

On the occasion of the arts and cultural programmes of the Toos Foundation in London

An interview with Farnoosh Behzad, Pari Samar, and Mario Taqqadusi the leader of the symphonic orchestra and other opera singers

Motion:

As previously published, the Toos Foundation sponsored a special programme on the 29th of November in 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.

Other artists who would also perform on stage will be Pari Zangeneh, Farboosh Behzad, Pari Samar, and Mario Taqqadusi.



Q- Mr. Behzad, please tell us a little about yourself and your work.

A-I am a music composer and an orchestral leader, my education in music is both in western and eastern music, in particular the musical literature of Iran. During the recent years, I have specifically focused on the Iranian orchestral

music. I have had several performances in the New Philharmonic Orchestra for the eastern and the western music, in these performances I concentrated on the works of western and eastern musicians who had interests in mixing of their cultures. These kinds of things bear special attractions to me.

Q-How did you come to associate with the Toos Foundation?

A-I have been a witness to the years of efforts made by the Toos foundation and in particular Miss. Jamileh Kharrazi. I was present at the anniversary of the foundation and observed the enthusiasm of this organization and its founder towards their aims and objectives. What distinguishes this foundation from others is

their broad views in connection with the arts and the artists of Iran. I was asked to lead the orchestra and impose no limitations to the performance, thus, with the greatest pleasure, I accepted.

Q-What specialties do the chosen orchestra for this occasion have and what pieces will they play?

A-This orchestra has been handpicked with the

skilled European players and most of them have worked with me in my previous performances. Therefore, their familiarities with eastern pieces as you would naturally; witness at the night of the programme is great. The pieces that we will play are mostly from the Iranian artists such as, Samin Baghcheban, and Husayn Dehlavi. There will also be pieces sung by Mr. Mario Taqqadusi and Mrs. Pari Samar.



Pari Samar

Q-Mrs. Samar, please tell us about your experiences and education in classical music.

A-My familiarity with the music started with playing the Violin; however, I was very interested in singing right from childhood. Mrs. Baghcheban, who had heard my voice and recognized my talent, committed herself to teaching me, and in fact, my first encourager and master was her and I will always be thankful to her. I finished my undergraduate studies in the School of Music in Tehran, graduating as an honored student, later, travelled to Vienna to continue my postgraduate studies, completing a seven year course in five again as an honored student.

I also performed as an opera singer in Vienna's National Opera, while I was student, and shortly after I was employed by the same institute. However, two years later, due to personal reasons, I was employed by the Frankfurt House of Opera and for thirty years, I managed to remain as the first of my class in opera, alongside with that I entered into a further contract with Munich House of Opera. I performed in over 16 Opera Houses in the world and worked with more than 120 of world's greatest musicians and composers. I performed the Carmen opera more than 400 times. It is a pleasure to say that my daughter Samira is also active in the same fields.

Q-What is your opinion about organizations such as the Toos foundation, and what in your opinion they should do further to

become more successful in achieving their aims?

A-My only regret is that why such foundations are so few and tasks that should be undertaken by governments have to be fulfilled privately. However, I wish to see more people involved in participating to such foundations. We, the lovers of this path, who have spent all our lives in creating and performing such works, would feel appreciated through the support of these people.

Q-Does the European classical music in general have a place in the 20th century Iranian culture?

A-The classical music has always had its own admirers and always will. This kind of admiration is not genetic. Admiration requires education, enthusiasm, and knowledge so that an individual can ascend

from admiration to love, so that they can enjoy and use such love to feed and strengthen their soul and spirit. This love for the classical music began with establishment of the Rudaki Hall in Iran. The admirers of classical music and opera are still plenty among the Iranian peoples.

Mario Taqqdusi

Q-Mr. Taqqadusi, after thanking you for such great performance, please tell us about yourself and that when you began your profession in opera?

A-I started playing the Violin at the age of ten. During my youth, I received a scholarship from the Rudaki Hall of the Opera in Iran to continue my education in that field in L.A. Therefore, I left Iran for America and there, I finished my education. I

worked about six months in New York and later became employed in Vienna as an opera performer signing a three year contract with them. During that period, I had the pleasure of working with the great Italian opera singer Mr. Pavarotti, gaining a great deal of experience with some of the great world's artists. Now, it is almost 25 years that I am travelling to different countries such as America, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and Russia, performing opera. One of my greatest wishes is to perform in Iran. I hope one day it would become possible to share my learning and experience with the talented Iranian youths.

Q-Lets go back to tonight's programme, what was your motivation for this performance?

A-Actually, Miss. Kharrazi's energy and

knowledge about the introduction of the history of music is most admirable. There are many Iranians who make great efforts to promote the culture and history of their country; I will begin my appreciation of the Toos Foundation and those responsible for gathering such great event right here and now. In fact, the arrangement of such events is a task for governments not individuals. However, these dear friends have managed to put such excellent programmes together, bearing in mind the limitations they have in the financial and the resource aspects of the programmes. Personally, it is a great pleasure to be present here tonight among such dear fellow friends.

Q- Mr. Taqqadusi, What are your future programmes?

A-I am going back to the Christmas concerts.
Germany to prepare for