

## FuseTar “Lucifer” – New Jewelry in the World of Custom Music Instruments

FuseTar “Lucifer” is a triple-necked, 16-stringed, extraordinary new hand-made music instrument, created by Iranian multi-instrumentalist Shahab Tolouie (<http://www.Shahab-Tolouie.com>) around an ambitiously broad concept that in enabling connections between world musicalities, encompasses both aural and cultural traditions.

Approximately two years ago, Shahab Tolouie began the realization of his long-term idea to gather the diverse strands of Persian, jazz and flamenco together in a manner that incorporates modern technologies in one instrument to attain the precise timbres that are optimal for live performance of his original style – Persian-flamenco fusion.

The name is derived from “fuse” – English for “fusion” and “tar” – Farsi for “strings,” hence “fusion of strings.” The nickname Lucifer is that of the mythological morning star, the bearer of light.

It took a year and half for two luthiers, Mehr & Owrang (Crimson Oath), to build the FuseTar. It is made of thirteen different types of wood and weighs 2.1 kg. With an acoustic chamber approximately 2cm larger than that on a regular guitar, the FuseTar possesses three necks. The uppermost is a fretless neck, which makes possible to play the quarter-tones peculiar to eastern music. The middle neck is the “guitar neck,” a combination flamenco/jazz guitar configured with the “true temperament” fretting technology, which produces more accurate intonations and longer sustain than a normal guitar and is used, for example, by John McLaughlin and Steve Vai. The third neck is a Persian “setar neck” with four strings fretted for quarter-tones, a traditional instrument whose roots stretch back 2,000 years. This is the first time a traditional Persian instrument has been modernized with the fixed, “true temperament” fretting system.

At the same time FuseTar is a unique work of art – carefully decorated by elements from three of the most significant historical periods of the Persian Empire (Achaemenid: the Lion-griffin – a protector from evil; Parthian & Sassanid: Derafsh Kaviani – symbol of independence and freedom; Lion and Sun – which have always been associated with Persian royalty) ... and Faravahar – the best-known symbol of Zoroastrianism.

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### Description

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### Summary

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