



"Memories in Exile" - the next Toos Foundation event



After a long delay, Toos Foundation will stage its new production in November in London. We had an interview with Ms Jamil Kharrazi the founder-director of the foundation.

K- The fans of Toos Foundation always expect a minimum of two events a year from you but you have not had one for a long time. Is this a valid complaint?

JK- Over the last two years we concentrated on re-staging our show about the Silk Road in different places and venues including another show in London and one in USA to spread the message of peace, friendship and mutually beneficial exchange between different people and cultures. I hope with the next program we will be forgiven for not having done more in London the birthplace of our foundation.

K- We heard your next program does not have the introductory historical and educational material and it will only consist of music and dance. Is this right and if so why have you decided to remove the educational section?

JK- In the next program our guests will include musical pieces from our past by Iranian and International artists who have performed in Iran. Some of these artists are alas no longer among us. These pieces will be performed by both young and new and well established artists. In our past events we have shown our audiences our musical history and many of the different styles and schools of music. Indeed one feature of our activity over the last 10 years as reflected on our site and in facebook is that we constantly try to innovate and not keep on repeating the same format. In the next event we want to be more entertaining and share with our supporters reminiscences of this period of Iran's musical history. Indeed as a response to those who complained before that our programs are too educational! We are still hoping that memories of this period will in itself evoke Iranian cultural and humane traditions which may be lost to the new generation.

K- Please explain briefly about the content and the reasons you chose this particular program and title.

JK- We have memorised many of the famous songs from popular singers of the past. Hearing them again and remembering that period can evoke strong emotions. Many of these songs although we are now certain that they are definitely Iranian and part of our culture were actually from non-Iranian composers. For example Vigen. In the next event we will perform few of these familiar pieces and some in both languages. We have also choreographed a number of dance pieces for the individual music compositions.

We feel education and explanation need not be exclusively in the form of scholarly books and papers. We can also entertain and evoke memories which themselves are conscious raising and educational.

K- Tereza Gevorgyan the Armenian soprano will be performing in Armenian your event. Will this bring London's Armenian community to this event? Will Tereza Gevorgyan perform a duet with Mario Taghaddosi?



JK- Maro Taghadossi and Tereza Gervorgyan are well known opera singers who do not need my introduction, nor am I in a position to be able to. Tereza Gervorgyan will perform pieces in both languages. She will also perform duets with Mr Taghadossi.



K- Is it right that Mr Malakooty wil perform in this event?

JK- Mr Malakooti as an Iranian artists in exile with his clear political views is also invited. We hope he will be able to attend in person and perform alongside Mahin Zarrinpanjeh and Mr Behzad Abdi. A piece composed by him will reflecting his thinking and sentiment will be performed.



K- Dear Ms Kharrazi on behalf of London Kayhan we thank you for you time.