

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I am from Iran, and I lived in Tehran. I am a master's student in ethnomusicology, and I play the Ney instrument. This instrument is one of the main instruments of Iranian classical music, and I have just started learning the Setar instrument. In my free time, I usually walk and enjoy the beautiful nature of Middletown.

IS THERE A “MIND-BLOWING” CONCEPT/FACT/ TECHNIQUE IN YOUR FIELD OF RESEARCH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

In the field of ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University, there is a lot of national diversity, which is why I have learned many cultural and musical topics through my friends who are of different nationalities, and I have become familiar with the cultural details of my friends. This is a wonderful opportunity for an ethnomusicology student to be able to get acquainted with social interaction and to get close with diverse cultures.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH

I am interested in topics such as gender and music in the diaspora because migration poses profound cultural and identity challenges in an immigrant's life. Music is one of the elements that has a special meaning for immigrant people, so the topic of my thesis that I am working on these days is music and diaspora. The focus is on Iranian women musicians who are living in New York City

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND AND WHY?

The Grapes of Wrath by John Ernst Steinbeck. This novel narrates the currents of the great economic depression and the migrations caused by the great dust bowl storms in the 1930s and follows the story of a farming family from Oklahoma, called the "Judd family", who were separated from their homeland and forced to travel to the West and California.

WHAT IS A FUN FACT THAT NOT MANY OF US KNOW ABOUT YOU?

Women students in Afghanistan cannot go to university and study because of the social and political conditions of Afghanistan. In cooperation with AFSO Institute (Afghan Female Student Outreach), we teach them university subjects for free.