

## Sherefe

### Alex's Virtual Folk Arts Series – April 2021

#### Alex's Virtual Folk Arts Series Entertains Fans Far and Wide

In 2021 the Alex Wilson Legacy Fund expanded its offerings to give people more chances to participate in folk music and dance and storytelling during the COVID pandemic. One of these programs, called Alex's Virtual Folk Arts Series, broadcasted five performances by local folk artists throughout the year. The goal of Alex's Series was to create opportunities for local artists to perform in a safe environment and have their programs livestreamed out to fans who were isolated by the pandemic. We wanted to showcase Colorado folk talent to the rest of the country and the world, while giving people a chance to experience these cultural events from the comfort of their homes and other remote locations.



[Sherefe](#) kicked off Alex's Virtual Folk Arts Series with a concert in Sodal Hall at the Avalon Ballroom on April 17. Sherefe is a Boulder-based ensemble that specializes in traditional music from Greece, Turkey, Egypt, Lebanon and Bulgaria. Dance tunes are performed in the native tongues, on traditional and modern instruments, with elegance and great enthusiasm.

Nearly 100 viewers took in the greatly anticipated one-hour streamed set, with fans and newbies checking in from Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, California, Hawaii, and British Columbia, among others. The set included simple Greek island dance tunes, deeply romantic urban songs, and complex Arabic compositions, among others. James Hoskins, Dexter Payne, Julie Lancaster, Jesse Manno, and Brett Bowen showcased their widely varied vocal and instrumental skills in this very dynamic and energetic series opener.

[It's not too late to enjoy this concert on YouTube!](#)