

Conference of public libraries to be held in Iran



Arts & Culture Desk

The Second International Conference of Public Libraries titled 'Public Libraries and Small Businesses' will be held in Mashhad on October 17 and 18, announced the Secretary-General of the Iran Public Libraries Foundation Mehdi Ramezani.

Ramezani said, "As we know, all developed and developing countries are experiencing economic challenges. For tackling challenges, businesses have also changed. Among recent changes are the proliferation of small companies, which are now known as "the key to economic development in the next decade."

He noted that socioeconomic needs have made society tend toward entrepreneurship and small businesses, which need promoting, supporting, training, and learning.

"Considering the mission of public libraries in informing and training, we believe that public libraries can be pioneers in fulfilling the needs of societies and local communities through designing local culture-based services. Evidence confirms this hypothesis. For instance, some interested and creative librarians have taken remarkable initiatives by providing services to rural businesses in some areas of beautiful Iran, activities which we are now documenting. Others around the world can also see such actions," he said. As the manager of the most significant public library system in West Asia, Iran Public Libraries Foundation, with more than 3,700 public libraries, in line with using modern approaches to libraries and their services, emphasizes knowledge and experience as the two necessary elements in solving problems.

Defining and consolidating the role of public libraries in businesses greatly depends on setting scientific communications and sharing experiences, he noted.

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Autumn music performances slowly begin

Arts & Culture Desk

With the conclusion of the mourning days of the months of Muharram and Safar, once again Tehran's concert halls are getting ready to welcome music enthusiasts. The two-month hiatus during Muharram and Safar provided an ideal opportunity for musicians of various genres to prepare thoroughly and return to the stage after the first four months of concert inactivity, which had lasted from the beginning of the Iranian year until July 22. Some pop musicians have already shared new songs on their social media pages and, undoubtedly, these pieces will be heard and performed during the upcoming live performances of the new season.

Over 1,070 concerts in four months

According to the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, in the first three months of the Iranian year (March 21-June 21), 776 performances were held, and in the month ending on July 22, 294 concerts were organized across the country. In total, during this four-month period, 1,070 concerts took place, indicating a significant increase compared to the last two years and possibly even earlier.

Tehran Symphony Orchestra a pioneer in autumn concerts

Notably, there has been no news of the presence or performance of pop singers up to this point, and even on their social media pages, there have been no announcements regarding their autumn concerts. Therefore, the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, led by conductor Manouchehr Sahbaei, will be the pioneer of the new concert season, with its first autumn performance scheduled for September 27 and 28 in Vahdat Hall.

In this performance, Sahbaei

will lead the Tehran Symphony Orchestra in renditions of Beethoven's Symphony No. 7, Hossein Nasehi's 'Dance at the Court of Samangan King,' Hungarian Dances No. 1, 4, 5, and 10, and the first movement of Brahms' Symphony No. 4.

'Chopin and Liszt Night' piano recital

Another musical event to look forward to is the piano recital by Fereidun Nasehi, titled 'Chopin and Liszt Night,' which will be held at Vahdat Hall on September 29.

Nasehi, a renowned musician and pianist, has collaborated with prominent artists such as Fereydoon Naseri, Iraj Sahbaei, and Nader Mashayekhi over the years. His program will feature compositions by classical music giants, promising an exceptional musical experience.

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 perfor-

mance 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.

'Shahpar' and the 'Shahnameh' narrative with music

Another autumn performance is dedicated to the first music concert by the fusion music group 'Shahpar,' scheduled for October 2 at the Khalij-e Fars Cultural Center in Niavaran Cultural Complex.

This concert, titled 'Shahnameh Night,' is inspired by Ferdowsi's epic masterpiece. The group will perform pieces accompanied by verses from the stories of Rostam and Sohrab, Rostam and Esfandiar, Fereidun and Zahhak, Manuchehr Shah, Keykhosrow, Afrasiyab, and the tales of Siavash.

The fusion music group, led by Mohsen Mar'ashi, has been active for several years, incorporating the words of Persian literary giants

such as Ferdowsi, Rumi, Hafez, and Khayyam into their music.

'The Silky Constellations'

Another music performance taking place at the Artists House will be the concert 'The Silky Constellations,' a research-based performance featuring the tambourine playing of Niknaz Mirqalami, scheduled for September 29 at 19:00 in the Shahnaz Hall. Mirqalami will present her performance in 12 maqams of this instrument. Maqam is the principal melodic concept in Middle Eastern musical thought and practice

International performances

During this period, concerts featuring well-known Iranian singers will also be held outside the country. Homayoun Shajarian will perform in Hamburg, Munich, Vienna, and the Netherlands on October 2, 3, 6, 7 and 8. Alireza Qorbani will have performances in Calgary, Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal on November 3, 5, 11, and 12. Majid Razavi, a pop music artist, will also perform in Dubai on October 13.



Baghdad International Book Fair opens with Iran's presence



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The 24th edition of the Baghdad International Book Fair opened on September 18, with the participation of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran's House of Books and Literature is participating in this fair for the third time, showcasing a 60-square-meter booth, featuring 1,100 titles in various categories including Islamic studies, adult literature, children's and young adult literature, academic and university books, Persian language instruction, the Sacred Defense (Iran-Iraq war), and special books

on martyrs Hajj Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Additionally, there is a special section dedicated to the Holy Qur'an. A total of 18 Iranian publishers and cultural institutions are also present at the fair, offering their books to visitors. According to IRNA, the fair was inaugurated by Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani, with Morocco being the special guest of the event.

During the opening ceremony, Al-Sudani emphasized the importance of books in the current era, stating that despite technological

advances, there is still a significant need for books due to the challenges facing reading.

He also said that the smell of paper and ink remains nostalgic and memorable.

The Iraqi official highlighted the government's commitment to supporting culture as part of Iraq's national program.

He mentioned plans to facilitate the work of publishing institutions, including offering interest-free loans to support publishing and large intellectual exhibitions in Iraq. He also touched upon the histori-

cal connection of books with Baghdad, stating that in the past, books were written in Egypt, printed in Lebanon, and read in Iraq. However, Iraq has now reached a level of self-sufficiency and progress where books are written, printed, and read within the country.

The 24th Baghdad International Book Fair hosts publishers from various countries, including Iraq, Iran, Lebanon, Egypt, Morocco, Syria, the United States, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Turkey, and Saudi Arabia. The event takes place from September 18 to 27.