

Light of Music is a London based company established with the aim of introducing and promoting various forms of Iranian and Western arts to the community through concerts, world music, dance classes, and seminars. Light of Music believes that various forms of art are a manifestation of beauty and should be easily accessible to everyone at all levels. We believe that beauty and art is a necessity not a luxury.

Light of Music Educational programmes covers Nurseries, schools, colleges and youth centres across London and Midlands. Our aim is to train the next generation of musicians and to assist individuals in pursuing their passion for art & music and achieving their goals. With this in mind, we have endeavoured to provide the means for enthusiasts to be in direct contact with professionals dealing with all aspects of music from learning to performing.

In addition to this, Light of Music Philharmonic Orchestra (LMPO) represents our creative and forward looking drive by performing original music that we have created as well as performing programs from a wide range of established orchestral repertoire and contemporary music in world premiers across the UK and internationally on various tours.

LMPO also takes part in our seminars and workshops as a part of our Educational Programmes. We seek to bring together music lovers and enthusiasts under the light of music allowing them to get involved in the world of art and music. Finally, we want the public to have access to and enjoy these blessings and enable it enrich our lives.



V&A

Light Of Music Presents

Noruz: Celebrating Spring at Persian New Year

Sunday 22 March 2015 12:00 – 17:00

Raphael Gallery

*Persian Classical Music
Stories from Ancient Persia
Craft making
Persian Dance*



Light
of Music



Welcome



Welcome

Mohammad Najafi

Welcome to Light of Music Persian New Year concert at V&A, for which we are joined by soprano Honey Rouhani and baritone Samuel Oram in a programme featuring Persian-classical chamber music. Today's programme consists of a suite called Norouz suite, written by Light of Music's composer and music director Babak Kazemi. Light of Music Norouz event also includes community dance and calligraphy which you can enjoy during the intervals of the Persian-classical music performance.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to today's musicians playing in our chamber orchestra. Light of Music is pleased that for the premier of Norouz suite, musicians from Royal College of Music have joined us to form this chamber ensemble. Also a special thanks to Rozita Abbasi for designing dresses for the members of our chamber ensemble.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to become one of Light of Music friends and supporters. Your support enables us to continue delivering fine music in form of concerts and events like this. Thanks you in advance for your generous support.

I hope you enjoy the concert and will join us again soon. Following

Mohammad Najafi
General Manager



Ardeshtir Haghighi

Daf

Ardeshtir Haghighi Born into a musical family and started playing Daf & Tanbour when he was seven years old and is now a master Daf player. He was a member of few ensembles in Iran such as Atar and Mojehe Nour which he had founded.

Since his arrival to London in 2007, he has been involved with various music concerts and activities. Ardeshtir is one the members of Light of Music Persian orchestra and has performed numerous times with Light of Music ensembles across London and countryside. Ardeshtir is currently director of Light of Music one of the founders of the company.



Support Live Music

Light of Music each year performs to audiences across the UK and around the world, whilst working with some of the world's most talented singers, soloists, directors and artists. Furthermore, Light of Music presents an Educational programmes to train next generation of musicians and to invite music lovers from all communities and cultures to share in our love for music. Therefore, your support will enable us to share Light of Music services with people of all ages and backgrounds and diverse communities.

Whether you are an individual or represent a business or trust, your gift will make a real difference by helping us to create inspirational performances with Light of Music Philharmonic Orchestra (LMPO) as well as our Persian Chamber Orchestra in venues across the UK or internationally.

In return for your generosity, you will receive advanced concert information and priority booking to our concerts and events, accompanied by a very warm welcome from the Light of Music Family - musicians. Please go to our website at www.lightofmusic.com/support for more information about our making a general donation or to become Light of Music friend.

We cannot do it without you, so thank you!

In a Persian Garden.

In a Persian Garden is a piano sextet consisting of Piano, violin, taar, guitar, cello and daf. The piece is written based on memories of the composer back in Iran and resembles his feelings and emotions towards his country of birth. Just like the instrumentation harmonic and compositional style is a mixture of Persian and classical music, with references to Persian folklore melodies played by taar and guitar. The contrast between these two styles of music is also emphasized near the end of the piece where taar and daf start a short duet which then leads to the coda of the piece.

Talash Song for soprano, baritone and piano four hands.

Talash song is also written on well-known Persian text. The song also reflects the poet's journey towards finding the god with his attempts to describe him and his existence. The connection between the text and music in this song is also very close that results in reflecting the poem in the accompanying music and vice versa.

Norouz Suite:

PART ONE (13:00-13:30)

Niyayesh Song

In a Persian Garden

Talash Song

Pastorale

PART TWO (15:00-15:30)

Niyayesh Song (encore)

Tar & Daf Duet

Nobahar Song

In a Persian Garden (encore)

FIRST PART

Niyayesh song for soprano and piano four hands.

Niyayesh is a song written on a mixture of poems from Firdausi and Khaje Nouri. As the name suggests the song is based on praise of god with steady and mystical music as accompaniment to reflect the mysterious existence of god. The song gets to a dramatic corner with the verse: 'you are the remedy of all pains' with reassuring music as accompaniment. Music then changes its mode several times according to the meaning each particular verse until it ends with polyphonic themes reminding the listeners of the music of J.S.Bach and similar contexts of his sacred music.

Niyayesh (prayer)

The name of the almighty I start with, the creator of
spirit and wisdom
Our creator God almighty I praise thee whenever as I can
The creator of the spinning cosmos, the sun, moon and
all in between I praise thee
We are nothing but your creation, the only profound
source of worship
In both this existence and the other, you are our guide
and solution
O God almighty, good and bad are under your command,
you have the remedy for all pain
You control all that there is and is there to be, from
curses and short-comings I humbly ask you to keep me

Pastorale

Pastorale is a piano and violin duet written based on Iran's diverse nature and fascinating landscapes. The main theme on violin changes its mode a few times and moves to piano, until it gets back to the home key after this journey on Persian countryside.

SECOND PART

Niyayesh song for soprano and piano four hands.

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Our creator God almighty I praise thee whenever as I can
The creator of the spinning cosmos, the sun, moon and all in
between I praise thee

We are nothing but your creation, the only profound source
of worship

In both this existence and the other, you are our guide and
solution

O God almighty, good and bad are under your command, you

Tar & Daf Duet

Rashid Hojjati (taar) and Ardeshtir Haghighi (daf) play a short duet of Persian traditional music. Taar and daf are two of the most popular Persian music instruments that

Nobahar Song for soprano, baritone and piano four hands.

Nobahar song starts with a musical reference to Nobahar (early spring), and what can represent the early spring better than bird song? The trills at the beginning are a reflection of bird songs that lead to the cheerful theme that suggests the beginning of spring. The music then changes to an even more cheerful and festive theme with the verse; dewdrops are glistening on petals, and continues with more and more metaphoric descriptions of early spring. The song ends with the wish that the immortal Norouz stay with us forever.

In a Persian Garden (encore).

In a Persian Garden is a piano sextet consisting of Piano, violin, taar, guitar, cello and daf. The piece is written based on memories of the composer back in Iran and resembles his feelings and emotions towards his country of birth. Just like the instrumentation harmonic and compositional style is a mixture of Persian and classical music, with references to Persian folklore melodies played by taar and guitar. The contrast between these two styles of music is also emphasized near the end of the piece where taar and daf start a short duet which then leads to the coda of the piece.

Talash

You're neither the rain nor a sandstorm
You're neither the relief nor the pain
You're neither tired nor energetic
You're neither one of us nor a stranger
You're neither without nor within
You're neither cheap nor expensive
You're not the dust covering the treasure neither are you a
chess piece
You are but only to be neither dead nor alive (2)
I can't, I just can't call you a companion
One day you're green and yet you turn yellow in another
One day you're the remedy and yet you turn into pain in an-
other
If I'm mistaken then tell me, tell the truth so that I know
What is your colour and what is your scent
If you are a coin, which side are you?
You are neither darkness nor light
Neither descending nor ascending
Hopefully these few silly words of mine will not upset your
precious being, I certainly hope you will not cross my
name from your book of life



Babak Kazemi
Composer/conductor

Born in Tehran into a musical family. As a youth Babak studied piano, violin and guitar before starting his musical education in Tehran Conservatoire. In

2010 he moved to London to continue his musical education. He studied piano with Niel Immelman and composition with Dr Joe Cole from Royal College of Music before moving to Birmingham. He has studied at Birmingham Conservatoire where he received a scholarship back in 2011. Since then he also became heavily involved with conducting. Babak has studied conducting with maestro Michael Seal (associate conductor of CBSO) and Dan Rosina (head of conducting department at Birmingham Conservatoire). Babak has conducted many opera performances including Mozart Zauberflöte, Puccini La bohème, Bizet Carmen, Verdi La traviata, Verdi Rigoletto and many more. Babak's concert repertoire is also extended from classical era and romantic major works and symphony to 20th century music are all in his repertoire as a conductor. His last appearance as conductor was with CNSO, Conducting a programme of Brahms piano Concerto No.1 and Wagner Tannhäuser Overture. His future performances as conductor includes Mahler Symphony No.5 and Tosca opera by Puccini.

Babak is currently principle conductor and composer of Light of Music Philharmonic Orchestra.



Honey Rouhani

Soprano

Honey Rouhani is a British-Iranian Soprano, graduated from the Trinity Laban Conservatoire of music where she was a Leverhulme postgraduate scholar. Honey studies with Alison Wells.

Recent performances include the UK Premier of Reza Vali's Persian Folk Songs at the Cadogan Hall, Only Sound Remains by S. Lolavar (V&A), Nightingale in Sarah Percival's New play 'The Gate' - Leighton House, Magda in Puccini's La Rondine (Trinity Laban) Sandman and Dew Fairy in Humperdink's Hansel & Gretel (Opera in Space.), Suzanna in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro (Trinity Laban), Venus in Offenbach's Orpheus in the Underworld (Trinity Laban Opera - Blackheath Halls). Future performances include the role of Musetta in Puccini's La Bohème with the Dulwich Opera Company in April 2015.

Honey has given recitals with the Angel Orchestra conducted by Peter Fender, Soloist in Haydn's 'The Creation' conducted by Nicholas Craemer at St John's Smith Square, and Pazardjik Symphony Orchestra - Bulgaria conducted by Peter Fender and various recitals around the UK.

In 2013 Honey was the English Song Competition finalist at the Trinity Laban Conservatoire.

Apart from a life as a singer, Honey teaches singing privately as well as in schools.



Melody Lin

Cello

Kuan-Yin Lin is a captivating young chamber cellist, whose many talents earned her fully funded studentship at the Royal College of Music with Richard Lester, a renowned cellist in the United Kingdom. An Amaryllis Fleming Award supports her study at the Royal College of Music. From compositions in the Baroque to the modern era, her deep understanding and intense passion for chamber music proclaims the arrival of an exciting new talent. Having been born into a Taiwanese family, partook musical education in the United States, as well as being taught by the accomplished American cellist Michael Reynolds, British conductor Benjamin Zander, Japanese cellist Tsuyoshi Tsutsumi, Taiwanese cellist Ling-Yi Ouyang and the Armenian cellist Suren Bagratuni, Kuan-Yin gained the unparalleled advantage of cultural diversity. Her performance style offers a fresh and striking perspective while maintaining familiarity with traditions.



Nadine Galea
Violin

Nadine Galea is a graduate of the Royal College of Music where she studied with Dona Lee Croft and is now on the Masters course with Radu Blidar, supported by eight awards. Aged 16, she was one of only five musicians awarded a full two-year scholarship to study chamber music with the Trio di Trieste and Trio di Parma.

As a solo/chamber musician Nadine has performed in Austria, Malta, Croatia, Macedonia, Slovenia and across Italy and the UK, in venues such as St James's Church Piccadilly, the National Gallery and Kensington Palace in London, the Prime Minister's Auberge in Malta, and as an orchestral player in venues such as London's Cadogan and Royal Festival Hall, the Berlin Konzerthaus and Amsterdam Concertgebouw.

Nadine is a part time violinist with Malta's National Orchestra, a member of prestigious orchestras such as the European Union Youth Orchestra and has worked with conductors such as Sir Colin Davis and Bernard Haitink. Nadine is also the violinist of the Maltese folk-fusion ensemble Nafra and the contemporary Crossbreed Ensemble (cross-art projects).



Samuel Oram
Baritone

British baritone Samuel Oram has been acclaimed for singing "with fire and gusto" (Margaret MacDonald, Mario Lanza Competition, 2013) and for his "...masterful breadth of line" (David Nice). He recently appeared as Count Almaviva (Le Nozze di Figaro), Marquis de la Force (Dialogues des Carmelites), Demetrius (A Midsummer Night's Dream), Simone (Gianni Schicchi), Strephon (Iolanthe), and Balstrode (Peter Grimes). In addition to his busy operatic schedule, he has recently performed with the choruses of Opera North (Götterdämmerung), Dorset Opera (Cav & Pag), CBSO Male Chorus (Tristan und Isolde), and the British Youth Opera (Paul Bunyan).

Samuel is the prizewinner of The Birmingham Conservatoire Singing Prize; the Doris Newton Club Prize; he is an Edward Brooks English Song Prize award holder; and he remains the youngest ever competitor in the Mario Lanza Opera Competition. He is also an Yvonne Wells Scholar at the Royal College of Music and is a recipient of a Help Musicians UK Postgraduate Award.



Jonatan Bougt

Guitar

Swedish classical guitarist Jonatan Bougt was born in Stockholm 1994 where he started playing the guitar at age of 9. After finishing his studies for Bo

Hansson at Södra Latin's Professional Musician Profile in Stockholm he moved to London, UK, where he now studies for Carlos Bonell, Chris Stell and Gary Ryan at the Royal College of Music. In 2011 Jonatan won the Small Jörgen Rörby Prize from the Swedish Guitar & Lute Society (SGLS). He has since then gained a number of distinctive awards and scholarships, such as the Royal Academy Youth Scholarship (Sweden, 2012), 1st place Young Talents Competition at Uppsala International Guitar Festival (2013), 1st place Big Jörgen Rörby Prize (2014), 1st place Recital Class Competition at the Chichester Guitar Festival (2015). In 2012 he got a scholarship to go to Brazil with his group Bougt&Bergek Duo, which led to recitals and TV-appearances in Brazil.



Rashid Hojjati

Taar

Picture.

Rashid learner to play the tar at the Music School of Iran and continued on to achieve a Master's Degree in Persian Music performance. During this time he developed his knowledge and skills under the instruction of various maestros of Persian traditional music.



Duncan Appleby

Piano

Duncan started his Master's degree in accompaniment at the Royal College of Music in September, studying with Kathron Sturrock. He has performed in several chamber and orchestral concerts within the RCM, and in January accompanied an oboe recital with music by Schumann, Ravel, and Vaughan Williams at St. Stephen's Church, Gloucester Road. He graduated with a Bachelor's degree from Birmingham Conservatoire in the summer of 2013. While in Birmingham, Duncan regularly accompanied others in classes and competitions. He played for a flautist's final recital, which included Jolivet's *Chant de Linos*. He accompanied many external recitals: part of Schubert's *Die Schöne Müllerin* and Finzi's *Till Earth Outwears; The Nailmaker*, by Midlands-based composer Robin Grant; and he accompanied baritone Themba Mvula in songs by Quilter and Copland, and cellist James Douglas playing Beethoven's 7 Variations on 'Bei Männern', and Schumann's *Adagio and Allegro*.



Keng Hoe Low

Piano

Born in Malaysia, Kheng Hoe started playing the piano at a tender age of 4. During this time, he has taken part in several competitions and has won several awards. He was a finalist at the renowned 11th Chopin International Competition (Asia) and the 1st Hanoi International Piano Competition. In addition, he was the champion of 2013 EuroAsia Youth Festival Competition, first runner up at the 20th Youth Musician International Competition and 3rd runner up at the 13th Hong Kong Piano Competition. As keen performer, he has been invited to perform at the Yehudi Menuhin Hall, ABRSM South and East Asia Diploma Award Ceremony, and 1st Asia Grand Piano Concert, amongst many others.

Kheng Hoe is currently supported by the Hilary Fabian Award, and is partly funded by the Methodist College Kuala Lumpur Grant to undertake a 4-year BMus(Hons) programme in the Royal College of Music, London under the tutelage of Gordon Fergus-Thompson.