

PRESS RELEASE

CONCERT
AN EVENING OF PERSIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC
MIRAS ENSEMBLE

Friday 23 March 2018
The Shoe Factory, Nicosia / 8.30pm

The Pharos Arts Foundation, in collaboration with the Embassy of Iran in Cyprus, celebrate Nowruz with yet another fascinating Evening of Persian Classical Music, featuring the return visit of the outstanding Miras Ensemble on traditional instruments (oud, setar, tombak, daf, dayereh, kamancheh and santur).

PERSIAN CLASSICAL MUSIC

Persian classical music has evolved as a fluid expression of the social and cultural values proudly embodied by the Persian people, as demonstrated by the musical theory system, the role of music in Persian culture, and the creation process of musical performance. With the foundational establishment of Islam as the national religion of Persia in the seventh century, a significant fusion of Arabic and Persian music took place, including instruments, musical terminology, and theoretical principles. As Persian cultural values and beliefs have evolved over time, Persian classical music has simultaneously been transformed. Often associated with the deep, complex, and profound poetry of the great Persian poets, Persian music embodies the penultimate expression of the human soul. Gradually, the Persian classical music was raised to a mystical art, highly prized for its unification with a superior power of existence. The modernization and westernization of Iran have not only changed the structural components of Persian music in many ways, but have also exposed the art to the world. As people listen to this mysteriously beautiful Persian art, they attain some type of hal-state where the "world becomes transfigured, unveiling its marvellous images, and across an ineffable transparency... offers itself to the direct comprehension of every being capable of sensing."

MIRAS ENSEMBLE

Arash Ghasemi / Oud, Setar, Clarinet
Mehdi Nezamdoost / Tombak, Daf, Dayereh
Milad Bayat / Kamancheh
Sajad Khaneghahi / Santur
Bamdad Fahalati / Vocals

The Miras Ensemble, led by composer Arash Ghasemi, was founded in 2008 with the aim of performing the noble Persian classical music and presenting the masterpieces of the great men of literature. By exploring the music heritage of the country, the Ensemble aspires to protect this unique art, which has its roots in the ancient culture and customs of Iran. The Miras Ensemble has performed extensively in Iran and all over the world, in a number of festivals such as the Fajr International Music Festival and the Honyagaran Festival organised by the Iranian Art Center, in celebration of the millennium anniversary of Ferdowsi's epic poem Shahnameh (held by the Center for Great Islamic Encyclopaedia and UNESCO) and the Nowruz Universal ceremony. The Ensemble has participated in various conferences and cultural programmes and has released a number of albums, more recently, "Ganj o Ranj", based on poetry by the 13th century Persian poet and Sufi mystic Maulana Rumi, and two further albums based on poetry by Parvin Etesami and Hakim Ferdowsi.

Information: Pharos Arts Foundation Tel. +35722663871 / www.pharosartsfoundation.org
Tickets: €15 / €10 Concessions & members of the Pharos Arts Foundation,
Box Office: www.pharosartsfoundation.org & Tel. 9666-9003 (Monday - Friday 10:00am-3:00pm)

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