

The Shin

The Shin formed in 1998 in Germany where Zaza Miminoshvili and Zurab J. Gagnidze had been living since the end of the 20th century. In the early 21st century, Mamuka Ghaghanidze hurried to join them. Since then, The Shin have been on their musical mission as a trio. The group members are well known even in their Georgian homeland, as leading composers and musicians. They have scripted pieces for productions at the Tbilisi State Theatre, numerous film, TV, and radio projects, have participated in various festivals and have won several prizes in recognition of their work. Amazingly, *The Shin* are able to smoothly combine Georgian folk melodies with jazz, native polyphonic singing with scat, and in general, the music of the near Orient with the modern sounds popular in the West today.

The Shin's first project "EgAri" (2006) is based on Georgian instrumental music, traditional polyphonic vocals, and folk dance, and unites for the first time these quite separate segments of Georgian culture. It is an unusual, and highly non-traditional combination of archaic and modern, Caucasian and non-Caucasian instruments, elements of Georgian harmonies with diverse jazz threads. The Shin are not iconoclasts, however. Only what continues to evolve will remain-in that spirit, The Shin see themselves as safe keepers of Georgian traditions, not its destroyers. "EgAri" brought together the best musicians on the national scene, in particular virtuosos of the archaic instruments. It is the reinitiation of a peaceful dialogue between East and West, old and new, "Ours" and "Not-Ours", that has been characteristic of Georgian culture for centuries. This dialogue is recognizable in the poetry of Rustaveli, the paintings of Pirosmiani, the architecture of Tbilisi, the choreography of George Balanchine (Georgi Balanchivadze), the films of Otar Ioseliani, and yes... the music of The Shin.

In 2008 the band released their second album "Many Timer". This album accentuates the unique sound of The Shin. Their music describes an exciting journey that will give colourful impressions and leave precious memories.

The newest album of the Georgian musicians "Black Sea Fire" was released 2009. With this CD they did not only concentrate on Georgian culture but took a look at all the countries surrounding the Black Sea and referring to ancient mythology. Each country got its own piece of music on the CD. The Shin examines: Where are the differences and why do we have conflicts? Which points of our cultures are similar? What binds us together and makes us one 'Black-Sea-Culture?'

Line- up:

Zaza Miminoshvili	- Midi-Guitar, Panduri
Zurab J. Gagnidze	- fretless bass, vocals (Guruli), song writing
Mamuka Gaganidze	- vocals, percussion, song writing
Mamuka Chichinadze	- solo vocals, bass
Guivi Bakuradze	- vocals
Alexander Hizanishvili	- chonguri, duduki, salamuri, chiboni, chuniri, dance
Hvicha Hvitisiashvili	- panduri, duduki
Zviad Totiauri	- solo duduki
David Shirladze	- Dance, doli