

# . NAM .

MEDIEVAL - CELTIC - ORIENTAL - FOLK - MUSIC

CURRICULUM VITAE

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Live music videos are available online at:

**[www.youtube.com/namworld](http://www.youtube.com/namworld)**

Live music sound is available online at:

**[www.ensemble-nam.com](http://www.ensemble-nam.com)**

or at

**[www.myspace.com/namworld](http://www.myspace.com/namworld)**

**NAM - sanskrit: "the divine soundstream" | latin: "indeed" | arabic: "yes" -** From primeval times on the fertile regions of the Danube have always been a melting pot of different cultures. As a rich environment and living space for many ancestors: Celts, Germans, Romans and many more Austria was and will always be the central heart of Europe that remains up until today as an intermediary between East and West. Following these roots NAM is a meeting pool of musicians, that gather in various lineups in order to fuse the spirit of ancient instruments with their own ideas to an eclectic new style of world music...

Medieval Pagan Folk



Orient Fusion



Ethno Folk / World Music



NAM was formed back in 2001 by the Austrian vocalist, overtone singer and multiinstrumentalist Bernhard Mikuskovics with overtonesinger Markus Riccabona and jew's harp player, percussionist and didgeridoo player Wolfdietrich Janscha. The aim of this original lineup was to fuse overtone singing styles with original worldmusic-instruments to an eclectic new sound. After two years, when both musicians left the band, Bernhard Mikuskovics reformed NAM with new musicians such as the multi ethno percussionist Patrick Feldner, the Celtic harp player Georg Baum or the Oriental lute player Kemalettin Efe and additional musicians from the Austrian folk scene. After recording their debut CD "Trans" in 2005 the group played their eclectic music until today in various lineups at many places and various occasions...



**MUSICANS:**

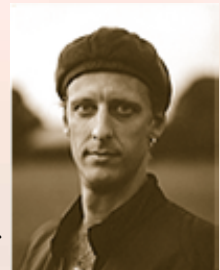
**BERNHARD MIKUSKOVICS** (*Vocals, Overtone Voice, Rauschpfeife, Ney, Dombra, Rybab, Whistles, Dulcimer, Xaphoon, Jew's Harp, Didgeridoo, Guitar*)

Austrian vocalist, overtone singer and multiinstrumentalist Bernhard Mikuskovics has been involved in music and pictorial arts since his early childhood, and started to research on didgeridoos, ethnic flutes and overtone instruments after finishing his graphical education. Since then he has been working on various eclectic art projects surrounding music and graphic design. His fascination with overtones and overtone music finally led him into the art of overtone singing. He teaches overtone techniques of the human voice, didgeridoo, jew's harp and works as a musician mainly in the field of fusing ancient instruments with modern musical styles and elements.



**PATRICK FELDNER** (*Bodhran, Bendir, Riqq, Tonbak, Jew's Harp*)

During his extensive travels to India, Nepal and Turkey Patrick Feldner studied tabla and basics of classical northern-indian (Hindustani) music with Nandu Mishra und Ramchandra Sharma (All India Radio&TV) in Varanasi, Northern India. Following his aim to master framedrum techniques of all kinds he learned different playing-styles in the workshops and courses of outstanding musicians such as Glen Velez (USA), Michael Metzler (Germany), Mel Mercier (Ireland) and Steafan Hannigan (Ireland).



**GEORG BAUM** (*Celtic Harp*)

Georg Baum has been educated in classical harp, piano and composition. He performed as a soloist and as member of various ensembles throughout Europe. Along with his classical training, he has developed a keen interest in early European and medieval Musical forms.



**KEMALETTIN EFE** (*Oud, Saz, Tanbur*)

Kemalettin Efe started to play Guitar and Saz at the age of twelve. As a musician he is now mainly occupied with the study of oriental string instruments Oud and Tanbur. Before joining Ensemble NAM he played with the intercultural music-groups "Kybele", "KIR", "Sol Minör", "Ekin" and "Ensemble Taksim".

**ADDITIONAL MUSICIANS:**

**RAINER RATH** (*Violin*), **HELMUT EBERL** (*Hurdy-Gurdy*)

**INSTRUMENTS:****DULCIMER**

The Dulcimer is an American instrument that derives from the family of the drone zithers and medieval European instruments such as the "Psalterium" or the "Scheitholz". As dulcimers are very popular at the Appalachians other names for this instrument are "*Appalachian Dulcimer*" or "*Mountain Dulcimer*". Dulcimers have an even body with a fingerboard and five metal strings, that are played with a pick. They are mainly tuned in a diatonic mode. Some instruments have additional frets in order to play more than one scale.

**DOMBRA**

This long-necked lute has a wooden body and two strings. It is mainly played by the people of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and remains up until today as one of the leading musical instruments of the shamans in these regions.

**WHISTLES**

"Whistle" simply means "*Pipe*". Whistles are fipple flutes with six playing holes and a lacking thumb hole. They are mainly used in traditional Irish folk music. Irish whistles, so called "Tin

Whistles" or "Low Whistles", have a distinct sound that refers to the material of which they are made ("tin" or "metal").

About the origin of the tin whistle it is narrated, that once a famous whistle player, who was devoted to Guinness during his playing, periodically cracked his wooden flutes when he sat down at the table to continue with playing his music. To put an end to this a flute maker crafted him a tin flute - the first and original Tin-Whistle. Because whistles have been very popular among the beggars and vagabonds in Ireland they have been called "*Penny Whistles*".

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### RYBAB



The Rybab is a traditional folk instrument from Uzbekistan. It has a wooden body covered with sheep skin and a long neck with five strings that are played with a pick. Other names for the Rybab are Rumikopuz or Koçkarça. The shape of its body symbolizes the horns of a male sheep. As the Rybab can be played either rhythmically or melodically it is a musical instrument that is versatile and applicable. Outside of Uzbekistan the Rybab is played by Uyghur people of Central Asia and in former times in the palaces of the Ottoman Empire.

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### XAPHOON



The Xaphoon is a reed instrument. It was invented by Brian Wittman in Maui, Hawaii, and is made of bamboo. It has nine playing holes and is played with an open playing style and additional cross fingering in order to be able to play more notes and scales. Because of its clarinet and saxophone-like timbre it is often called "bamboo sax".

## NEY



The Ney is a reed flute from the Middle East with seven playing holes. Wooden membranes divide the inside of the reed into nine segments that must be pierced through to make a flute out of the reed. According to Mevlana these segments are equivalent to the inner barriers, lacks and human mistakes that must be cleansed to achieve human maturity. In this sense the making of a Ney, the mastery of Ney playing and the vibrant soothing sound of the Ney symbolizes the spiritual maturation of a human being, that undergoes inner and outer purification processes to achieve a kind and tolerant state of being. The Ney creates a bridge between the mind and the heart, a balance between thinking and feeling.

## RAUSCHPFEIFE or RAUSCHPFEYFFE



The Rauschpfeife ("Rauschpfeiffe") is a cornamuse like woodwind instrument with a double reed, a wind cap and a conical tube. It has eight playing holes and is played with open playing style and additional cross fingering in order to be able to play more notes and scales. These instruments developed from medieval shawms and had their golden age during the period of the European Renaissance.

## CELTIC HARP



### LIVE REFERENCES (ASSORTED FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES):

#### ETHNO FOLK - Le Rêve de l'Aborigène Festival (Poitou Charantes, France)



[www.lereve-de-laborigene.net](http://www.lereve-de-laborigene.net)

#### MEDIEVAL PAGAN FOLK - Seedcamp (Lower Austria)



[www.seedcamp.at](http://www.seedcamp.at)

#### ETHNO FOLK - Festival of the Huns - Museum of Prehistory (Lower Austria)



[www.urgeschichte.com](http://www.urgeschichte.com) at

#### WORLD MUSIC - Austria Didgeridoo Festival (Styria, Austria)



[www.didgeridoo-festival.at](http://www.didgeridoo-festival.at)

## PROGRAMS:

### MEDIEVAL & PAGAN FOLK

Following the musical heritage of pagan cultures from different parts of ancient Europe the musicians follow the spirit of their historic instruments from the origins to present times. Their musical journey leads them from ancient medieval tunes over their own compositions in traditional styles to free improvisations.



**Bernhard Mikuskovics** (Vocals, Rauschpfeife, Dulcimer, Whistles, Jew's Harp, Ney, Overtone Singing) - **Patrick Feldner** (Percussion, Jew's Harp, Voice) - **Georg Baum** (Celtic Harp), **Helmut Eberl** (Hurdy-Gurdy) + **Additional Musicians**

### ETHNO FOLK & WORLD MUSIC

Overtone voices fuse with the sounds of ancient european & oriental instruments to an eclectic blend of oriental and occidental world music. The musicians provide their audiences with an astonishing repertoire of ethnic sounds and instruments, that creates together with the arcane and ancient art of overtone-chanting a special form of art music for the inner self – born from the joy of making music.



**Bernhard Mikuskovics** (Overtone Voice, Ney, Dombra, Rybab, Whistles, Dulcimer, Jew's Harp, Shruti Box, Didgeridoo) - **Patrick Feldner** (Bodhran, Bendir, Riqq, Tonbak, Tabla, Jew's Harp, Voice) - **Kemalettin Efe** (Oud, Saz, Tanbur) - **Georg Baum** (Celtic Harp)

## ORIENT FUSION

The mystic sound of oriental music instruments fuses with the sounds of central asian shaman instruments and overtone voices. The musicians lead their audiences into a world of sounds and images where the haunting sounds of the middle eastern reed flute gather with oriental lutes and percussion instruments to a spicy atmosphere of ancient sounds and instrumental trance.



***Bernhard Mikuskovics*** (Ney, Dombra, Rybab, Jew's Harp, Overtone Singing, Voice) -  
***Patrick Feldner*** (Bendir, Riqq, Kanjira, Tonbak, Jew's Harp) - ***Kemalettin Efe*** (Oud, Saz, Tanbur) + ***Additional Dancers & Musicians***

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## CONTACT & BOOKING

NAM can be booked for many events.

For more details on our programs and line ups please have a look at our programs section and contact our office for a non binding offer.

**[www.ensemble-nam.com](http://www.ensemble-nam.com)**