### Ladom Ensemble - 700 words

Ladom Ensemble is a mini-orchestra made up of four musicians - piano, cello, accordion and percussion - who play a kind of acoustic fusion that is both passionate and sophisticated. They create music drawn from Western classical, klezmer, rock, tango, jazz, east coast traditional and classical Persian influences - music that is distilled into something distinctly Canadian.

But the ensemble is about much more than the music they perform.

Let’s call it “Ladom-ism” - a way of working. An attitude. A set of principles about how to create a small musical community that works by consensus and aspires to share joy. They value rigour, experimentation and generosity of spirit in equal measure.

All are classically trained, all fearlessly virtuosic. They believe in taking improvisational risks, in listening deeply and responding spontaneously to one another. They value friendship, mutual respect and great food.

The band was founded nearly 20 years ago by a pair of music students at the University of Toronto. It grew into a quartet and took its current configuration in 2018.

Pouya Hamidi, piano: Born in Tehran, Pouya is the only remaining member of the original duo who got together to write pieces influenced by the traditions of their homelands. Ladom 1.0 became part of a revolving group of musicians who rehearsed in Pouya’s basement. That’s where, as a teen and young adult, he had noisy parties and jammed with rock and roll bands. Pouya went on to get his Masters in Sound Recording at McGill. Today, he’s a much in-demand producer and engineer, scores music for film and theatre and is the chief composer and arranger for Ladom.

Adam Campbell, percussion: Born in Summerside, PEI, Adam jumped in for a Ladom gig in 2009 and never left. He received a BMus from Acadia and a MMus from U of T. And when not keeping the groove for Ladom, he’s a sound designer for theatre and dance and a member of TorQ, a percussion ensemble from Toronto now artist-in-residence at Western University. He magically seems to have a deep knowledge of everyone else’s part and somehow stays upbeat, no matter what the challenge.

Michael Bridge, accordion: Michael grew up in Calgary and started playing accordion when his Mom found a $5 instrument for a sale at a garage sale. He’s gone on to win major international competitions, complete his Masters and DMA at the U of T and is now a concert soloist, half of the Bridge & Wolak duo and teaches a course in business for musicians at his alma mater. Michael joined Ladom in 2015. He is the youngest member of the group, but the one with the oldest musical soul.

Beth Silver, cello: Joined 2018. Beth grew up in the Toronto area, got a BMus at U of T and a Masters at McGill. She’s a composer, arranger and performer; tours and records with classical, jazz, R&B and folk bands; plays for film and tv scores, commercials and video games and recently became fascinated by Klezmer music. She spent last year traveling to villages in Transylvania collecting traditional music. She sometimes feels like the contrarian in the group, but always with the best intentions.

Ladom has played countless shows across Canada - two tours for Jeunesses Musicales, as well as Prairie Debut, Debut Atlantic and independent excursions throughout BC and Ontario. The quartet has collaborated with a collective of Persian composers, appeared at the Toronto, Stratford and Ottawa summer music festivals and has worked with choreographers, animators and visual artists.

Their second album, “The Walls Are Made of Song” released in 2019, was inspired by Rumi poetry and includes classical arrangements of Prokofiev, Bach and Chopin.

They recently completed four video projects. Another album based on Jewish and Iranian themes is set for release in 2025.

“Ladom can play really detailed and complex and tight notes and follow the score,” says Pouya. “And we can also let go and improvise in the moment. This sets us apart from purely classical music groups or jazz or non-classical ones.

“It becomes an intersection of ideas and connection on a human level. It’s a very social thing, making music together in Ladom. And everything we do is underpinned by genuine friendship.”

### Ladom Bio - 482 words - Shorter but still long

Ladom Ensemble is a mini-orchestra made up of four musicians - piano, cello, accordion and percussion - who play a kind of acoustic fusion that is both passionate and sophisticated. They create music drawn from Western classical, klezmer, rock, tango, jazz, east coast traditional and classical Persian influences - music that is distilled into something distinctly Canadian.

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Pouya Hamidi, piano, was born in Tehran and is the only remaining member of the original duo. Pouya went on to get his Masters in Sound Recording at McGill. Today, he’s a much in-demand producer and engineer, scores music for film and theatre and is the chief composer and arranger for Ladom.

Adam Campbell, percussion, is from Summerside, PEI. He received a BMus from Acadia and a MMus from U of T. And when not keeping the groove for Ladom, he’s a sound designer for theatre and dance and a member of TorQ, a percussion ensemble from Toronto.

Michael Bridge, accordion, grew up in Calgary. He’s won major international competitions, completed his Masters and DMA at the U of T and is now a concert soloist, half of the Bridge & Wolak duo and teaches a course in business for musicians at his alma mater.

Beth Silver, cello, grew up in the Toronto area and got a BMus at U of T and a Masters at McGill. She’s a composer, arranger and performer; tours and records with classical, jazz, R&B and folk bands; plays for film and tv scores, commercials and video games and recently became fascinated by traditional Klezmer music.

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### Shorter - 265 words

Ladom Ensemble is a mini-orchestra made up of four musicians who play a kind of acoustic fusion drawn from Western classical, klezmer, rock, tango, jazz, east coast traditional and classical Persian influences - music that is distilled into something distinctly Canadian.

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Pouya Hamidi, piano, was born in Tehran and is the only remaining member of the original duo. Adam Campbell, percussion, is from Summerside, PEI. Michael Bridge, accordion, grew up in Calgary. Beth Silver, cello, is from the Toronto area. All have obtained advanced degrees in music.

Outside of Ladom, they work as composers, arrangers, studio musicians, teachers and soloists.

Ladom has played countless shows across Canada and has worked with choreographers, animators and visual artists.

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### Short-short - 125 words

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They are Pouya Hamidi, piano; Adam Campbell, percussion; Michael Bridge, accordion, and Beth Silver, cello.

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