

روز میراث فرهنگی ایران در موزه سلطنتی انتاریو

# IRANIAN HERITAGE DAY

AT

The Royal Ontario Museum

Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> 2012 10:00 AM – 5:30 PM



Panel component for inlay with sacred tree flanked by human-headed winged bulls  
Gold

Centimetres: 4.2 (height), 0.7 (depth), 10.8 (width)  
800-700 BC

Iron II; Ziwiyeh Phase; 9th to 8th century BC

Area of Origin: Ziwiyeh; Iran; Persia

Area of Use: Ziwiyeh; Iran



[www.torontoiranians.com](http://www.torontoiranians.com)

Toronto Iranians is a grass roots organization established in 2001 and duly registered as a Not-For Profit Organization (Toronto Iranians Community Group) in 2006. Since its establishment, Toronto Iranians has assumed an active role in assisting numerous community initiatives in the widest fields of endeavour. For a catalogue of various activities undertaken by Toronto Iranians, please visit our website at [www.torontoiranians.com](http://www.torontoiranians.com). Among our varied activities one may highlight the following:

### **Organizing Cultural Events**

Establishing the Annual Iranian Heritage Day at the Royal Ontario Museum (May 14, 2011) First Nowruz Celebration at Queen's Park (Ontario's Parliament) (Mar 20, 2007)

A Tribute to Behrouz Vosoughi (Apr 22, 2007) Documentary Film on The Iranian Masters (May 13, 2006)

Documentary Film on Persepolis Recreated with the presence of the producer (Mar 25, 2006)

### **Walking (Green Exercise)**

TI organizes weekly walking program to discover Toronto and GTA. Such walking tours provides new immigrants an opportunity to interact with more settled and integrated members of our society.

### **One-on-one Orientation Session for Newcomers**

TI assists in the provision of settlement services for Persian speaking newcomers to the GTA.

### **Community Volunteer Work**

TI promotes the ethos of volunteerism and compassion for community engagement amongst its members. TI and its volunteers have initiated, organized and participated in events such as Blood Clinics, Community Clean-Ups and Neighborhood Days, Canadian Cancer Society Information Sessions and Bone Marrow Donor registration, and of organizing fire festivals marking the beginning of the new Iranian year at various locations across the GTA. TI also engaged in assisting election campaigns, arranged fundraising for natural disasters in the after math of the Bam earthquake in Iran in 2004, the Asian Tsunami in the following year, and the more recent earthquake in Pakistan.



Dear Friend of Iranian Heritage Day at the ROM,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Royal Ontario's Museum, one of Canada's leading cultural institutions!

I am honoured to report that an annual Iranian Heritage Day has been established at the ROM, and it is a delight that you have joined us for our second annual event. With the establishment of this special program, Canada's ever-growing Iranian community has reached another milestone which will allow more Canadians to connect with the richness and diversity of Iranian culture and civilization at Canada's leading museum.

The Toronto Iranians Community Group, in affiliation with over ten other Iranian-Canadian organizations, has worked tirelessly to bring this unique event to life.

Given the fact that the ROM is Canada's leading museum, focused on introducing Canadians to the world's cultural and historical heritage, this is a great opportunity for the Iranian-Canadian community to showcase Iranian civilization to the broader Canadian society, and to build bridges of cross-cultural understanding.

I look forward to updating you on our future programs.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a stylized 'M' and 'S' that flow together, with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Mohammad Sheikholeslami  
Toronto Iranians Community Group  
Board President and Founder



**Royal Ontario  
Museum**



*MS. JANET CARDING  
DIRECTOR AND CEO  
ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM*

May 26, 2012

### Iranian Heritage Day

The Royal Ontario Museum is pleased to welcome you to our second annual Iranian Heritage Day.

With an impressive array of themed programming, today's event is a celebration of Iranian culture which we are delighted to share with our visitors and the community.

Heritage Days at the ROM provide an opportunity to showcase the cultural diversity strongly represented in the Greater Toronto Area and to engage communities through a spirited celebration of their culture.

Please join us as the rich history and culture of Iran are brought to life through Museum-wide programming, art and entertainment.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'J. Carding'.

Janet Carding  
Director and CEO

Minister  
of Citizenship  
and Immigration



Ministre  
de la Citoyenneté  
et de l'Immigration

Ottawa, Canada K1A 1L1

### **Greetings from the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism**

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all those attending the Iranian Heritage Day Gala Event, hosted by the Toronto Iranians Community Group. On behalf of Prime Minister Stephen Harper, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for organizing this annual event which brings the community together in a festive cultural celebration.

This event is a wonderful opportunity to reflect upon the many aspects of Iranian culture that are celebrated here in Canada, and all the warm and enthusiastic people who keep these traditions alive. By inviting all members of the community to participate in this special day, we have an opportunity to honour and celebrate the contributions of the many Canadian men and women of Iranian descent who have endowed our country with their talents, skills and have contributed to the advancement of our multicultural society.

As Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, I am keenly aware of the many contributions that the Iranian community has made within Canada. Your community has long enriched our society with knowledge and talent, and your efforts continue to foster the social, economic and political facets of our country. As Prime Minister Harper once said, "We are proud to live in a country that embraces the many cultures and religions of the world. Our Government considers diversity one of this country's greatest assets and we are committed to strengthening both our pluralism and our national unity."

Best wishes for a successful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jason Kenney".

The Honourable Jason Kenney, PC, MP  
Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism



Canada

**Jian Ghomeshi** is an award-winning broadcaster, writer, musician and producer. He is the host and co-creator of the national daily talk program, Q, on CBC Radio One and CBC TV. Since its inception in 2007, Q has garnered the largest audience of any cultural affairs program in Canada and has become the highest-rated show in its morning time slot in CBC history. Q is also now broadcast across the United States, on PRI.



Mixing insight and opinion with unscripted wit, Jian shifts seamlessly from editorial essays to moderating debates on the air. He has interviewed an array of prominent international figures from prime ministers to sports stars and cultural icons. His feature interview subjects on Q have included Woody Allen, Paul McCartney, Neil Young, Van Morrison, Salman Rushdie, Barbara Walters, Tom Waits, William Shatner, Jay-Z, Al Gore, Margaret Atwood and - in a television world-exclusive - Leonard Cohen.

Jian has presented a number of television documentaries, including *The End*, *Screw the Vote*, and *Philanthropy Inc.*, and spent three years as the host of the Gemini Award-winning CBC TV program, *Play*. He has appeared as a contributor or guest on programs ranging from *CNN Today* and *The National*, to *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*.

As a writer and interviewer, Jian has been published in *The Washington Post*, *The Guardian*, *The Globe and Mail*, *The Toronto Star*, *The National Post*, *El Mundo* and *The International Herald Tribune*.

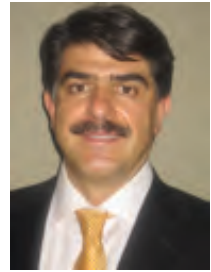
As a singer, songwriter, and musician, Jian was a member of multi-platinum selling folk-rock group, Moxy Früvous. He toured internationally during the 1990s and shared stages with a variety of artists including Bob Dylan, Ani DiFranco and Elvis Costello. Jian continues to write and produce music through his company, Jian Ghomeshi Productions, and has managed the international career of Juno-winning electrorock performer, LIGHTS since 2001.

He has worked with many arts groups including the National Ballet, the COC and the Radio Starmaker Fund, and he is a former member of the Board of Governors at the Stratford Theatre Festival.

Toronto's NOW Magazine named Jian "Best Media Personality" in TV or radio, in the fall of 2009. In September 2010, Jian was awarded the prestigious New York Festival international broadcasting Gold Medal for "Talk Show Interview" of the year for his feature length world-exclusive with Leonard Cohen.

In September 2012, Jian will release his first book, *1982*, a literary memoir based on a 14-year-old's desire to be David Bowie.

Born in London, England, of Iranian descent, Jian lives in Toronto, where he enjoys supporting a losing hockey team and eating pistachios.



## **Iranian Heritage Day**

**May 26th 2012**

On behalf of the "Cyrus Foundation of Canada", I would like to congratulate the organizing committee and the "Toronto Iranians Community Group" for a remarkable celebration at the Royal Ontario Museum.

This is a great opportunity to re-introduce the ROM and its place to our community and to celebrate the contribution of our ancestries to the civilization.

The event of the "Iranian Heritage Day" at the ROM is Celebration of Civilizations and contribution of the Iranian community to this province; Ontario and also Canada.

Cyrus Foundation of Canada believes these activities are assurance to transfer the celebration of the civilization to the next generation.

Our society at large will flourish by forward thinking of the Canadian- Iranian Community through learning its heritage, culture and integrity accompanied by its philanthropic approach.

Best and warmest wishes for the remarkable celebration.

Mohammed Eslami  
Founder-Cyrus Foundation of Canada



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### **Iranian Heritage Day**

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Iranian Women Composers and Musicians

Iranian-Canadian Network

Nawranj Iranian Association

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EventGraphers

GLWiZ , Iranian Television Online



Main Stage 11:00am to 3:00pm		
Time	Performance	Name of Performance Group
11:00am - 11:25am	Opening Ceremony Speeches	ROM - Dan Raihmi
		Toronto Iranians Community Group
		Cyrus Foundation
		Emcee Jian Ghomeshi
11:30am - 12:00pm	Persian classical music	Baarbad Ensemble
12:05pm - 12:10pm	Puppet Show	Vida Gahramani
12:12pm - 12:17pm	Dance performances	Aftaab Dance Group
12:18pm - 12:21pm		Odlar Dance Group
12:22pm - 12:29pm		Gisoo Dance Group
12:30pm - 12:34pm		Ladan Lotfi
12:35pm - 12:45pm		Mayn-zard Kurdish Group
12:50pm - 1:10pm		Traditional Persian Wedding
1:20pm - 1:25pm	Violin performance	Arya Saaber
1:35pm - 2:00pm	Musical performance	Zhouwan Ensemble
2:10pm - 2:16pm	Dance performances	Sashar Zarif Dance Theater
2:17pm - 2:22pm		Aftab Dance Group
2:23pm - 2:28pm		Gisoo Dance Group
2:29pm - 2:34pm		Beeta Jafari
2:35pm - 2:39pm		Odlar Dance Group
2:40pm - 2:42pm		Closing Remarks - Main Stage Ends
Theatre 2:00pm to 5:00pm		
Time	Performance	Name of Performance Group
1:30pm - 2:25pm	Powerpoint Lecture: Persian Castle	Dr. Ed Keall (ROM)
2:30pm - 2:38pm	Dance performance	Ida Meftahi
2:50pm - 3:30pm	Dance/theatre/music performance	Sashar Zarif Dance Theater
3:40pm - 3:53pm	Speech	Ms. Faghani
4:05pm - 4:25pm	Music performance	The Circle
4:35pm - 4:39pm	Dance performance	Odlar Dance Group
4:40pm - 4:45pm	Dance performance	Gisoo Dance Group
4:46pm - 4:56pm	Film: Afarin Mansouri	n/a
4:56pm - 5:11pm	Film: The Persian Piano	n/a
Rotunda - Level 1		
Time	Performance	Name of Performance Group
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Music	Mehrava Ensemble
3:35pm - 3:40pm	Puppet show	Vida Ghahremani
3:45pm - 3:52pm	Music/Dance	Beeta Jafara, DancerEhsan Ghaffari, Tar
European Rotunda - Level 3		
Time	Performance	Name of Performance Group
3:00pm - 3:20pm	Music	Persian Pop Music
3:25pm - 3:45pm	Music	Solo Tar
3:50pm - 4:05pm	Music	Duet of violin and viloncello
4:10pm - 4:40pm	Music	Solo tar
Workshop: Adults - Classroom #3		
Time	Topic	
2:00pm - 2:30pm	Dance	
2:30pm - 3:00pm	Music	
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Music	
Workshop: Children - Classroom #1		
Time	Topic	
2:00pm - 3:15pm	Music	
3:15pm - 3:45pm	Dance	
3:45pm - 5:00pm	Music	





Photo by: Lucia Gaglanova

**Sashar Zarif** is an internationally renowned multi-disciplinary performing artist, educator, and researcher whose artistic practice invites a convergence of creative and cultural perspectives. His interests are identity, globalization, and cross-cultural collaborations. His practice is steeped in the artistry and history of traditional, ritualistic, and contemporary dance and music of the Near Eastern and Central Asian regions. Zarif's local and global cultural animation initiatives in research, education, and creation in performing arts within communities and artistic institution of over 22 countries has earned him national and international notoriety and numerous prestigious awards. He has collaborated with outstanding Canadian artists along with international icons such as Alim Quasimov (a collaborator on Yo-Yo MA's Silk Road Project), and universities and arts institutions across continents including Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Morocco, Spain, Brazil, and Germany. Zarif is a research associate at York Centre for Asian Studies, faculty at York University Dance Department and on the board of directors of Dance Ontario and World Dance Alliance – Americas. He was recently awarded the national title of "Master of Dance" from Uzbekistan National Choreographic institute for his outstanding contribution to dance.

### **Pirouz Yousefian, MSC.**

A pioneer of Persian Classical Music in Canada, a composer and multi-instrumental Persian artists. He started at early age and continued academic training at Tehran's Honarestane Allie Musiqi. Mr. Yousefian had the pleasure of mentorship of some of Iran's greatest music and Erfan (Persian Sufi mysticism) scholars such as Dr. Omumi and Dr. Ghomshehi. He is one of the leading artists in Canada since 1989. The acclaimed Mehravarzan Music Ensemble was founded by Mr. Yousefian in 1994 and under his



artistic direction the ensemble was one of the only Canadian based Persian music ensembles that was internationally presented in mainstream professional venues and released two Albums. In 2004, he founded Nasim Music Ensemble. He has composed and collaborated for inter-disciplinary projects involving Poetry, Dance, Theatre, and visual arts. His most recent composition and one-man orchestra is in collaboration with Sashar Zarif under "Saghi" dance project which has been toured internationally across Europe and North America since 2005.

### **Professor Elizabeth Langley**

Professor Elizabeth Langley's professional dance life spans fifty years and three countries. Australia provided her with dancer and teacher training, a performance and choreographing apprenticeship, and a seven-year period of professional life. New York, U.S.A. expanded her perceptions and experiences of the arts in general and offered her an opportunity to further her training at the Martha Graham School of Contemporary Dance. Her years in Canada can be divided into three phases – the first being concerned with teaching and directing original performances in universities and the community in Ottawa; the second being absorbed by designing and chairing of the Contemporary Dance Degree Program at Concordia University in Montreal; and the third and present phase being involved in performing, directing, consulting, dramaturging, teaching and researching in Canada, Finland, Turkey, Cuba and Australia.

### **Sashar Zarif Dance Theater**

Sashar Zarif Dances creates work deeply rooted in the historical and cultural memories of many peoples. The company's repertoire, often driven by narrative storytelling, aims to highlight the essence of what it means to be human while shedding a light on the darker aspects of humanity. It continues to build a unique, multi-disciplinary body of work connected to traditional art forms and cultures but offers it through the lens of a new and contemporary perspective. The company's work is based on a foundation of research, education and creation. These three fundamentals enable me to discover and restore centuries-old work and present it to today's audiences from a 21st century perspective. The company is a platform for artistic director Sashar Zarif's work and his aim is to create work that touches audiences with a plural understanding and consciousness that is not "lost in translation."

### **Eshareh**

Inspired by the mysterious Caucasus Mountains, the tall standing cypress trees of Shiraz, and the desert nomads of Central Asia, "Eshareh" is an introduction to Sashar Zarif Dance Theatre's next production, Rast Sama. Sashar zarif's presentation in this event is the accumulated outcome of many years of research, study, practice and personal evolution. Through poetry, music, and dance, this form of integrated performance, introduced as Magham, expresses cultural spirituality and a philosophy of life. This ancient form originates in Iran, Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and through Central Asia.

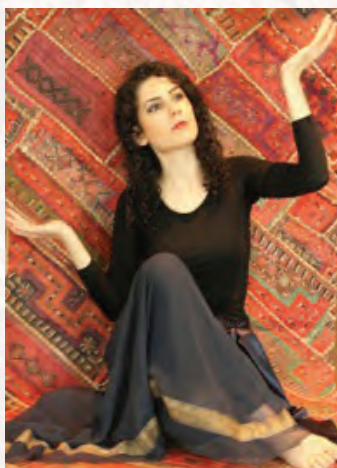
**Ladan Lotfi** is a performer, dance teacher and the director of Aftaab Dance Group. She received her ballet training in Iran from Madame Yelena in her childhood and years later got her dance training for 13 years from Sepideh Bakhtiari, a student of Farzaneh Kaboli, one of the few advocates of Persian folklore dance in Iran after the Revolution. To pursue her passion for dance she founded Aftab Dance Group and performed and directed dance in several community gatherings and cultural occasions since 2008 shortly after she came to Canada. She is the dance director of Iranian Heritage Day at ROM since 2011.



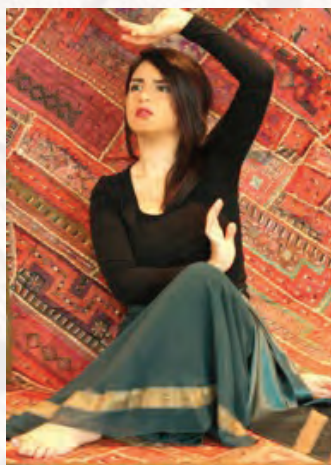
Photo by: Bahar Hashemi

Shahzad Hashemi

Farnoush Riahi



**Aftaab** (Sunshine) is a Persian dance group founded in Toronto in 2009 by four Iranian students with the supervision of Ladan Lotfi, to share the beauty of

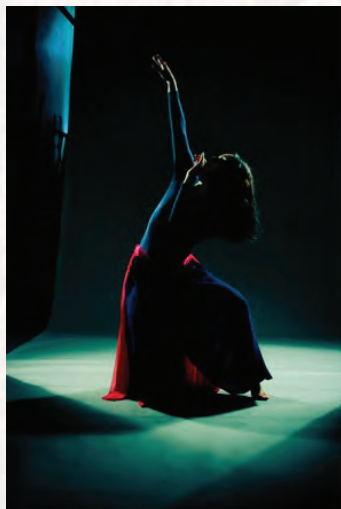


Photos by: Bahar Hashemi

diverse traditional, folklore and contemporary Iranian dance in Canada. To pursue their goal, Aftaab dancers Shahzad Hashemi, Farnoush Riahi, Azadeh Ossareh, and Yasmina Hadizadeh have performed in Iranian Heritage Day at ROM and many other cultural events in Toronto.



Photo by Ali Kamran



**Ida Meftahi** is a dancer, choreographer, teacher, and a researcher. She received most of her dance training from Iran's foremost dance artist, Farzaneh Kaboli. Since immigrating to Canada in 2000, she has been actively continuing her career as an independent dancer and choreographer by performing, producing and teaching. In her work, she experiments with a wide range of Iranian movement motifs, qualities, and expressions. Meftahi holds a Master's degree in dance, and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Toronto, conducting a historiographical study of Iranian dance in the twentieth century.



Photo by: Eventographers

**Gisoo Dance** was founded in Toronto in 2009 by six dancers of Iranian heritage. Directed by the choreographer Ida Meftahi, Gisoo Dance aims to showcase the beautiful and rich movement vocabulary of Iran's traditional and folk dance traditions adorned with a contemporary approach. Gisoo dancers, Parand, Golbarg, Maral, Shiva and Yasmine, will premiere two new dance pieces on Iranian Heritage Day at the ROM.



Photo by: Reza Rad



## Odlar Dance

**Nouchine Davarpanah** has had a passion for various forms of Art and Dance. Her first formal dance training was in Latin dances focused in Argentine Tango and Salsa. She was trained by great Tango masters in Buenos Aires and San Francisco. Her passion and skills in dance lead her to be trained in her own Ethnic folk dances –Azerbaijani and

Lezginka- as well as Georgian folklore dances by great Azerbaijani dancers in Toronto including Sashar Zarif. She has performed in various cultural events in Toronto since 2008 including Tirgan, Turkish Festival and 2011 Iranian Heritage day at Royal Ontario Museum.

Photo by: Peti



## Reza Rad

has had a deep-seated enthusiasm for dance since his youth. He was formally trained by Yashar Irani in Azerbaijani Dance in Tabriz. He has performed internationally in various Festivals and events since 2002 such as, Istanbul's Ethic Folk Dance Festival, Dubai's Emirates Mall Festival, Fetr Eid Celebration Program at Jam e Jam Channel IRIB,

Toronto Turkish Festival, "Sham e Aroosi" Movie and 2011 Iranian Heritage day at Royal Ontario Museum.

**Beeta Jafari** is a dance performer and choreographer whose passion for dance has led her to study its various genres. Her formal Persian dance training began with Ida Meftahi, a former student of Farzaneh Kaboli, one of the most renowned dancers and choreographers of Iran. Beeta has also received training in various dances of Central Asia and Iran from Sashar Zarif. Currently she is part of a Kurdish folk dance group led by Mostafa Nosraty, an expert in Kurdish dances. Beeta has performed at various events and venues in Toronto including the Royal Ontario Museum and the Harbour Front Centre.



Photo by: Aydin Nabovati

**Mayn-zard Kurdish Dance Group** is a recently rearranged group by Mostafa Nosraty and is the sequel to The Greater Toronto Kurdish House Dance Group founded in 2008. The group dancers are (left to right): Beeta Jafari, Omid Zaroorian, Awa Homa, Arvin Javadpoor, Parisa Alizadeh Ashkan Lahoori, Farahnaz Bahrami and Mostafa Nosraty.

**Mostafa Nosraty** is a performer, choreographer, dance teacher and a researcher in Kurdish folklore dance. Due to his personal interest in this magnificent dance, he has traveled many places in Kurdistan to receive trainings from many people around the region since his childhood. Having sought any opportunity not to let this ancient beauty vanish or being forgotten, he has trained many interested individuals and formed dance groups either back in Iran or here in Canada to introduce the dance to the public. He has performed in many occasions in Canada such as for Omni TV, Tirgan Festival and Iranian-Canadians Nowrouz Festival.



**Mana Mojaver** is the lead costume designer for dances: Gogha, Raze bagh, Niaz, the DNA of Movement, and Esfahan Kohan. Creative Director of Manam is a Toronto based designer. In 2007, she graduated with honours from the International Academy of Design and Technology (IADT) in Toronto. Since 2008, Mana has been a permanent resident of the Toronto Fashion Incubator (TFI) for 2-years. Mana launched her own line Manam in 2008. She specializes on custom made couture bridal and evening dresses and creates exceptional pieces for women who crave elegance, fashion and trend at the same time. Inspired by sophisticated elements of Iranian music and dance, she has created the dance costumes by using vibrant colors of Far East.





# Baarbad Ensemble



Founded by Mehdi Rezania and Toloe Roushenas in 2004 for creating innovative and artistic music, Baarbad has been one of the most prolific Iranian-Canadian ensembles. Members of Baarbad Ensemble are all graduated musicians of different backgrounds. The ensemble has presented music programs in various styles and genres from Persian classical and folklore to fusion music and recitals. Baarbad Music is a winner of Ontario Art Council grants of 2011 has collaborated with orchestras such as Sinfonia Toronto & virtuoso musicians such as Hossein Behroozinia.

## Mehdi Rezania, the music director

Born in 1977 in Fars, Iran Mehdi Rezania is an educator, composer producer and santur player. He started learning santur at 13 in his hometown of Abadeh and then went to Kamkar Music School to learn the advance level of santur playing under Ardavan Kamkar. In 2004, he founded Baarbad Music with Toloe Roushenas. He holds a bachelor of music in composition from York University and currently is finishing his master's degree in music composition from the same University. He has composed a number of pieces for string ensemble & Persian instruments. He has also written four academic articles about Persian music includ-



ing "The Style of Ardavan Kamkar", "Analysis of Compositions in Late Qajar Period". He released his first album in 2011 and is a winner of Ontario Art Council Grant in 2011 for his project "Wayfarers of This Long Pilgrimage" where he combined Persian classical music with western string orchestra and African Drum Ensemble.

photo by: Kiana Hayeri

photo: Kiana Hayeri



**Vira Burmenko** is an educator, performer and composer. She holds a bachelor of music from York University and MA in composition from the same University. She studied playing violin under Jacques Israelovich and composition under David Mott.

She has been a member of Baarbad Ensemble since 2009 with her debut Double Recital of Santur & Violin which was performed for the first time in Canada.

photo: Kiana Hayeri



**Ehsan Ghaffari** started learning music from his father at age 4 by taking vocal lessons. At age 6 he started learning tār and setār with Mr. Majd.

He graduated from Tehran University with a bachelor of music where he studied under Mohsen Nafar & Dariush Talai. He also studied the advance playing and analyzing the Persian radif under supervision of Maestero Mohammad Reza Lotfi. He is also teaching tar, setar and vocal radif.

photo: Kiana Hayeri



**Ebrahim Rahnama** started learning music at age 8 by taking vocal lessons. At 12 he started to seriously learn the art of radif singing (the repertoire of Persian classical music under Maestero Zelli and also by himself studied the style of Maestero Taj Esfahani.

Rahnama has been collaborating with several ensembles in Canada including Baarbad Ensemble, Sarv Ensemble and Moshtaagh Ensemble.







### **Sardar Mohammadjani**

started learning music at a young age. He went to University of Tehran. He started learning music at a young age. He went to University of Tehran and studied under Mohsen Nafar. Then he went to University of Paris and graduated in music program in MA/ethnomusicology. He has collaborated with many ensembles and virtuoso musicians.



**Mariel Gonzalez** holds a bachelor of applied music from Humber College with focus on contemporary and jazz music. She has been a member of number of orchestras such as Celebrity Symphony Orchestra (second chair), Oakville Chamber Orchestra, Scarborough Choral Society and Baarbad Ensemble.



**Amin Afshinmanesh** started learning santur at young age. He has learned santur under Ardavan Kamkar and Siamak Aghaei. He has learned the daf under Bijan Kamkar and Masoud Habibi. He has collaborated with many ensembles in Iran and with Baarbad Ensemble in Toronto. He is currently finishing his master's degree in Economic at University of Toronto.





**Mehrava Quartet** Lead by Siavash Mihandar, Mehrava was founded in 2001. Rooted in the repertoire of Persian classical music, Mehrava attempts to maintain the aesthetic of traditional Persian music by authentic performance. Siavash Mihandar (santur) was a student of Ostad Faramarz Payvar and has performed in number of concerts in Canada and Europe.

Kambiz Tayebi (tar) is the founder of Mehrava who has learned tar & setar from Fereydoon Hafezi, Houshang Zarif & Z. Tollouei. Fariborz Mohandar (tombak) learned tombak under Mohammad Esmaeeli. Amirali Kamali (violin) learned the Persian violin under Alireza Charaghchi and has collaborated with Kavita Seth in Bollywood.

**The Circle** Founded by Shahab Baradaran, the Circle is a Persian fusion band. Their music is inspired by the classical poetries of Rumi & Khayam as well as contemporary poetries of Ahmad Shamlou and Sohrab Sepehri. Members are Shahab Baradaran (vocal, lead guitar), Nima Orang (keyboard), Mona Ketabian (vocal), Sara Nejad (vocal). Guest artists are Reza Moghadas (bass) and Loranzo (percussion). The Circle has released their first album in 2012.



**Shahrokh Saeedi** studied the performance of tar & setar and the radif of Persian classical music under Hamid Motebasem. Shahrokh has collaborated with many ensembles of different genres from traditional Persian music to fusion and chamber music. He is also a professional photographer and works as a designer.





**Afarin Mansouri** holds a bachelor of music from Wilfrid Laurier University and Master degree in composition from University of Toronto. She is the winner of 24th Iranian Fajr Music Festival in 2008 for her composition "The Fallen Soldier". She has composed in bilingual languages (Persian & English). Afarin is the co-founder of ICOT (Iranian Composers of Toronto) for creation of Persian related music. She is a PhD candidate in music/composition at York University.



**Araz Nayeb Pashayee** is a percussionist specializing in tombak, daf & udu. He has been teaching the Persian percussions for 8 years and has collaborated with many Iranian and non-Iranian musicians. He is finishing his bachelor of music at York University. He is currently teaching in his studio "Araz Percussion Studio". His students has performed in Iranian Heritage Day (2011, 2012)



**Arya Saaber** Playing violin since 8, Arya learned the art of Persian classical music with Iraj Kaavandi and Mehran Mohtady. Later he became a member of Tehran's Television National Symphonic Orchestra. He holds a bachelor of music from York University and is finishing his MA in music/composition in the same school.







**Hossein Zoleykha-pour** Born in Kurdistan, Iran he is a pianist and educator. He was the president of Shemshal Music Academy for about a decade and the president of Music Associations of Medical Schools of Iran. He has also taught at the Music Conservatory in Tehran. Also is a member of Guelph Symphony Orchestra



**Babak Divani** started playing daf at a very young age. In Iran he performed with local ensembles and toured in several provinces for four years. He has recorded for National Television of Iran. In Canada Babak has collaborated with many ensembles and has released an album of Kurdish folklore music.



**Nawrooz Kafaf** started music at a young age. He is multi-instrumentalist and plays violin, violoncello, santur and ud. He has collaborated with many ensembles in Iraq and Canada including Baarbad Ensemble & Zhouwan. He is also a member of Guelph Symphony Orchestra.



[www.nawranj.com](http://www.nawranj.com)



## **Iranian Composers of Toronto (ICOT)**

Founded in 2011, the ICOT members are all pianists and composers:

**Afarin Mansouri** holds a bachelor of music from Wilfrid Laurier University and Master degree in composition from University of Toronto. She is the winner of 24th Iranian Fajr Music Festival in 2008 for her composition "The Fallen Soldier".  
setar and the radif of

**Maziar Heidari** learned piano from Ardeshtir Rohani and composition under Farhad Farkhreddini. He graduated from the Art University of Tehran with a Master degree in composition. He won the best composer award of Fajr Festival in 2006.  
Hamid Motebasem.

**Saman Shahi** holds a bachelor degree in music from University of Toronto and is finishing his master degree in composition in the same University.  
He has studied composition under Gary Kulesha and attempts to combine his Persian culture with those of western classical.

**Keyan Emami** holds a master's degree in music composition. He has composed for a variety of instruments and ensembles including symphonic, chamber and solo pieces as well as music for theatre productions. He has studied with Robert Rival  
Persian music to fusion and chamber music.

**Pouyan Hamidi** has studied classical piano at The Royal Conservatory of Music (RCM). He holds a bachelor of piano performance and a bachelor of music in composition from University of Toronto. He has won a number of awards in piano performance. He is also a member of Ladom Ensemble and Sacred Balance



# Persian calligraphy



## **Abdollah Kiaie**

Persian calligraphy is the calligraphy of Persian writing system. It has been one of the most revered arts throughout Persian history. It is considered to be one of the most eye catching and fascinating manifestations of Persian culture.

Born in Tehran in March

1954, Abdollah Kiaie began calligraphy in a supportive home environment that fostered his interest in the art. Inspired by his grandfather at the age of five, later he followed the instructions of Master calligraphers such as Amirkhani and others. Thus, it resulted in obtaining Diploma Calligraphy of Persian and Arabic. Before his arrival in France in 1987, he worked in Iran as a calligrapher and graphic designer in various institutions and agencies (including Iranian television).

He taught in The Iranian Calligraphers Association (main body of calligraphy in Iran). In France, he helped to found the Parisian Associations, Ductus in 1991 and Calligraphist in 2000, while regularly exhibiting in France and abroad.

He continues to teach his style of Persian calligraphy, while pursuing his studies in graphic arts and research in Chinese calligraphy, Latin, and Indian in the fields of painting and pictorial practices.

Abdollah Kiaie also serves as a consultant to communication agencies, museums, the French National Education system and the National Library of France.

Abdollah Kiaie is engaged in visual research that detaches the viewer from the literal meaning of words. Instead, he adheres to the form, movement, space and rhythm of letters. These letters or calligraphic «elements», conform to the rules of the art of Persian calligraphy.

Abdollah Kiaie also employs them for their aesthetic and graphic value, however, propelling his calligraphy towards a visual language as well as an abstract mode of expression.

Now it's difficult to call his artworks a mere calligraphy. They are a unique blend of abstract painting, calligraphy and graphic.



## **Alijan Alijanpour** (Visual Artist)

Born March 26, 1956, in Fereydun Kenar, Mazandaran Province, Iran.

In the field of Iranian Painting (miniature) from 1969, under training of great masters Mohammad Ali Zavieh, and master Mahmoud Farshchian.

Holder of a prestigious Rank 1 Certificate in Art (equivalent to Doctoral Degree in the Arts) from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance of Iran, since June 22, 2010

Winner of the First Prize in 2 (two) of the Biennale Exhibitions of Painting in Tehran Contemporary Arts Museum, 1993 and 1995, Tehran, Iran.

One of current permanent exhibits of paintings inside the Ontario Legislative Building at Queen's Park, Toronto is the "Painting of the Ontario Legislative Building" which was unveiled on March 28, 2011. This is the first painting of an Iranian-Canadian artist to become a permanent exhibit on the walls of the Ontario Legislative Building, and to be among the historic works of other great artists.



## **Shamsi Shahrokh**

is an award winning graduate of OCAD University with a major in drawing and painting in 2003. Born in Tehran, Iran, she also obtained her Bachelors of Art. She has established herself as an accomplished artist and art instructor in Varley Art Gallery and her studio. Shamsi has invented and pioneered an award winning

painting technique called Heat Drawing, where she creates images and shapes on heat sensitive papers without using conventional materials such as paintbrushes, but by applying heat to their surfaces. Shamsi works in a wide variety of media such as water colour, oil, acrylic, pastel, multimedia, printmaking and heat drawing. She has mounted several solo exhibitions and participated in numerous group shows. She has received several awards including: OCAD University's Dorothy Hoover Award in 2003; 1st Prize Award at the 6th National Biennial Competition of Art and Paper in Ottawa, and collected by the National Bank of Canada in 2004; and many more.



**Mohammad Reza Sharifi** was born in the world of art. Entering Fine Arts School in Esfahan and visiting historical and traditional buildings well contributed to his painting art style.

At school he studied portraying and became gradually enthusiastic for the works of Reza Abbasi and then for the works of western and eastern famous artists.

After graduating from school in the field of portraying (Persian Painting), he entered university and got acquainted with modern and classic styles and experiences.

After graduating from university, he spent all his time in creating artistic works and holding numerous exhibitions

His socialization with contemporary painters opened new horizons to his professional achievements that helped him to publish the selection of "The Hidden Mystery" in 1998, and contributed by some contemporary artists of the country, he published the selection of "The Exemplar of the Creation" in 2000.

During his 18 years of artistic performance, he managed to register in his record 52 (16 individual and 36 group) exhibitions in various countries of the world, including his native land, Iran.



## **Vida Ghahremani**

Vida was born in a small town in Iran. She became very interested in puppetry at the early age of five when her nanny made a small puppet for her. She grew up playing with it. She trained in puppetry, puppet design and construction at The Centre of Dramatic Arts in Tehran. Also she participated in an Acting program at school of Arts and Literature of Iran's National Television. Since 1987 she has written, directed, designed, and produced puppet shows for many intuitions such as: The Theatre & Puppet show production Centre for Children & Youths, The Centre of Dramatic Arts in Tehran, National Iranian Television, Movie studios, International Festivals

Vida's puppet shows have helped children to develop dramatic expression, and it has provided them emotional relieve. It also has given them confidence and happiness. Her shows have enhanced their power of imagination, and they can be very useful to assist with children's spiritual development. Her puppets encourage children in communicating their thoughts and emotions. Also she has produced some social satire shows for adults when she came to Canada.





## Shahrzad Koraim

Shahrzad T.Koraim graduate from Drama of university in Tehran. She learned Persian painting and rug design from one of the master painter in Iran Mr. Mohammad Bagher Aghamiri. She accepted in Sheridan College with stringency of her Persian painting. She tried deferent style to find her own way. She keeps strange, attractive and special unique part of Persian painting and mixes it with west art. As now she is freelance illustrator and visual art instructor. She is the Kids Zone Coordinator of Iranian

Heritage Day at ROM 2012.

**Zahra Nazerian** After graduation from Business School in 2002, evolving Zahra Nazerian continued her studies in miniature in Tehran's Miniature School.

Prominent masters of Persian painting and miniature like Master Mahmoud Farshchian and Master Salehipour were her instructors who directed and inspired

her to a new distinguished level. In this process she also developed her knowledge in modern miniature styles by following Master Behzad, Master Zaviyeh, and Master Karimi. Before moving to Canada in 2011, Zahra was able to held or participate in more than ten individual or group artist exhibitions in and out of Iran by using different styles of Iranian Miniature staged in her 35 paintings.



## Leila Moslemi

Performance, presentation on a Persian Wedding:

The purpose of Traditional Persian Wedding program is to introduce the ceremonies involved in a traditional Persian wedding. The program involves two speakers, one narrating the story and the other providing background information on the history and tradition. The narrator tells the story of an Iranian's girl's traditional marriage, step by step, from the proposal to the celebrations that take place after the couple move to their new home.

The story gets the audience involved with the narrator's character, listening to her story and learning about the traditional customs and ceremonies. The PowerPoint presentation and the traditional table set up provide visual demonstrations of the facts about these ceremonies.





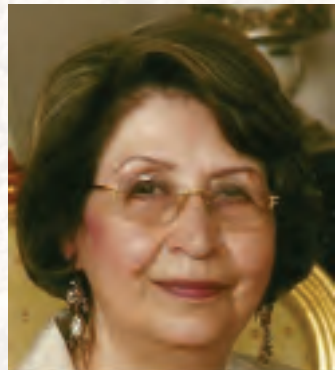
## **Persian War-Lord's Fortress on the Silk Road"**

Dr. Keall was originally born in the UK, and trained in Greek and Latin literature. He first visited the Middle East on an adventure, in 1962. In 1970 (after learning the trade through practical experience in countries like Iran, Iraq and Turkey), he found himself a formal PhD-qualification by studying Islamic art at the University of Michigan. In the 1970s, when the ROM had a very active archaeological program in Iran, Ed Keall led an expedition to a mountain-top site on the extreme western edge of the country where he unearthed a treasure trove of sculptures and wall decorations from a war-lord's fortress. The war-lord's wealth came from extracting tolls from trade caravans that plied the famous Silk Road routes from Asia to the Mediterranean in the 2nd century AD. His stronghold was too formidably fortified for the Iranian state of that time to stop his activities. The residents of the area till today have kept alive legends of that time.

Ed Keall will talk about his interactions with those people, in the testy times when Ayatollah Khomeini was agitating for revolution. What was it like to be the director of a Canadian expedition in revolutionary Iran in the winter of 1978-1979?



**Mary Faghani** acquired a diploma in Fashion Design from Paris, France in 1960 before moving back to Iran to further pursue her education. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from the Faculty of Fine Arts of University of Tehran in 1970. She obtained her Master of Arts degree in Art Conservation from Farabi University in Isfahan. Mary Faghani worked as an educator in colleges, and institutes of technology in Iran before immigrating to Canada in 1979. In 1981, she started working at the Royal Ontario Museum, and some of her restoration projects include the Iranian Ceramic Tile, and the Chinese Wall Paintings. Mary Faghani was the organizer of the first Iranian New Year's gala held at the ROM in 1992.





**Saeedeh Hosseini** holds MA in Architecture from the Faculty of Fine Arts at the University of Tehran. She worked in Iranian Cultural Heritage Organization Headquarter Office over ten years as Conservation Consultant, Conservation Senior Expert and Senior Advisor. As invited teacher, she was teaching "Preparing Archaeological Documentation" in the department of Archaeology at the University of Tehran for five years.

Saeedeh Hosseini has published articles about conservation of heritage buildings in Persian and English. She was editor's assistant of National Heritage magazine before migration to Canada in October 2011.

She was involved in international projects and participated in various training courses and workshops organized by UNESCO, ICCROM and ACCU. In 2008, she joined to an NGO for restoration of the old city of Kabul in Afghanistan.

### **Sophia Khalafi**

Started her musical education at Royal Conservatory of Tehran, in Piano, continued her study in Vancouver, BC and completed the ECME (Early Childhood Music Education) course. With a big passion in working with kids, and her career, she completed "Teacher Training Program" at RCM, Toronto (2003-2007), specialist in Orff pedagogy. She also is a Member of "Carl Orff Canada" as well as Member of "Intensive Orffers" at Mozart Music Institute, Salzburg, Austria.

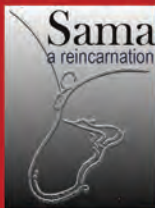
She has been working with schools, community centres, Iranian cultural events such as "Tirgan Festival" and Iranian TV broadcasts and finally as a music teacher at her own studio for over 15 years by now.

Today, at ROM, she will be offering a musical workshop for our children ages 5-12.

Beautiful persian songs and chants from "Samin Baghcheban" and other Iranian composers will be introduced, taught, and performed. The participants can try and explore musical instruments (pitched & non-pitched percussions) and have a chance to learn while enjoying making music together.



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