



## ḤOSAYN KHAN KAMĀNČAKAŠ

**ḤOSAYN KHAN KAMĀNČAKAŠ**, a famous musician and a master of the *kamānča*, the chief traditional Persian string instrument played with a bow (d. 1313 Š./1934). Ḥosayn, in the early 20th century, was also known as Esmā'ilzādeh, being the son of Esmā'il Khan Kamānčakaš, the most famous *kamānča* player at the court of Nāṣer-al-Din Shah (Mo'ayyer-al-Mamālek, p. 25).

He started playing the *kamānča* under his father's supervision, but he learned it mainly from his uncle Qoli Khan. To begin with, he joined the group of popular musicians (*moṭreb*) of Sar-e Pulak (part of the Tehran bazaar). Having become a master of the *kamānča*, he abandoned that group and joined the Anjoman-e oḳowwat (q.v.), led by Mirzā 'Ali Khan Zāhir-al-Dawla, and he played during their sessions (Kāleqī, I, pp. 68-69; Mašhun, II, pp. 543-45).

Ḥosayn Khan earned his living by teaching classes, and he was said to be as great a master of the *kamānča* as Mirzā Ḥosaynqoli Āqā (q.v.) was of the *tār*. In those days, playing the violin was becoming popular, and those who wanted to learn how to play it would refer to Ḥosayn Khan. He played the violin by holding it on the ground or sometimes on his knee like the *kamānča*, and that was also how he taught it. He had many pupils, the most famous of whom were Rezā Maḥjubi, Rokn-al-Din Moḳtār, Abu'l-Ḥasan Šabā, Ḥosayn Yāḥaqqi, Ebrāhim Maṣuri, and Šahbāz Barmaki.

Ḥosayn Khan was not only a true master of the art of playing the *kamānča*, but also one of the most skillful composers of the *piš-darāmad*s (introductory



pieces or preludes) and the *rengs* (fairly fast rhythmic pieces one can dance to). He died in Tehran in the year 1934, at the age of 80, leaving behind no offspring.

For a music sample, see [Hosayn Khān – Segāh](#).

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

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