

Ladom Ensemble

“Great group performing great music in a new world music direction.”

(The Wholenote Magazine)

The eclectic cultural richness of Ladom Ensemble's music is a reflection of Canada's cultural diversity. Like the vibrant colours of a beautifully woven Persian carpet, the intricacies of an Iranian stone mosaic enveloping an ancient building, Ladom's sound is drawn from the old and brought into a contemporary presentation. Mirroring the traditions of music from that region, Ladom also relies on the equal balance of both structure and improvisation.

Ladom Ensemble creates a sound that represents one of the oldest cultures in the world, one can hear influences drawn from the Balkan, Iran, Argentina, and Europe. The elasticity of styles is the musical foundation of these four musicians and their vast experiences create a new sound and experience that will be appeal to all audiences.

The musicians met in Toronto and quickly realized that they shared a passion to create a sound that draws from their unique musical experiences. A sound that would incorporate inspirations from Argentinian jazz, classical tango, Serbian folk dance, Persian classical dulcimer, amongst others. Ladom was formed, not to define or represent one specific tradition, but rather, to express what is a modern and authentic Canadian experience, a musical identity blossoming from many sources that reflect a beautiful new world. As critic Michael Vincent of *musicaltoronto.org* wrote, “Toronto's Ladom Ensemble is not your typical chamber group. In many ways, they represent a changing definition of chamber music which sees musicians increasingly looking away from a purely Eurocentric purview...They can play pretty much anything.”

Consisting of founding member Pouya Hamidi on piano, accordionist Michael Bridge, cellist Beth Silver, and Adam Campbell on percussion, Ladom's recent and upcoming projects included a collaboration on four new compositions from the Iranian-Canadian Composers of Toronto, recording their second full-length album, and collaborating with Aga Khan on a children's project based on Rumi's Fables. Ladom has won three tours by Jeunesses Musicales Canada (September 2017 and April 2019), Debut Atlantic (April 2018) and Prairie Debut (January-February 2019). More tours are scheduled, as Ladom continues to spiral upward and outward into the Canadian music scene. From the stage, the concert transcends borders and the diverse qualities that each musician brings to the ensemble results in an unconventional experience for all. Whether it is Michael mixing up words in Farsi and Serbian, or Adam's Anglophone accent which endears him to francophone audiences, the concert experience from Ladom's performance is best said by CBC Radio's Errol Nazareth – “This is the first time I have heard such a fascinating mix and it really works well. The music can be very elegant and contemplative and it can also be rocking and fiery and there is no denying of the passion of the four musicians investing in their playing.”

