

Nasehi to hold 'Chopin and Liszt Night' piano recital



ISNA—Renowned Iranian pianist Fereidun Nasehi will stage a concert once again as he performs his latest piano recital titled 'Chopin and Liszt Night' at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on September 29.

Nasehi will take the stage to perform compositions by world-class classical music maestros. This comes after his previous piano recital was held at the Niavaran Cultural Center in 2016.

In 2017, the accomplished artist graced Vahdat Hall with renditions of pieces by Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Liszt, Mephisto Waltz, and Rachmaninoff.

Nasehi, the son of the renowned Iranian composer Hossein Nasehi, received a scholarship in 1975 to pursue his studies in Germany. Following the completion of his studies in solo piano performance and numerous recitals in Germany and Austria, he returned to Iran. Since then, he has held several performances at Vahdat Hall and Niavaran Cultural Center.

Nasehi boasts a remarkable artistic career, collaborating with great musicians such as Iraj Sahbaei, Nader Mashayekhi, and Emil Khachaturian.

Nod for the Iranian social club in Oman

OMAN OBSERVER—Oman Minister of Social Development Laila bint Ahmed al Najjar issued a ministerial decision on the formation of the 'Social Club for the Iranian Community,' aimed at mobilizing the capabilities of its members to serve the social purposes of the members.

The club will help members of the Iranian community in the Sultanate of Oman, who have a good reputation established among the Omani people, to strengthen the fraternal ties between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran in various cultural, intellectual, and social fields by organizing cultural, social, sporting and other events.

It will also strengthen the ties between the members of the community, especially the youth, with their motherland from its history, present, and future, in addition to strengthening fraternal and social ties between members of the community residing in various parts of the Sultanate of Oman, the statement said.

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Arts & Culture Desk

Iran's 'No Prior Appointment' won top honors at the 19th Kazan International Festival of Muslim Cinema in Russia. Directed by Behrouz Shoeibi and produced by Mahmoud Babaei, a production of the Farabi Cinema Foundation, the film received the Best Film and Best Leading Actress awards in a ceremony held during the festival's closing night on September 9, as reported by IRNA. Among the distinguished guests attending the closing ceremony were Deputy Prime Minister of Tatarstan Vasil Shaykhrayev, Minister of Culture of the Republic of Tatarstan Irada Ayupova, Iranian Consul General to Kazan Davoud Mirzakhani, and Emir Kusturica, a renowned Serbian director, and various acclaimed filmmakers from Russia and around the world. The Kazan festival featured a total of 52 films from 21 countries, including Russia, Iran, Syria, India, Iraq, Morocco, Tajikistan, Turkey, Greece, Oman, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia, the UK, Senegal, Nepal, Kazakhstan, Egypt, and Algeria, competing across categories such as Feature Films, Short Films, Long Documentaries, Short Documentaries, and the National Competition, showcasing works created in Tatarstan. 'No Prior Appointment,' a collaborative effort between the Farabi Cinema Foundation and the Image of the City Insti-

tute, tells the story of Yasmin, a woman who returns to her homeland of Iran after years in German exile following her father's passing. Her journey is made all the more challenging by her six-year-old autistic son, but during her brief stay in Iran, she gains a profound insight into the essence of humanity and death.

This outstanding film made its Iranian debut at the 40th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in 2021, where it earned Golden Simorgh for Best Film from a national perspective. Furthermore, 'No Prior Appointment' received more than 10 awards at the National Will Manifestation Awards, a companion event to the Fajr Film Festival, recognizing films that address key issues championed by various public organizations and institutions. Distinguished juries from these organizations annually select winners from the films screened at the Fajr Film Festival.

The 19th Kazan International Festival of Muslim Cinema took place from September 5 to 9, celebrating the diversity and excellence of Muslim cinema from around the world.

Three other Iranian films, 'Witness,' directed by Aida Tebyanian, participating in the short story film competition; 'Estatics,' in the long documentary competition; and 'Water, Wind, Dust, Bread,' made by Mehdi Zamanpour Kiasari, were presented in the short documentary section at this event.

Iran's 'No Prior Appointment' shines at Kazan festival



● IRNA

Iran's 'Motherless' nominated at Wales Int'l Film Festival



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian film, 'Motherless,' written and directed by Seyyed Morteza Fatemi, was nominated for the Best Foreign Language Film category at the Wales International Film Festival. Making its fifth appearance at international festivals, 'Motherless' has previously received three best

film awards at the Dhaka International Film Festival 2022, Crossing the Screen Film Festival in England 2023, and the Bengaluru International Film Festival. It also secured the Best Director Award at the Rainbow London Film Festival, according to Mehr news agency. The seventh edition of the Wales International Film Festival 2023, with its unique multi-stage for-

mat spanning two months, is set to take place at the Gwen Theater in the city of Nith in South Wales. Following the screening of selected works and the identification of finalists, the award winners will be announced on September 15. Produced by Mohammadreza Mesbah and Ali Owji, 'Motherless' is currently being screened in Iranian cinemas.

Overtourism overruns Mount Fuji in Japan

Mount Fuji, once a peaceful pilgrimage site, is now witness to millions of visitors every year. The route is now filled with buses, supply trucks, noodle shops and fridge magnets. The authorities are now saying that number of hikers trekking on the world-famous volcano has reached a dangerous level ecologically.

"Mount Fuji is screaming," the governor of the local region said last week. UNESCO added the "internationally recognised the icon of Japan" to its World Heritage List in 2013, wionews.com wrote. But as has happened in places such as Bruges in Belgium or Rio de Janeiro's Sugarloaf Mountain, the designation has been both a blessing and a curse.

Visitor numbers more than doubled between 2012 and 2019 to 5.1 million, and that's just for Yamanashi prefecture, the main starting point.

The stream of people does not trudge the mountain just during the day. Even at night, long lines of people can be seen making their way up to see the sunrise in the morning.

The starting point is a car park. It can only be reached by taxi or buses. Before the walkers set off for their trek, they can access a complex of restaurants, souvenir shops and more. They are powered by diesel generators and the thousands of litres of water they use has to be brought up in lorries. Trucks also take all the rubbish down.

Masatake Izumi, a local official, told AFP that very high number of people has increased the risk of accidents.

Some people who climb at night "get hypothermia and have to be taken back to first aid stations" he said.

This week government ministers met to discuss measures to tackle what Kenji Hamamoto, a senior Japan Tourism Agency official, called "overcrowding and breaches of etiquette" across heavily touristed sites.

Authorities announced last month that crowd control measures will be imposed if paths get too busy. If this happens, such measures will come into effect for the first time.

Yamanashi's governor Kotaro Nagasaki said last week Japan

needed to take measures to ensure Mount Fuji did not lose its UNESCO designation. One solution, he said, could be constructing a light rail system to replace the main road leading to

the main starting point for hikers. "We firmly believe that with regard to Mount Fuji tourism, a shift from a quantity approach to a quality one is essential," Nagasaki said.

