018, Sefati established the NuAeen Ensemble with Mojgan Shajarian, Persian singer, Pejman Hadadi, percussionist, and Ali Pajoooheshgar, oud player. He released his album *Arghavan* with Mojgan Shajarian in 2019.

**Janosch Armer** is a German-American violinist who studied at the Hochschule für Musik "Carl-Maria-von-Weber" in Dresden, Germany under Prof. Jörg Fassman. He is an alumnus of the "Giuseppe-Sinopoli-Academy of the Staatskapelle Dresden and is a regular guest at the Semperoper Dresden. Janosch is an avid chamber and orchestral musician whose concerts have taken him, amongst others, to Czechia, Italy, Japan and Russia.

**Javier Saume Mazzei**, A native of Caracas, Venezuela, Javier began playing percussion at the age of eight. He holds a B.A. in Music from Roosevelt University where he studied classical percussion with Ed Harrison, drum set with Phil Gateau and Paul Wertico and Latin percussion with Ruben Alvarez. Javier has performed with Rhonda Richmond, Reginald Veal, Herlin Riley, and Cassandra Wilson, and the Symphony Orchestra "Sistema de Orquestas Juveniles de Venezuela". He has performed internationally in concerts, master classes, and residencies in Beijing, China, and at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and Carnegie Hall in New York with Sones de Mexico Ensemble. He recorded with Sones and nominated for the Latin Grammy and Grammy 2007. Javier also toured with the Ensemble Español and relocated to Albuquerque New Mexico in 2018.