

Qiyans Krets

The ensemble Qiyans krets was founded in 2005.

Our music takes up the threads of the Sephardic, Arabic and Occidental traditions, through time and space to the present day, weaving a rich new fabric of sounds and tonal pictures from our Medieval heritage, adding pearls from near and far and yarn coloured by more than a thousand years of history. Listen to our double CD "Echoes of Qiyān!"

WHO ARE WE?

Vocalist Marianne Holmboe has studied Flamenco and Arabic singing. She also plays Oriental percussion instruments.

Harpist Veronika Halten is classically trained, and she sings as well.

Flautist Josefine Liftig has studied the material's historical and musical background. Apart from a playing wide variety of ethnic and historic flutes, Josefine also sings and plays percussion and cifteli, an Albanian long-necked lute.



AND WHAT IS "QIYAN"?

The real qiyān were female slaves specialized in music, poetry and dance, who entertained at Moslem courts in the olden days. When taken as war trophies from Al-Andalus by Christian invaders, qiyān spread their virtuoso music tradition at their courts, laying the ground

for the troubadour movement which branched out in diverse forms all over Medieval Europe.

We follow in the trails of qiyān – we make our own interpretation of a unique cultural heritage which spans over all of Europe and all the way to the Middle East.

In the footsteps of Saint Helen – a musical pilgrimage



Over the years, Qiyans krets has collected music associated with pilgrim sites in various countries. We now present a concert performance built on this music (worldly as well as spiritual) and dramatized stories about pilgrims. In order to achieve a better historic gender balance, we aim to primarily highlight stories about women.

One such woman was St Helena, patron saint of the Swedish town of Skövde.

During the 12th century she made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land after having

been charged with killing her son-in-law, who mistreated her daughter. When she came home, she in turn was murdered in vengeance, but a well sprung up on the site and several wonders took place. In our free version of the story, she encounters many different people, cultures and situations during her travels, which we illustrate with our music.

We have worked together with choirs, storytellers, dancers and actors, and we are also keen on tailoring our performances to suit the occasion!