



Bazar London

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## The Last Toos Foundation Event in its Birthplace, London

Finally after a long wait Toos Foundation performed its latest show in its birthplace, London, in its usual venue of Logan Hall. Each of Toos Foundation programs during its 10 years of activity have been truly spectacular and are always taken to be an important event within the Iranian community. This was an event which with a bit of clever advertising by not revealing the details had left the audience in high expectation. It was on the opening night that the curtains were removed and we could all see what the night has waiting for us.

The program was scheduled for 15th of November, just two days after the tragic terrorist events in Paris and in the middle of a high security alert in London. One would have guessed many may have preferred to stay at home and not entertain the risk but fortunately this did not happen and Logan Hall was once again full of people. Terrorism did not succeed in creating a climate of fear.





Lady Kharrazi the founder and director of Toos Foundation came onto the stage as usual to greet the guests and express her sorrow for the tragic events in Paris. It was then that she revealed the program content.

"We try in exile to keep the minds of our youths greener than green and with more roots in our traditions than before by showing them aspects of Iranian history and culture. Tonight. We have a colourful collection of programs reminding ourselves of our youth. Let us go towards the new spring and celebration of life with the language of light. In our country poetry has long been the language of our inner souls. But fear of censorship, fear of saying things openly has clouded it in mysteries and symbolisms. This is why as soon as we hear a poem we interpret it in our own ways. We hide our thoughts and feelings in poetry and music and let you receive and judge them with the ears of your heart. Thank you for coming and we hope to see you again soon in our next event exploring another corner of our history."

The supporters of Toos events know full well from past experience to expect a professional program well organised and with a high artistic content. This is what distinguishes Toos events from other similar shows in London. Logan Hall is always filled. It was the same again. A full hall and a well-organised program delicately delivered.



The latest event did not include the usual introductory educational section. It was mostly designed to evoke a nostalgic scene for the Iranian audience. Toos events always took the opportunity to also educate the audience on the historical and cultural background to whatever was the main theme for the night. This was also always a well thought out section and usually well received and appreciated

by audiences. The latest program had omitted this section and concentrated on the purely artistic side.



The program itself was varied and colourful. (1) Including memorable original Iranian pieces such as the works of Heshmat Sanjari, Mohamad Noori, Javad Maroofi, Parviz Meshkatiyan and folkloric music from the different regions.



(2) There were also Armenian songs some of which have so well entered Iranian music that many Iranians are not even aware of its origins. (3) Few memorable Azarbayjani songs from Raschid Behbudov and Sadana Gulmaz performed by Arash Fayaz.

(4) Few Latin dances with a very creative choreography by Mrs Kharrazi herself.



(5) A number of world famous duets performed by renowned singers Tereza Gevorgyan and Mario Taghadossi.



(6) A ballet called "execution" with the Founder's choreography and guitar music by Sirus Malakooti  
(7) A santur concerto from the legendary Hoseyn Dehlavi performed by Hamid Reza Rasti. (8) Two pieces of French and Italian songs with poetry by Fereydoon Moshiri (Kucheh) and one by Vigen with performance by the cinema and theatre actor Saman Kalaveh. (9) A famous piece from Darvish Khan, the Isfahan Beat, newly arranged and performed by an orchestra. (10) A ballet based on Khachaturian's Sword Dance.

The leader of the orchestra for the night was Levon Parikian a capable British conductor. The artistic director for the night was Ms Sida White.

Finally it must be said the event did go without incident. Mario Taghadossi was injured just before the show with a suspected broken arm. But he insisted he must perform his piece instead of going to hospital. Which was great as usual and well appreciated.

We are all eagerly awaiting the next event from Toos Foundation in London.