Light of Music

Introduction

Mindful of the nourishing qualities of Art and Music, we have at Light of Music united our endeavours with the primary objective of:

- familiarising those less aware of Iranian culture in particular Iranian youth, Afghan, Tajik and other expatriates - with the riches the culture has to offer.
- providing a vista into the world of Iranian theosophy and mysticism.
- promoting cross-cultural understanding.

Our Aim

Building on our endeavours to date to bridge the cultural divide and promote harmony, Light of Music is now attempting to present an even more ambitious programme, introducing the poems of the great poet 'Ferdowsi', alongside other giants of Iranian literature Rumi, Sa'di and Hafez. This concert aims to combine classical Persian music alongside Western instruments, with readings in the original Persian and English. The realisation of this programme requires the engagement of more than 70 performers and considerable funds.

It must be emphasised that these concerts are not a commercial venture, but rather a cultural and social endeavour and the funding required will be over and above revenue from the sale of tickets. Furthermore, we must raise at least half of the total cost three months before the date of the concert in order to guarantee that the concert can go ahead.

We do our utmost to cut costs in arranging our programmes. However, in order to do justice to such important cultural figures as Ferdowsi, Sa'di, Rumi and Hafez, we are still in need of considerable funds to make our concerts a reality.

Such programmes are a huge boost to the recognition and promotion of our Persian community as a peace-loving minority within the UK. The aim of our concerts is to portray the true face of Iranian culture by introducing the richness of its music and literature to the UK and by communicating the messages of love and tolerance - a message ever present in our poetry and songs – to others.

Your help will be a force for good in an age of social and cultural disharmony and will be much appreciated.

Past Events

What follows is a summary of the Art events organised by 'Light of Music' with these objectives in mind. Photos and video clips of these performances can be found at our website www.lightofmusic.com

Art Workshop
18th June 2011, London

This workshop, free to participants, included calligraphy, music and dance. The event led to the formation of regular classes in music and dance at an established venue.

Intoxication of Hafez

12th February 2012, Emanuel College, Cambridge
18th February 2012, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London

This concert consisted of a fusion of Iranian and Western music and readings from the Persian poet Hafez, revered by Iranians and admired widely outside of Iran by notable figures such as the German poet and philosopher Goethe and the English poet Keats.
The performance at Brunei Gallery, SOAS, was aided by the kind offer of venue by Dr Hassan Hakimian Director of London Middle East Institute.

Rumi's Spiritual Odyssey

9th February 2013, Wolfson College, Cambridge
16th February 2013, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London
11th May 2013, University of Southampton
30th November 2013, Arts Depot, London

Performances at the venues above, focused on the poetry of Molana (better known in the West as Rumi) and included poetry recitation and music. These events were hugely well attended and in the case of the London performance at SOAS, sold out. Furthermore, the performance at the London Arts Depot had the largest attendance at a classical Iranian concert in London in the past 30 years.

Spring Equinox

15th March 2014, Brunei Gallery, SOAS, London
22nd March 2014, Newnham College, Cambridge

Two dynamic, joyous performances of Persian traditional folk music, to celebrate the advent of spring and the Iranian new year.

Ode to Peace

29th January 2016, Cadogan Hall, London

The musicians in this event represented many nationalities, highlighting the evening's underlying theme of unity, friendship and peace. Held at the prestigious Cadogan Hall, with a 70+ piece orchestra under the conductorship of Babak Kazemi, this concert offered a combination of well-known Western classical pieces such as 'Swan Lake' and classical Persian pieces, with a synthesis of Western orchestral music and traditional Persian instruments.