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The Toos Foundation sponsored a special programme on the 29th of November in Logan Hall, London which concentrated on the history of classical music, ballet, and opera in Iran. In this programme, there were famous musical artists such as Dehlavi and



Baghcheban present. There were of course, other artists and musician invited to the programme. I was very pleased when found out those two artists were being commended, so rightfully, I might add.

It is about half a century that I have closely known Evelyn Baghcheban and her husband Samin. They

used to reside at the *Kalantari* circus in *Yusuf Abad*, Tehran. They had a lovely house, which was the gathering centre of many masters, artists, and the lovers and admirers of the arts and culture. There, I made my acquaintance with many of those famous individuals.



Evelyn was a respectable lady. The presence of Evelyn and her husband Samin in those gatherings used to excite all the guests and friends. A writer would read his new script, Ahmad Shamlu read his new poems, and the editor of the Arash magazine would talk about his issues with much pride and joy. It was in one of those gatherings that we became familiar with the details of Evelyn's work. She was commissioned to gather a core concert for the charity organization

sponsored by the Queen of Iran "Farah Pahlavi". The interesting point was that Evelyn wanted to choose her group from the orphan children, not only from Tehran, but out of the outskirt villages too, and she eventually did.

Evelyn chose some children for her core group from all over the country and comprehensively trained them; they eventually, reached such a standard that, they were even sent to Europe to perform in future programs. She

married Samin in Turkey and went back to Iran. She was truly in love with Iran; she graduated from the school of arts and culture in singing and playing the Piano. Furthermore, she gained a lot of experience in those fields and began to teach. Some of her famous students were Husayn Sarshar, Sudabeh Tajbakhsh, Pari Samar, and Edna Davidian. She, Samin and the children travelled to Istanbul in 1979 and sadly, Samin passed away shortly after. Evelyn remained in

Istanbul and the children followed their father's footsteps.

After the death of Samin, naturally, Evelyn was very lonely, I always thought about her, wondering how she could manage without him. Wondering why we never ask about her and commend her for what she had achieved in the fields of arts and music. However, when I found out the lady Kharrazi has sponsored a programme event in celebration of Evelyn, I decided to get up, lift my hat as a token of respect, and do anything humanly possible to help.

Evelyn: the efforts of the Toos Foundation in promoting and introducing the prominent faces in arts and music of Iran, is somewhat holy, and I hope that in this important task they prosper and successfully fulfill their aims. The

masters and the master pieces of the Iranian arts and music must be introduced to the world to be more widely appreciated.

Not only Evelyn, commends the important contributions of Miss. Kharrazi, Mr. Behzad too appreciates her efforts in the areas of arts and culture of Iran. Many years have passed and I have been a witness to the great and humane efforts of the Toos Foundation and that of Miss. Kharrazi in promoting the arts and music of Iran. I have been a witness to her enthusiasm in introducing the great artists and the prominent Iranian figures in arts, culture, music, poetry and so on...when I was asked to lead the orchestra for the celebration event set for Evelyn, with great pleasure I accepted. The orchestra was handpicked with the skilled musicians of the world.

Throughout the night of the event, some very popular and excellent pieces written by Samin Baghcheban and Husayn Dehlavi were played together with the leadership of Mr. Behzad.

It was previously mentioned that Pari Samar had performed in the programme of the 24th November set by the Toos Foundation. Pari Samar was one of the talented students of Mrs. Baghcheban and right from the early age she was taught to play the Violin, she too, was encouraged to sing in that night. Her education was completed in the School of Music in Tehran, graduating as an honored student. She later travelled to Vienna completing her master degree in the same field and graduating, again as an honored student. She had performed many times in the National

Opera of Vienna and had eventually, became employed by them.

Pari Samar has performed over 16 operas in the world and has associated with more than 120 outstanding musicians

and music composers of the world.