

The “Immortal Flowers” of Davūd Pīrnīā will never die.

- **Darush Pīrnīā:** The *Gulhā* programmes are an image of the Iranian immortal wisdom.
- **Jane Lewisohn:** The *Gulhā* programmes brought the rest of the radio programmes to a higher standard.
- **Jamileh Kharrazi:** Dāvūd Pīrnīā planted his soul in the *Gulhā* programmes.

In a celebration event for the commemoration of Dāvūd Pīrnīā, the founder of the *Gulhā* programmes, which took place at Logan Hall in London; Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi, said: there are no borders for arts and the hearts of the art-lovers will beat the same way in any part of the world they maybe. She added, the mystics would value moralities more than the material things. The whole of the *Gulhā* programmes in two languages, both English and Persian was presented with the appearance of artists and singers such as Gulpā, Fakhri Nikzad, Azar Pazhuhesh and Firuzeh ‘Amirmu’iz.



Nahid Da'i Javan



Following the commendation of Dāvūd Pīrnīā, other great figures such as ‘Ali Dashti,

Dāvūd Pīrnīā

Furuzanfar, Suratgar, Shahbaz, Mu’ayeri, Vusuqi, Saba and Mu’inī Kermanshahi were remembered and praised. At the beginning of the programme Darush Pīrnīā the eldest son of Dāvūd Pīrnīā spoke about his father and the *Gulhā* programmes. He thanked Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi for all her support and efforts in arranging such glorious programme and expressed

his satisfaction in knowing such people still exist who devote their time and lives to the arts and cultures of their country.

The *Gulhā* programmes were originally created to promote and preserve the mystical poetry and prose of the Persian literature. Davūd Pīrnīā who was the creator and the founder of these programmes intended to gather the lovers of mystical poetry creating a loving atmosphere in praise of the Persian wisdom and culture.



Elizabeth Mansfield

Therefore, tonight we are gathered in a place filled with love to celebrate his memories and to hear the

collections of the immortal flowers. In addition to the spring time, here is also a mosque, a church, a Zoroastrian temple, and a Tavern, where all the lovers of the *Gulhā* programmes are gathered to share the old memories.



Akbar Gulpā

Here is the house of the Sun.

According to Dāvūd Pīrnīā in order to reach the realm of Dervishes via listening to the *Gulhā* programmes one must first perform ablution, meaning, asking ourselves to throw all the bad qualities, while replacing them with everything good and humane.

In literal meaning the immortal flowers is a flower which never dies. It represents the mystical wisdom of the Persian culture. This representation of the Persian mystical wisdom was aired for the nation on radio for of 23 years. It came to homes and sank on hearts.

Mr. Darush Pīrnīā the eldest son of Dāvūd Pīrnīā spoke about the *Gulhā* programme, emphasising the programme founded by his father was a mixture of the traditional and classical Iranian music blended with mystical poetry and prose, which involved the works of many Persian classical mystics and poets and that its roots go back thousands of years through the history of Iran. The “Immortal Flowers” whose main focus was on the mystical sides of the Persian poetry, with over 1400 programmes succeeded in its purpose.

Darush Pīrnīā added, with the help of two true human beings Jane Lewisohn a researcher at the University of London and Mr. Leonard Lewisohn an outstanding researcher in mysticism, these collections will soon be available to all the admirers of the programme, in digital forms on the Internet.



Jane Lewisohn

Jane Lewisohn

At the first part of the programme Mrs. Jane

Lewisohn the researcher and the collector of the *Gulhā* programme, said: during the 50s radio was the only means of medium for the people

and the *Gulhā* programmes had a great impact on the day to day lives of the people of Iran. Even those in the villages could have access to radio and enjoy the programmes. Sometimes people would plan their days so that they could get home on time to listen to the programmes or at least have access to a radio.

The *Gulhā* programmes were the cause for the other radio programmes to thrive as well, reaching an acceptable standard. Dāvūd Pīrnīā introduced the people to the correct kind of music with poetry and poems of over 500 Persian poets.

Dāvūd Pīrnīā was born in Tehran and his father Ḥasan Pīrnīā (*Mushir al-Dawla*) was a states man and a broadminded person and a historian of his time, he later became the prim minister of Iran. In 1924 he appointed Muhammad Musadeq as the foreign minister and Reza Khan as the Home secretary. Mirza Hasan Khan published three books in the history of Iran. He is known as the father of the Iranian Heritage. After finishing his primary school,

Dāvūd entered a French school known as “San Luis” and after a few years for pursuing his higher education, he travelled to Switzerland.

Upon his return to Iran he was employed by the department of justice and founded the “society of lawyers”. He subsequently, was transferred to the treasury and there, he founded the “Office of Statistics”.

Pīrnā, during his stay in Europe studied Western classical music and learnt to play the piano. He never forgot the Iranian music and upon his return to Iran decided to rebuild it; for he knew that music and poetry of Iran must be in harmony with one another in order to flourish; thus, the creation of the programme of *Gulhā*, so that to such rich music and poetry it could do some justice.

The initial programme was the “Immortal flowers” in it; the entire programme was about the poems of one particular poet, following that the “Multi coloured flowers” were created with various poems blended with harmonious music. The excitement and joy Pīrnā had for music constantly encouraged him to create anew. The “Desert flowers” were a special programme devoted to local music, "A single flower" special short and

rare piece of poetry and music, and finally, “Green flower” a special programme devoted to mysticism.

Mrs. Jamileh Kharrazi the founder and the managing director of the Toos Foundation, in a speech throughout this programme said:

*If my nature seeks to wash away the dust of sorrow,
With an eye for every eyelash my sight is still lacking.*

*Amongst the birds there's none more broken-winged than me;
My heart is pleased they call me the 'dove of the hareem'.*

Tonight with all our different points of view, coming from different



faiths and ethnic backgrounds, regardless of diverse traditional, religious, customary and political ideas, we have gathered under one roof

to share, pleasure or sorrow.

Ecstasy comes from the opium of art which centuries have hooked us on, while its spread and **Jamileh Kharrazi presenting Darush Pīrnā with a statue of Firdawsi**

variety through the ages have made it our exquisite indulgence.

Let us carry this deeply human message to the ear of the soul of those whose hearts are as delicate as paper and whose eyes are as dark as marbles fallen in the dirt, saying, “Art has no boundaries, and the hearts of art-lovers all over the world beat with the same rhythm.”

This music’s virtue is that it breathes new life into inanimate bodies with heavy-laden spirits. These dormant temples of sacred essence can be revived only by being refreshed by the pure water of the wellspring of art, truly coming to life when the buds of love blossom into full bloom.

A loving human being cannot have a bad nature. Mothers cannot be the leaders in war. Adherents to the love of God consider human values to be higher than worldly wealth.

Dāvūd Pīrnā held this same view. His spirit filled the Roses programmes, and we

remember him with deep respect, if not to say true reverence.

I would like to thank the friends who have wholeheartedly participated with us in this vital work: the honoured Dr. Shiva Shafighian, surgeon, translator and painter;

Dr. Mahmood
Khooshnam
Dr. Vandidad Golshani
Mr. Jamshid Rezaei
Mr. Manoochehr
Hosseinpour
Mr. Saeed Imani

and two wonderful lovers of the sacred art of music Jane and Dr. Leonard Lewisohn who have devoted the last 35 years of their lives to Persian Music, Literature and culture. In particular, during the last five years, concentrating on collecting and preserving the *Gulhā* Programmes archive.

With your permission, I would like once again to invite onstage the artists whose very existence have made the 'Immortal Flowers' immortal... together with all our friends, so that we may humbly thank them in the Sufi spirit of the late Dāvūd Pīrnā.