

**Jamileh Kharrazi on the main  
road to art,**

**A movement towards perfection**



Jamileh Kharrazi was responsible for the previous programme, which took place in London, on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2009; this programme was about the history of classical music in Iran; which was presented by displaying some relevant pictures and introducing artists and singers such as; Hossein Dehlavi (Music Composer), Evelyn Baghcheban (Singer), Pari Zangeneh (Opera-Singer), Mahmood Khoshnam (Musician and Musicologist), Mario Taqqadosi (Opera-singer), Farnoosh Behzad (Orchestra-Leader), Fakhri Nikzad (Presenter), Symphonic Orchestra, the Ballet Group and Sahba Lajevardi the interviewer.

One can only perceive the works of Jamileh Kharrazi with a passive view. For instance, a night at the **UTAH** University, with Robert De Warren a famous face in academia, who has also spent 11 years in Iran and is involved in the Toos Foundation with Ms. Kharrazi. In that night there were some 2000 people gathered in the University hall, out of which, perhaps, 50 were Iranians and the rest, all American.

The programme was about Iran, Ballet, Dance, Music, and mostly Iranian folkloric music. In this programme there were instruments such as Drums, Piano, Trumpets; Mahjubi's Piano, Badi'i's Violin and Ms. Kharrazi's Ballet.

Ms. Kharrazi also emphasized that the Toos Foundation pays special attention to the non-Iranian individuals as well, and the next programme aims to introduce such individuals; for example, a Japanese lady, who is a university professor and had obtained a PhD from a university in Iran about 37 years ago will be the guest of this upcoming programme.

Ms. Kharrazi tells us that she had been attending a ballet school in Iran since the age of four and has learnt the art of ballet alongside with her studies. She has also obtained a diploma for ballet from Russia; she further adds that she has been

employed by an American and a British company.

Ms. Kharrazi's family environment has been agreeable with her artistic activities and she had been constantly encouraged while growing up in an art-loving surroundings.

Both her uncles were statesmen; she was employed as a Ballerina by the ministry of arts and culture in Iran. She has had involvements with the folkloric orchestra in the fields of voice and singing in Iran; while acting in private programmes of ballet both at home and international.

Ms. Kharrazi has also been involved in humanitarian causes such as founding a free school; the house of arts and culture, arranging programmes for celebration of Iranian artists in Europe, the school she founded had initially 90 students with various ages.

This Iranian lady, who resides in the U.K., has been involved in various arts and culture activities in different areas. For example the invitation of the famous opera singer "Pavarotti" to Lebanon; generating some 3 million dollars and donating the funds to the Harvard University for the benefits of the post-graduate students in that university.

Ms. Kharrazi, who pursues cultural and art activities for almost 22 years, has also founded an orphanage in Karachi where 200 orphans are being looked after; while all the necessary facilities are made available to them. Therefore, due to such humanitarian acts and due to a programme at the University of Chicago, the Chicago

Tribune news has given her the title of a Lady.

When we asked Ms. Kharrazi about the Toos Foundation, she said: I decided to form this foundation about five years ago and because as Firdawsi says himself that he revived the Persian language, I therefore, chose the name of his birth place. I am pleased that the Toos Foundation has so far been able to successfully deliver its aims and intentions. These aims and intentions are particularly important at a time when the accusations of terrorisms and destruction are engraved on our foreheads. Our country is now going through a political turmoil, and we must perceive this as our duty to help resolve such complexity; while attempting to remedy the problem.

When we asked her about some interesting events of the Toos Foundation, Ms. Kharrazi mentioned the Logan Hall programme. The programme which was about celebration of the famous poetess Lu'bat Vala, which some 700 people had to stay outside due to the shortage of the seats.

Some raise the question that why Ms. Kharrazi does not sell tickets for such programmes, however, she has always committed to self-funding and in an instance has also returned a cheque of £2000 to its drawer. She emphasized that the next programme focuses on the artists and singers outside Iran; the introduction and promotion of arts and culture of Iran.

In the past programmes, we introduced those who are no longer with us, but the future programmes will concentrate more on those who are still alive. Simin

Behbahani, Isma'il Khoei and so on. Of course, we try not to reveal their names before the programme and such instances as Dehlavi's issue would not be repeated, who was turned down for a visa and we had to display his picture instead.

Ms. Kharrazi further added that she was happy to see that the British Museum is now the keeper of some valuable works of arts and music of Iran, such as the programme of *Gulha* which was initially founded by Davud Pirnia 40 odd years ago.

Ms. Kharrazi is also considering having a television channel, while continuing to promote the arts and culture of Iran.