

Tehran Symphony Orchestra concerts extended again



Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra extended its concerts for the fourth time and is scheduled to continue its concert with two new performances at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on October 19 and 20.

According to ILNA, for the first time, the orchestra will host six performances in a single month, treating audiences to fresh musical compositions.

The first autumn concerts, led by Maestro Manouchehr Sahbaei, concluded on October 6, having an exceptional response from the audience. The concert series has been extended, with all tickets for the four series of performances sold out. The upcoming performances will include Mozart's Overture to 'The Marriage of Figaro,' Haydn's 'Symphony No. 44,' Beethoven's 'Romance No. 2 in F Major,' and Schubert's 'Symphony No. 5.' In one of the concerts' highlights, Mohammadreza Karimi will be the violin soloist in Beethoven's 'Romance.'

Rio de Janeiro named UNESCO's World Book Capital for 2025

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) decided to designate Rio de Janeiro as 2025 World Book Capital due to its literary project. In a press release, UNESCO and the World Book Capital Advisory Committee commended Rio de Janeiro's demonstration for the importance of its literary heritage, "backed by a clearly defined vision and an action plan to promote literature, sustainable publishing, and reading among young people." The text also highlighted the use of digital technologies and described the designation as a historic milestone. This is the first time a Portuguese-speaking city has been designated World Book Capital, which dates back to 1996, although it was first awarded five years later. Before Rio de Janeiro, the only Latin American cities that received the World Book Capital title were Bogota (2007), Buenos Aires (2011), and Guadalajara (2022). UNESCO designates a World Book Capital every year," Director-General Audrey Azoulay said.

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35th International Film Festival for Children Youth gets underway Minister urges arts development for kids

Arts & Culture Desk

The 35th International Film Festival for Children and Youth began with an opening ceremony on October 6, at the Isfahan International Conferences Center. The event saw the presence of Iran's Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaili, along with officials, festival organizers, artists, and an audience of children and youths. During his address, Esmaili expressed gratitude for the opportunity to gather in the unique city of Isfahan, known as the cradle of culture, arts, and civilization, IRNA reported. He emphasized that the festival provides a platform for the talented youth of Iran who aspire to progress. Minister Esmaili acknowledged Isfahan's significant role in nurturing cultural and artistic achievements throughout history. He praised the achievements of the residents of Isfahan and their contributions to the nation's pride and honor, stating that



mere words cannot fully describe the significance of Isfahan as a cultural hub. Esmaili highlighted the government's commitment to placing culture and the arts in their rightful place, making them a priority. The minister recognized existing shortcomings and the need for improvements,

particularly in investing in the children and youth sector as a foundation for progress. He announced plans for cooperation between various ministries and organizations, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, to enrich the cultural

experiences of children and youth. Esmaili revealed the government's intentions to introduce cinema into schools' curricula soon. Furthermore, he stressed that promoting children's and young adults' cinema and animation is a top priority, citing the increased popularity of animated films in the country this year. Esmaili concluded by stating that planning is underway to nurture a new generation of artists based on the high principles of the Islamic system and that the Isfahan festival marks an essential step on this path. In addition, Majid Zeinolabedin, the secretary of the 35th edition of the event,

acknowledged the opportunity to host the festival once again in Isfahan. He praised Isfahan as a city of life, a symbol of our cultural and intellectual heritage, and a place of faith and morality for all Iranians. Zeinolabedin highlighted that more than 559 applicants participated in this year's festival, with the best films selected to compete in four categories, including feature and short films, both nationally and internationally. He noted that 200 filmmakers, from 40 countries, had applied, showcasing the cultural and artistic significance of Iran worldwide.



Iranian conductor Rahbari joins Hangzhou Asian Games

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Iranian composer and internationally acclaimed orchestra conductor Ali Rahbari performed a concert at the Opera House in Hangzhou, China on October 6, coinciding with the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Games, where Iranian athletes were competing. He was joined by the famous German pianist Gerhard Oppitz as they performed in the Hangzhou Opera House on the closing days of the Asian Games, according to IRNA. This performance coincided with the 15th anniversary celebration of the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra, featuring significant works by the renowned German composer Ludwig van Beethoven, accompanied by the Hangzhou Philharmonic Orchestra. The program included the 'Overture to Egmont,' 'Concerto No. 5,' and 'Symphony No. 3' from Beethoven's renowned compositions, which received a warm welcome from the Chinese audience. Rahbari has been invited to lead the Shenzhen Symphony Orchestra, China, at the International Festival in Shenzhen. Hangzhou, China, has been hosting the Asian Games from September 23 to October 8. These games feature the participa-



tion of 45 Asian countries, encompassing 40 sports fields, with over 12,500 athletes, including Iran's representation in 34 different sports. Currently, Rahbari is serving as a guest conductor at the Mariinsky Theatre in St. Petersburg, Russia, alongside the renowned Valery Gergiev. He has been invited to conduct these orchestras in late September, collaborating with several international soloists. In 2015, Ali Rahbari was invited to conduct the China Philharmonic Orchestra in Beijing, which led to a reciprocal invitation for the orchestra to perform in Tehran. Under Rahbari's guidance, they held a concert at the prestigious Vahdat Hall in Tehran, marking another milestone in his illustrious career.

Jahangirian's 'The Monster's Shadow' released in Armenia

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'The Monster's Shadow,' a novel by Abbas Jahangirian, translated by Gevorg Asaturyan, was published in Armenia. Jahangirian said, "This is the fourth of my works, translated in Armenia. Previously, 'Hamon and Darya' was translated by Andranik Khachubian; 'Farabi' by Emma Begyan; and 'Goodnight, Li-ana' by Gevorg Asaturyan." "During my two visits to Armenia, upon the invitation of the Writers Union of Armenia, I witnessed the Armenians' deep interest in Iranian literature. In both classical and contemporary literature, many of them were familiar with figures such as Ferdowsi,

Hafez, Sadegh Hedayat, and Ahmad Shamlou, among others. In the field of children's and young adult literature, efforts by Iran-friendly translators have made significant progress." He mentioned his works being translated into English, Kazakh, Arabic, and Turkish in recent years. Recently, 'The Monster's Shadow' has been translated by Mitra Khatoonabadi, a linguist residing in Finland, opening new horizons for readers beyond borders." Jahangirian emphasized, "Translating the works of Iranian storytellers is a

positive step toward expanding the boundaries of our literary world." The Association of Writers for Children and Youth in Iran has nominated Jahangirian for the Astrid Lindgren Prize (ALMA) in 2024, in the author category, and Farmehr Monjezi, in the book promotion category, as decided by the nomination committee.

