Summary:
Listen to various instruments from Iran across different Iranian genres such as classical or pop. Determine the meaning of the lyrics in reference to the culture.

Suggested Grade Levels: 9-12
Country: Iran
Region: Middle East
Culture Group: Iranian
Genre: World
Instruments: voices, dombek, daf, and violins (to imitate the kamanche)
Language: Iranian, English
Co-Curricular Areas: Social Studies, English, Dance
National Standards: 1, 2, 3, 6, 8, 9

Prerequisites: None

Objectives:
- Listening (to instruments, singing style, beats)
- Singing (partial and full melodies)
- Playing (melodies, occasional harmonies, rhythms)
- Location of Iran and learning about its culture (language, poetry, mysticism, people)

Materials:
- “Ay Sar Kotal At the Top of the Hill / Massom, Massom I’m Drunk With Love” by unknown Iranian folk musicians, from Folk Songs and Dances of Iran (FW08856)
- Liner notes from “Ay Sar Kotal At the Top of the Hill/Massom, Massom I’m Drunk With Love”
- Map of Asia, Iran
- Pictures of the people, musical instruments, country
Lesson Segments:

1. “Ay Sar Kotal At the Top of the Hill / Massom, Massom I'm Drunk With Love” by Unknown Iranian Folk Musicians, from *Folk Songs and Dances of Iran.* (National Standards 1, 2, 3, 6, 8)
   a. Listen to recording.
   b. Learn to sing the melody by rote.
   c. Sing along with recording when it gets to 00:31.
   d. Continue to listen: how are the kamanches (bowed lutes) altering the melody?
   e. Add a few violins to the sung melody to imitate the kamanches.
   f. Add the drums to the melody.
   g. Between the verse and chorus, add improvised sections on the voice, violin, or dombek, keeping within the mode of the piece.

Assessment: How do the students perform? Do they grasp all the components of performance?

2. Literature & Music: Understanding Iranian Culture
   a. Persians have an ancient tradition of writing poetry and using this poetry in religious, mystic, and musical settings; show clips from “Mystic Iran: The Unseen World,” to illustrate this.
   b. The language of Iran is Farsi; Better illustrate Iranian language, musical instruments, artwork, people, and landscape (see below for sources).

Assessment: Can the students answer historical, cultural, and literary questions accurately?

Extension:
- Incorporate dance into the folk song “Ay Sar Kotal At the Top of the Hill”
- Find a Persian dancer in the community
• To inquire, email the Seattle Iranian community mailing list

References: