

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

Maestro Shardad

A brilliant and multi-faceted writer/composer/arranger/conductor, Serenity recording artist Shardad may best be known as the maestro who helped transform Yanni from a little-known keyboard soloist into an overnight platinum phenom.

Shardad began his collaboration with Yanni when the new ager invited him to arrange the music for "One Man's Dream," which appeared on his album *In My Time*, an eventual platinum seller. With the track, Shardad supplemented Yanni's original keyboard composition with arrangements for a 60 piece orchestra. The results, a rich, more deeply layered sound, landed Shardad a job creating arrangements for all the compositions on that album as well as conductor duties on Yanni's subsequent two month, 42 date tour. With a different orchestra in each city to rehearse and just three hours before each show to do it, Shardad rose to the challenge and Yanni enjoyed tremendous critical acclaim.

A symbiotic collaboration was also cemented—Yanni composes music on solo piano, writing as he plays and the classically trained Shardad annotates the music, framing Yanni in an orchestral setting. Most recently, Shardad arranged, conducted and played violin on all but two tracks of Yanni's Top 10 Live at the Acropolis performance album, PBS special and popular home video. Having earned the luxury from his previous tour experience, Shardad also hand-selected and rehearsed a 40 piece traveling orchestra for Yanni's ensuring '94 tour, for which he is currently conducting.

For Shardad, composing and arranging music has always been just as important as performing it. Shardad's own recordings draw from the intoxicating textures of classical music, where his thirst for musical knowledge has taken him on a personal odyssey halfway around the



Writer/composer/arranger/conductor Shardad

world.

Born in Tehran, Iran, Shardad was raised in a musical family. His father was a violinist, his mother played the guitar-like Persian tar and his three brothers were all pianists. At age 10, already a gifted violinist and pianist himself, Shardad entered the Tehran Conservatory of Music, where he spent a decade studying classical music, playing violin in the Conservatory Symphony Orchestra, performing with various traveling orchestras and absorbing influences from popular bands such as The Beatles. Shardad also began experimenting with film scoring—shooting hours of footage with a super-8 camera he received for his fourteenth birthday, then composing music to go along with it. After becoming one of the top classical music students in his country, Shardad accepted a scholarship to join the world's foremost classical musicians and professors at the prestigious Acad-

emy of Music in Vienna, Austria, where he received the Scholarship for Young composers and earned a master of Arts degree with honors.

The Spirit of Portland

The Spirit of Portland introduces its first luxury dinner boat to the Rose City. This 400 passenger vessel will have a weekly, year round schedule of public lunch cruises, champagne brunches, dinner cruises, and moonlight dance cruises. Extended day cruises to Astoria and the Columbia River Gorge will be offered mid-May through mid-September. Private rental of one level during a public cruise or private charter of the entire boat will be available. Portland boarding is convenient from our downtown location in Tom McCall Water Front Park next to Salmon Springs Fountain and McCall's restaurant.

The Spirit of Portland is a three level vessel. Two levels are full enclosed and temperature controlled, each with a piano and full service beverage bar. The Starlight deck is an open air viewing deck. An on board full service

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