

## Ensemble: Two Rivers

Bandleader: Amir ElSaffar

Ensemble members:

NAME	INSTRUMENT
Amir ElSaffar	Trumpet, santour, vocals
Zafer Tawil	Oud, percussion
Tareq Abboushi	Buzuq, percussion
Carlo DeRosa	Bass
Ole Mathisen	Soprano and tenor saxophones
Nasheet Waits	Drums

Title of Work: Inana  
Composer: Amir ElSaffar  
Date completed: 9/30/2010  
Work Length (minutes): 75 minutes

### Work Description:

"Inana" is the follow-up to trumpeter Amir ElSaffar's critically acclaimed 2007 release, "Two Rivers," which Allmusic.com called "as impressive a debut as we've had in America in the 21st century." ElSaffar has continued to extend his compositional palette in the four years since that release: While "Two Rivers" combined elements found in the modal music of the Iraqi maqam with the rhythms and aesthetics of modern jazz, "Inana" builds on those concepts to include a microtonal harmonic and melodic approach influenced by the pitch-flexibility of Middle Eastern music and modulating principles of jazz. The group has performed extensively for the past five years, communicating in a language that draws upon Middle Eastern and jazz elements, yet is not recognizable as being one or the other. Using maqam to transform the jazz idiom, the music still speaks the language of swing, improvisation and group interaction. With "Inana," ElSaffar has once again uncovered entirely new possibilities for the evolution of jazz.

Recording: Inana (Pi Recordings, October 25, 2011 release date)

Technical Requirements/Specs: Bass, drum set, amplifier, sound system.

### General Information:

Booking contact: Amir ElSaffar  
Phone: 718-354-9816  
Email: [elsaffar@gmail.com](mailto:elsaffar@gmail.com)  
Web: [www.amirelsaffar.com](http://www.amirelsaffar.com)