



Nazeri discusses his U.S. concerts based on Shahnameh

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Iranian vocalist Shahram Nazeri talked about his recent concerts in U.S. cities featuring music based on the Shahnameh and billed as the Iranian Sound of Peace.

The main elements in this series of concerts were based on Ferdowsi's Shahnameh, which has received little attention over the past century, Shahram Nazeri told the Persian service of ISNA while he was visiting the Music Museum of Iran on Sunday.

Accompanied by the Rum Symphony, Nazeri gave performances at the Pantages Theater in Los Angeles on October 3 and at the New York's Carnegie Hall on November 14.

"Out of the remaining musical pieces from the past century, no composition based on the Shahnameh was found, so working on the Shahnameh required much effort and special techniques which are difficult for a traditional singer," he said.



Vocalist Shahram Nazeri signs memorabilia for the Music Museum of Iran after paying a visit to the institution in Tehran on December 6, 2009. (Mehr/Azin Haqiqi)

He then referred to the lyrics by Sadi and said that Sadi's poetry has long been used in Iranian music, "this helps a singer perform the songs more easily with less tension, but Ferdowsi's epic poetry is quite different and there are no previous performances to help a singer."

Nazeri stressed that working on the Shahnameh requires more knowledge. "Don't think that it is a simple matter of singing poetry, or that any singer with good voice and experience can do it well. Performing the Shahnameh requires in-depth knowledge of the history of ancient Iran and its myths, and then, the performer has to be well aware of the numerous upheavals Iran has been through historically. Even with all this background information, no live music for the Shahnameh exists to serve as a reference source to help."

He added that it was two years ago when they took the first steps by holding a concert in Paris, and their second performance was at Carnegie Hall.

Nazeri next visited different sections of the museum that was recently reopened. He expressed hope that the museum will open ways to promote culture, music and civilization of the country.

Iranian land artists perform largest sand print on Hormoz Island



People visit a huge land art work created by over 100 Iranian artists on Hormoz Island in the Persian Gulf on December 6, 2009. (Mehr/Abolhassan Rezvani)

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TEHRAN — Over one hundred Iranian land artists gathered Sunday on Hormoz Island near Bandar Abbas to complete the largest sand print.

Hormoz is one of the major islands in the Persian Gulf in southern Iran and is famous for its colorful sands especially its red sand named "gelak".

Covering an area of 1800m, the project took five days to complete. The artists were divided into 36 groups and performed their land art making use

of the island's colorful sand and other natural materials.

"This is the largest independent sand print ever displayed on the island and was created without any help or support from the private or public sectors," executive manager of the project Ahmad Kargaran told the Persian service of IRNA.

The sand print project took five days to complete and the artists were selected from all across the country, he said, adding, "The reason Hormoz was chosen for the project is that the island is

home to over 70 natural types of colors, and is called a heaven for geologists as well as being a unique place for land artists.

Locals and residents of neighboring cities flocked to the region by boat or by sea bus on Sunday, the final day of the project, to watch artists finish the sand print, he mentioned.

"Other reasons to choose this place are its beautiful scenery and warm weather during this season of the year," he concluded.

Iranian painter's works on display at "Child Models" exhibit in Paris

Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN — Works of Iranian painter Davud Emdadian have been put on display in a Parisian exhibit, which has also showcased works by some of the world's greatest artists.

Sons, daughters and family members of the artists have been depicted in artworks on display at the Orangerie Museum in an exhibition entitled "Child Models -- from Claude Renoir to Pierre Arditi".

Emdadian was mostly famous for his works portraying scenes from nature but he also painted portraits of his children Yashar, Azar, and Negar, which have been showcased in the exhibition.

Born in Tabriz in 1944, Emdadian left Iran for France in 1975 and lived in Paris until his death in 2005.

The exhibition opened on November 24 and will run until March 8, 2010.

Works by Maurice Denis, Pablo Picasso, Lucien Jonas, Yves Brayer, and Pierre-Auguste Renoir are also being exhibited at the show.

Renowned French museum reopens after strike

PARIS (AFP) — Paris's Orsay Impressionist art museum reopened on Sunday after a strike shut it down for four days, staff said, but more disruption at major French tourist sites looked likely next week.

Tourists had to take pot luck visiting other sites in the capital, where several national monuments were closed this week.

Entry to the Orsay museum, home to a major collection of Impressionist art, was free as usual on the first Sunday of the month, the museum's press service told AFP.

The museum is always closed on Mondays and staff are due meet on Tuesday to decide whether to resume the strike action against job cuts in public cultural institutions.

Paris's most popular art museum, the Louvre, reopened Friday after picketing workers barred visitors from masterpieces such as the Mona Lisa for a day, but some staff there vowed to continue their strike.

The Palace of Versailles, the Arc de Triomphe and the towers of Notre Dame cathedral went back into business on Saturday, but the Pompidou Cenetr of modern art extended its two-week strike all weekend.

African-American princess joins Disney royals

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Seventy-two years after Snow White first emerged on the silver screen, Disney's exclusive pantheon of fairytale royals is about to get another member to delight little girls around the world.

Yet Tiana, the heroine of "The Princess And The Frog", to be released in the United States and Canada on December 11, differs from her aristocratic predecessors.

For the first time in Disney's illustrious history, the magic kingdom is crowning an African-American princess.

Actress Anika Noni Rose, who provides the voice of Tiana, says the film will have different meanings to different generations.

"For my nephew it will be the norm, he will think nothing of it, it will be his first princess," Rose said in Los Angeles recently.

"For my mother it will be something that she's been waiting for; for my grandmother it will be something that she never thought would have happened in her lifetime," she added.

Rose, a Tony Award-winning actress in 2004 for her performance in the hit show "Caroline, or Change", said the film represented another chapter in Disney's tradition of cultural "Americana."

"Disney is Americana and we've simply opened a new chapter in Americana, something that's been here for a very long time but it hasn't necessarily been shared," Rose said.

"So in that respect it's just another step in the completion of the story of what America is in this fantasy world."

Tiana's emergence has been linked to the election of US President Barack Obama, although the studio has pointed out that development on the project pre-dates the election of the former Illinois senator to the presidency.

"When they began the production of this film, Barack Obama wasn't in the White House," said Oscar-nominated actor Terrence Howard, who provides the voice for the character of Tiana's father.

"It's just a happy accident, but there's always been nobility in every culture and in every race, just the same as there have been geniuses in every culture and every race. It's nice to have Disney platform that."

The film is set in the jazz-infused world of 1920s New Orleans, following Tiana as she sets out to become a successful restaurateur, finding love along the way with a handsome prince who has been turned into a frog.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Shajarian to perform in Australia in spring

TEHRAN — Four Australian cities will host concerts by Mohammadreza Shajarian accompanied by the Shahnaz Ensemble in spring 2010.

They will have concerts in Perth, Melbourne, Sidney and Brisbane from April 30 to May 16.

The exact program will be announced via delawaz website in the near future.

Tar virtuoso Saket to give concert at NOVA

TEHRAN — Iran's tar virtuoso Keyvan Saket will give a concert at the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) on December 13.

A number of guest performers, including Ali Analui on tonbak, Nazer Khorasani on daf and Jamshid Bastani on piano, will accompany him during the performance.

BOOKSHELF

Prism
Poet: Mahmud Habibi-Kasbi
Publisher: Sureh-Mehr

The poems are divided into three sections: the Crimson Part, which is on the monotheistic themes, the Blue Part, which is dedicated to love poems and Green Part, which is on religious and ritual subjects.

The poems are in classical form and have been composed from the late 90s until 2007.

Deep Insomnia
Poet: Mohammad-Mehdi Sayyar

Publisher: Sureh-Mehr
The 100-page book is a collection of poems on different themes in the forms of blank verse, couplets and sonnets.

MAG MART

Sahneh
Managing director: Hassan Bonyanian

The magazine contains several articles on different aspect of theater including the impact of social conditions on the creation of literary works, the capacities of Persian drama and an introduction to some Irish dramatists.

The quarterly also contains essays on the aestheticism of the performing arts, pedagogical theater, tragedy and ordinary people, and ritual dramatic performances among Iran's Bakhtiari tribe.

It also includes interviews with theater critic Homayun Aliabadi and the theater scholar Ahmad Kamyabi-Mask.



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