

“I am dedicated to spreading the universal message of love and peace through music and storytelling. I believe in adopting the best of all traditions and weaving them into a fine, rich tapestry of cultures.” –Ziba Shirazi

Ziba Shirazi is an Iranian-American singer with a sensational voice and a unique compositional style. As a poet and music artist, she is best known for her poignant songs and storytelling through poetry. Ziba’s compositions blend together flavors of Persian melodies with world music and jazz.

Ziba grew up in Iran, surrounded by music in a family of musicians and music lovers. Her passion for performance was apparent at an early age; she started writing her own poetry at 15, and dreamed of one day becoming a performer. In her teens she became enchanted by the American musicals, *My Fair Lady* and *Fiddler on the Roof*, featured in the movie theatres in Tehran, and later on Broadway musicals continued to be a great source of inspiration.

In 1985, Ziba left Iran for the United States, where despite all difficulties she single-handedly produced and promoted the first of seven albums “Red Apple,” in 1991. This album, which had been rejected by Iranian music producers because of its unconventional lyrics and melodies became a sensational success soon after its launch.

Referred to as the ‘Voice of Women’ in the Iranian community, Ziba’s lyrics are colored by passionate feminist tones, love, compassion and universal human stories. “Obviously, I am a shameless romantic and shamelessly, a woman. The beauty that I see is abundant and joyful and always full of love, passion and sensuality, as they are my salvation.”

Her collaboration with Chilean-American Jazz pianist, Dr. Jose-Miguel Yamal, has deepened the presence of fiery jazz and Latin music in her performances. Having performed together worldwide since 2006, they create a synergistic experience of passion and expression. As Matthew Crosier from CBC radio says, “You can expect perfect pitch voice and a top notch band.”

In 2009, Ziba created **Story & Song**, a lyrical storytelling performance, set to live music with video projections featuring stories of Iranian immigrants and their struggles since the Islamic Revolution. This project, which is also the subject of Ziba’s Master’s thesis in Performance and Communication at California State University in Los Angeles, has been performed across the US and Canada.

Another one of Ziba’s lifetime dreams was achieved in 2014, when she staged her first musical production, **Spring Love**, at the Los Angeles County Museum of Arts. **Spring Love** celebrates the dynamic tradition of Nowruz through the story of three generations experiencing love at first sight, and it will go on stage at SOKA Performing Art Center in February 2015.

Through her new ongoing projects, **Story & Song** featuring stories of Iranian immigrants, and **Spring Love**, a musical love story, Ziba continues to touch audience’s heart, crossing cultural gaps with her unique art of storytelling.