

Iran's Rahbari to perform in China



Arts & Culture Desk

ISNA - Iran's world-renowned conductor Ali Rahbari will conduct the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra during a concert set to be staged on October 6 in the historic and touristic city of Hangzhou, China. The Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra boasts 80 official members and is considered one of the top five symphony orchestras in China.

The concert, titled 'Majestic, the Sound,' is dedicated to the works of the great German composer Ludwig van Beethoven.

In this concert, Rahbari will be accompanied by renowned German performer Gerhard Oppitz.

Oppitz, who has collaborated with Rahbari in various countries, garnered special acclaim for his renditions of Beethoven's compositions. The performance will feature the 'Overture to Egmont,' the music for Goethe's play, the famous Piano Concerto No. 5, also known as the Emperor Concerto, and Symphony No. 3, renowned as the Eroica Symphony, which Beethoven had initially dedicated to Napoleon Bonaparte.

Rahbari, currently holding the position of permanent conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre, in St. Petersburg, Russia, has conducted and often recorded all of the symphonic works of this German composer.

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Repatriated Iranian artifacts from France, UK on display



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An exhibition, titled 'Recovery of Cultural-Historical Objects,' featuring historically repatriated artifacts from France and the UK, began at the National Museum of Iran on August 28 and will run through September 22.

This collection, which had been illicitly transported and smuggled out of Iran, has been successfully repatriated to the country through legal efforts, ISNA wrote.

Prominently featured is a newly returned Sassanian bas-relief from the UK. Additionally, a compilation of historical objects, which were repatriated from France in March 2022, is on display. The oldest item presented is a pottery vessel of the Gowdin type, dating back around 4,500 years to the Bronze Age, originating from Gowdin Hill in western Iran's Kangavar County, an archae-

ological site believed to have been inhabited for up to 5,000 years ago.

The collection retrieved from France dates back approximately from 5,000 years ago to the Islamic era. According to prior information provided by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism, these artifacts were taken out of Iran in the years 1940 to 1946. The artifacts were later returned to Iran. Jebrael Nokandeh, the head of Iran's National Museum, confirms the historical authenticity of 29 returned artifacts from France, though the origins of some remain uncertain.

Concurrently with the artifacts display, Malekeh Mehdi-Abadi, the head of the research department at the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, who has examined



the prominent Sassanian bas-relief, provided explanations regarding the latest findings derived from tests conducted on the bas-relief.

She affirmed the monolithic bas-relief's authenticity, but noted that archaeological examinations of the artwork are ongoing.

Center of Farsi language, Iranian culture opens in Kyrgyzstan



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The Kyrgyz State University, named after Ishenaly Arabaev, has established the center for Farsi language and Iranian culture.

The university aims to delve into the historical heritage of Iranian people, extensively explore the Farsi language, gain insight into the customs and traditions of one of the earliest civilizations, and broaden the enrollment of students in this field, according to 24.kg's

report.

"The center for Farsi language and Iranian culture is a big step in strengthening bilateral ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Kyrgyz Republic, aimed at mutual enrichment, cooperation and development of friendly relations between the two countries in the higher education sector," the statement said.

The center was founded on the basis of the Department of Fundamental and Applied Linguistics

of the Institute of World Languages and International Relations.

The opening event was attended by the Am-bassador of Iran to the Kyrgyz Republic Gholamhossein Yadegari, representative of the Al-Mustafa International University of Iran for Central Asia, Ali-Purman Mohseni, Deputy Minister of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth Policy of the Kyrgyz Republic Kairat Imanaliev, rector of the university, Aigul Abdraeva and others.

China state media calls on British Museum to return artefacts

A call for the British Museum to return Chinese artefacts after the recent theft of about 2,000 items is heating up social media in the country.

The demand became the most trending topic on Weibo after an editorial in a state-run nationalist newspaper, BBC reported.

In the piece published on Sunday night, Global Times asked the museum to give back all Chinese cultural relics "free of charge".

The Chinese government has not commented on the issue yet.

The BBC has reached out to the British Museum for comment but is yet to hear back.

The museum has been under pressure after around 2,000 items were reported "missing, stolen or damaged" two weeks ago.

A member of staff was sacked when the news first came out. Last week, its director Hartwig Fischer also announced he would step down.

In its article, Global Times argued that the world-renowned museum has failed to take good care of "cul-

tural property belonging to other countries".

"The huge loopholes in the management and security of cultural objects in the British Museum exposed by this scandal have led to the collapse of a long-standing and widely circulated claim that 'foreign cultural objects are better protected in the British Museum,'" the editorial reads.

The British Museum has the biggest collection of Chinese antiquities in the West. According to its website, it has about 23,000 Chinese objects, spanning

from the Neolithic age to the present.

These include a large range of precious items such as paintings, prints, jade, bronzes and ceramics. One of the most famous is the reproduction of a scroll called 'Admonitions of the Instructress to the Court Ladies,' a masterpiece considered a milestone in Chinese art history.

This is not the first time Chinese netizens have called on the British Museum to return artefacts in recent years amid a rise in nationalist sentiment.



The 30th Iran Handwoven Carpet Exhibition, is being held in Tehran from August 23 to 29, 2023, showcases the rich heritage and potential of Persian art.

● AMIN JALALI/IRNA

