

# THE IMPOSSIBLE MUSIC SESSIONS

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## **An Unlikely Collaboration Unites Iranian and American Bands**

*After a year of sharing music online, two Tehran musicians join a colleague in NYC for debut*

**New York** (6 May 2011) – After a prolonged and uncertain struggle to obtain artist visas, Natch and Shayan arrived in the U.S. in early April, having left behind everything to follow their aspirations for their electronic rock duo The Casualty Process.

Natch and Shayan rose to international notoriety with their previous project, The Plastic Wave, for whom performances in Iran were illegal because of their female lead singer, Maral. In late 2009 The Plastic Wave began working with The Impossible Music Sessions, a new initiative that brings censored music to the stage in New York.

The Plastic Wave were featured in the first Impossible Music Session in Brooklyn on 3 March 2010, an event that was covered by National Public Radio's "All Things Considered," Voice of America, The Wall Street Journal and Huffington Post, which said it would "go down in the annals of rock history."

At the Session, a set of their music was performed by the American band Cruel Black Dove in solidarity and tribute while Natch and Maral participated via internet video chat. From this project grew friendships and future collaborations.

Having arrived in the U.S. without a lead singer, The Casualty Process is now being joined at its New York performances by Cruel Black Dove's bassist and backing vocalist, Shirley Ho.

"No one predicted that what began as transatlantic mp3 traffic would wind up as a live trio on Houston Street," commented Austin Dacey, the director of The Impossible Music Sessions. "We are honored to have been a part of this unique collaboration."

Said Natch, "It's all about the music."

The New York debut performance, which will take place at 215 E. Houston Street (at Ludlow) at 6pm, is presented by The Impossible Music Sessions in collaboration with No Longer Empty, as part of the Festival of Ideas for the New City. Admission is free with RSVP. Write to [rsvp@nolongerempty.org](mailto:rsvp@nolongerempty.org).

The Impossible Music Sessions are fiscally sponsored by New York Foundation for the Arts.

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Natch

Shayan



Shirley Ho