

'Radif of Iranian Music for Piano' unveiled



Arts & Culture Desk

IRNA – The book, 'Radif of Iranian Music for Piano' by Javad Maroofi, edited and reviewed by Pouyan Azadeh, was officially unveiled. The event, attended by artists and musicians including Keivan Saket and Reza Khorram, coincided with the 30th death anniversary of Maroofi, a prominent composer and master of Iranian *radifs*.

Radif is the total collection of more than 200 *gushehs* – traditional melodic entities – in all 12 *dastgahs*.

During the ceremony, the CEO of the Iranian Music Association emphasized the significance of publishing the mentioned book, expressing satisfaction that Azadeh has successfully brought this collection to print, addressing a long-standing gap in written documentation of these musical *radifs*.

Amir-Abbas Setayeshgar acknowledged the breakthrough achievement of Azadeh, stating that the publication of this book fulfills Maroofi's aspiration. He further highlighted the importance of documenting musical works, referring to the 2003 UNESCO convention on intangible cultural heritage, where Iranian musical compositions were recognized and later sent for approval.

Radif of the original Iranian music was inscribed in 2009 on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in UNESCO.

A notable figure in Iranian music research, Azadeh has contributed significantly to the national heritage by registering five cases, including the first one titled, 'Iranian Piano Notation' in 2012, in the list of intangible cultural heritages in Iran.

In his remarks, Alireza Miralinaghi, a music writer and researcher, shared his memories of Maroofi and praised Azadeh's dedication in preparing the book. He emphasized the unique approach of Azadeh, bridging the gap between written notation and spontaneous playing, which is a valuable contribution to advancing the Iranian piano tradition.

Azadeh expressed his delight during the ceremony, stating that after years of effort, classical Iranian piano music has found its identity.

He also addressed the need for revisiting techniques mentioned in the book, aligning them with the audio samples released by Maroofi.

Azadeh, a pupil of Maroofi, reaffirmed his commitment to preserving the authenticity of Iranian piano *radifs* and the performance of Maroofi's works, emphasizing the importance of support for this unique style of musical expression.

- License Holder: Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
- Managing Director: Ali Kakadezfuli
- Editor-in-chief: Mostafa Shirmohammadi
- Int'l & National Desk: Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi, Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
- Economy Desk: Reza Abesh Ahmadi, Sadeq Dehqan
- Sports Desk: Amirhadi Arsalanpour
- Iranica Desk: Leila Imeni
- Arts & Culture Desk: Hamideh Hosseini
- Social Desk: Ali Amiri
- Language Editor: Ali Mehran

Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA)
Ali Kakadezfuli
Mostafa Shirmohammadi
Javad Mohammad Ali, Zohreh Qanadi,
Ebrahim Beheshti, Amir Mollae Mozaffari
Reza Abesh Ahmadi, Sadeq Dehqan
Amirhadi Arsalanpour
Leila Imeni
Hamideh Hosseini
Ali Amiri
Ali Mehran

Address: 208, Khorramshahr Ave., Tehran, Iran

- Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 84711171
- ICPI Publisher: +98 21 88548892-5
- Advertising Dept. Tel: +98 21 88500601
- & Email: irandaily@iranagahiha.com
- Website: www.irandaily.ir
- Email: newspaper.irandaily.ir
- Email: irandaily@icpi.ir
- Printing House: Iran Cultural & Press Institute



irandaily.ir | newspaper.irandaily.ir | IranDailyWeb

Vol. 7455 ● Saturday, December 9, 2023 ● Price 40,000 Rials ● 8 Pages

Oscars releases eligible films list for three sections

Iran's 'The Night Guardian' included



The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences unveiled the films eligible for consideration for the 2024 Oscars in the categories of Documentary Feature Film, International Feature Film, and Animated Feature Film. Iran's 'The Night Guardian', directed by Reza

Mirkarimi, is also in the International Feature's Section of the lineup, deadline.com reported. Mirkarimi's film, which debuted at the Fajr Film Festival last year, received nine award nominations and ultimately won the best director category.

Co-written by Mirkarimi and Mohammad Davoud, 'The Night Guardian' follows the story of an innocent village boy whose carefree life is disrupted by his trust in a construction engineer. After leaving his village due to drought, Rasoul is relieved to find em-

ployment as a night guardian at a construction site. However, he soon discovers that something sinister is happening at the seemingly deserted location. As he becomes ensnared in the peculiar circumstances surrounding him, Rasoul finds himself trapped and in danger.

A total of 167 documentaries have made the cut for the 96th Academy Awards, while 88 countries are eligible for the International Feature. Shortlists of 15 films in both categories will be revealed December 21. In the Animated Feature race, 33 films are eligible for the 2024 race.

Final Oscar nominations will be revealed January 23, 2024, with the 96th Oscars to air Sunday, March 10 on ABC, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel. AMPAS noted that not all the films have had their qualifying release yet, a requirement to advance in the voting process



Dilemma of cover music: Preserving nostalgia or stifling creativity?

Arts & Culture Desk

In recent times, a trend has emerged in the Iranian music industry where contemporary pop artists choose to cover songs from the past, aiming to evoke nostalgia among their audience. However, as the frequency of cover songs increases, questions arise about whether this practice kills creativity, or serves as a nostalgic homage to the musical heritage. A cover, in musical terms, refers to a rendition or reinterpretation of a pre-existing piece, performed by different artists. While covers may involve variations in arrangement, octave, and the use of different instruments, the fundamental melody remains unchanged. Musicians, both novices and seasoned professionals, commonly engage in covering existing songs, providing their own interpretation of the music, according to an article published on the Persian news website Iran Online (ion.ir). Many musicians choose covers over original compositions, driven by personal preferences, a desire to connect with a broader audience, or as a tribute to

iconic works. The emotional resonance of nostalgia plays a significant role in this choice, as artists aim to transport listeners to bygone eras, eliciting positive memories and emotions associated with the original pieces. Prominent musicians, even those skilled in crafting lengthy melodies and lyrics, often recreate masterpieces. This practice, prevalent since the early days of recorded music, continues today. Take, for example, the song 'Morgh-e Sahar' first sung by Moluk Zarrabi. Subsequently, many artists, including the late Gholam-Hossein Bannan and Mohammadreza Shajarian, have covered or reinterpreted this piece. Lack of original melodies challenges contemporary music artists. Previous composers like Homayoun Khorram, Ali Tajvidi, and Morteza Khan Mahjoubi created enduring melodies. Today's young artists, despite their knowledge and literacy, find their music lacking public appeal. Consequently, they turn to covering or recreating older works. Instances of this trend are evident in international

pop culture, such as One Direction's version of the 'Friends' TV show theme at their concert, or Charlie Puth's tribute performance of the same theme following Matthew Perry's death. However, the problem arises when artists rely excessively on the past and paying homage, while simply resorting to familiar tunes for popularity becomes negatively apparent in their works. While covers can be a genuine form of artistic expression, concerns arise about the impact on creativity within the music industry. Some argue that the frequency of covers addresses commercialized music industry, where record labels prioritize profit over artistic innovation. The pressure to conform to a prescribed approach and produce highly profitable music within a short timeframe may hinder true creative exploration. The commercialization of the music industry is identified as a significant factor contributing to the lack of creativity. Record labels often dictate the creative process, instructing artists to follow predetermined formulas to capture the

audience's attention quickly. This rigid approach can limit the artist's ability to explore and experiment, ultimately compromising the quality and originality of the music produced. Independent artists face a different set of challenges, balancing the desire for artistic freedom with the need for recognition and financial stability. While some may choose to collaborate with major record labels for being seen, they often find their creative input restricted, leading to disillusionment and, in some cases, contract termination. The ongoing debate about whether covered music stifles creativity or serves as a tribute to the past highlights the complexities within the music industry. The tension between commercial interests and artistic freedom underscores the need for a balanced approach that allows artists to express themselves authentically while catering to audience expectations. Ultimately, the music industry's evolution requires a delicate equilibrium between preserving musical heritage and fostering innovation for the future.