

A discussion with Jamileh Kharrazi, the founder of the Toos Foundation in connection with the foundation's new programme.

## **A look into the transformation of the classical music, ballet and opera in Iran in a celebration programme in tribute to Hussein Dehlavi and Evelyn Baghcheban**



The Toos arts and culture foundation in London, once again presented another cultural programme on Sunday 29 November 2009, in Logan hall, near Russell square.

This programme which introduces two of the most prominent figures of the classical music of Iran, Hussein Dehlavi and Evelyn Baghcheban, is a programme containing classical music, opera and dance; along with speeches and discussions about the transformation of the classical music in Iran, this programme like any other programmes presented by the foundation takes an insight into this particular area in a scholarly fashion.

Ms Fakhri Nikzad a famous face in the Iranian media and Ms Elisabeth Mansfield who has conducted valuable research in connection with the Immortal Flowers' programme will present speeches both in Persian and English. Dr. Mahmood Khoshnam musicologist and a

famous arts critic will also speak in this programme and Jamileh Kharrazi talks about the activities of the Toos Foundation.

The performance of some classical pieces by the Symphonic Orchestra is another

Flowers the memory of which still remains with its admirers.

We have conducted a brief discussion with Jamileh Kharrazi, which is as follows:

Q: Ms Kharrazi, in your opinion, apart



part of this programme, the conduction, and the leadership of the orchestra rest with Mr Dehlavi and Behzad. Furthermore, Mario Taqqadusi, Pari Zangeneh and Pari Samar will also perform in this programme.

The Toos Foundation, which was founded by Ms Jamileh Kharrazi, has played an important role in introducing cultural and arts programme and so far it has presented four successful events, which has been the result of warm reception by the enthusiasts and art-lovers. The last programme presented by the foundation was the special programme of the Immortal

from the moral happiness the previous four programmes brought upon its coordinators, what other impact they had on the public opinion?

A: Have you ever asked yourself what impact would the drops of rain make on the mountains and forests? Naturally, nothing, but continues drops of rain even on the hardest rocks will eventually, and in time, leave a mark. Only time will tell that what impacts, if any, foundations such as

the Toos foundation will make on the public opinions.

Q: Please tell me why the audience have to purchase tickets this time? Is anything special going to happen in this particular programme?

A: For me to see an artist, in itself, is a special event, every time! And we at the Toos Foundation have always tried to fill our small stage with the stars of the vast Iranian artistic skies. This is no small event. After each programmes of the Toos Foundation, people always keep in contact with us for months to come; we however, treasure such contacts like pieces of gold, the question they ask is that how can they obtain the videos of such programmes? We always explain this and tell them where they can be obtained from, but the result is always the same.

The advice we have been given by more than sixty percent of the enthusiasts was that we present our future programmes in a non-charitable manner. In our previous programme of the Immortal Flowers we encountered more than 2500 audiences out of which only 1000 were accommodated and managed to find seats; obviously, such situations would without a doubt raise dissatisfactions.

However, some have suggested that we sell tickets of around £50 each, I say, even if we sell tickets of £100 each would hardly cover a fraction of the costs involved to gather such programmes.

Q: Are you satisfied with the media and the encouragement of the people?

A: We are encouraged more than we expect. In particular by the young people who still are not aware of the vastness of the Iranian culture and literature. Mostly, these are the groups forming our enthusiasts.

We thank everyone who encourages us, especially during such a political turmoil our country is going through.

Q: Would it be possible to brief us more about the programme of the 29 November?

A: We have always tried to introduce and review a section of our history and culture; however, we have barely scratched the surface. Remember, to obtain visas and to gather sources of research, all in all can determine the speed in which our programmes can be ready for release. This programme is a review in the history of the appearance of the classical music and the reception of the western music on the Iranian musicians. Emergence of the very first international musicians to Iran; the

appearance of ballet and opera in Iran, and so on and so forth, which will be shown on the stage at the night of the programme.