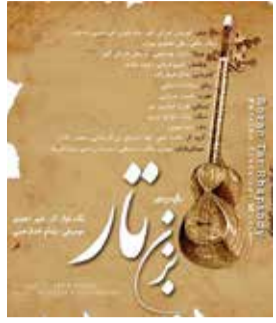


Iranian Khodarahmi wins accolade in Global Music Awards



Behnam Khodarahmi, a musician and composer, wins a bronze medal for his latest composition titled 'Bezan Tar Rhapsody' at the Global Music Awards.

After the announcement of receiving the award, Khodarahmi released the awarded piece, ILNA wrote.

Khodarahmi also took charge of arranging the orchestration for this composition.

The musical arrangement features Amir Ahadi as the soloist on the tar, along with Kousha Sarrafi-Gohar, Payam Toni, Amirhossein Zandian, Milad Aalami, Ali Ja'fari (violin), Kouros Sarrafi-Gohar, Danial Jorabchi (viola), Karim Ghorbani, Davood Monadi (cello), Adel Asgharzadeh (double bass), Saman Ehteshami (piano), Farzad Gheysairpour (timpani), Babak Khajeh-Nouri (tom-bak), Reza Mahini (daf), Hossein Mirzaei (horn), Mohammad Sefi, Elaheh Hamidi, Leila Rezaei, and Mohammad Niknam (choir), all collaborating with Behnam Khodarahmi.

The festival recognized the excellence of 'Bezan Tar Rhapsody' showcasing the collaborative efforts of talented musicians under Khodarahmi's direction.

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- & 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. 7462 • Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023 • Price 100,000 Rials • 8 Pages



Iran's 'Wheel and Desert' wins Best Short Film Award in Kazakhstan

Iranian short film, 'Wheel and Desert,' written and directed by Reza Sabetpour, received the Best Short Film Award at the 11th Bastau International Film Festival in Kazakhstan, held in Almaty from December 12 to 16.

The plot of 'Wheel and Desert' un-

folds on a deserted road in the heart of a desert, portraying the story of a gas station attendant who returns to his station to help an injured man and bring water for him. However, the narrative takes a twist when he discovers that the man is a thief, ILNA

reported.

Additionally, the film is set to be screened in the main competition section of the Jaipur International Film Festival in Rajasthan, India, in January 2024.

The cast of this short film includes

Alireza Mehran, Kambiz Amini, Saeed Taheri, and Keyvan Noqrehkar.

The festival is the largest film festival in Central Asia that aims to develop international cooperation and a cultural exchange between young filmmakers from all over the world.

Al Jazeera employee advocates for Gaza, condemns Israel at Emmy Awards

Yara Elmjouie, an Iranian-American Al Jazeera show host, used his Emmy Awards acceptance speech, during the 50th Annual Daytime Emmy Creative Arts & Lifestyle, to express solidarity with the people of Gaza and condemn Israel for its actions in the conflict.

Elmjouie, who won the Emmy in the Outstanding Lifestyle Program category

for the show 'Eat This With Yara,' took the opportunity to honor his colleagues covering the tragedy in Gaza, Mehr news agency reported.

"I cannot receive this award today without addressing the unfolding tragedy in Gaza and remembering my Al Jazeera colleagues who are risking their lives to cover it," Elmjouie said.

He highlighted the recent loss of cameraman Samer AbuDaqa, who was killed in an Israeli airstrike in Khan Younis. Another colleague, Wael al-Dahdouh, was wounded, losing his wife and children in a separate Israeli airstrike.

Al Jazeera has accused Israel of deliberately targeting journalists in the war zone, vowing to urgently refer AbuDaqa's death to

the International Criminal Court. Elmjouie urged continued sharing of stories from those without access to power.

The Committee to Protect Journalists has confirmed that, since the start of the conflict, 64 journalists have been killed, with 57 of them being Palestinian. In a powerful moment during the speech, executive producer Shadi Rahimi

held a sign reading "killing journalists is a war crime," emphasizing the gravity of the situation.

Elmjouie's speech highlighted the human casualties of the conflict, with a plea for international attention and condemnation of Israel's actions.

The event concluded with the audience showing support through applause and gestures of solidarity.

New Notre Dame rooster marks pivotal moment in cathedral's restoration

The installation by a crane of a new golden rooster on Notre Dame, reimagined as a dramatic phoenix with licking, flamed feathers, goes beyond being just a weathervane atop the cathedral spire.

It symbolises resilience amid destruction after the devastating April 2019 fire – as restoration officials also revealed an anti-fire misting system is being kitted out under the cathedral's roof, The Guardian wrote.

Chief architect Philippe Villeneuve, who designed the new rooster, said that the original's survival signified a ray of light in the catastrophe.

Villeneuve elaborated on the new rooster's significance, say-

ing: "Since [the fire] we have worked on this rooster [the] successor, which sees the flame carried to the top of the cathedral as it was before, more than 96 metres from the ground ... It is a fire of resurrection."

In lighthearted comments, the architect said that the process of design was so intense he might have to speak to his therapist about it.

Before ascending to its perch, the rooster – a French emblem of vigilance and Christ's resurrection – was blessed by Paris Archbishop Laurent Ulrich in a square behind the monument. The rooster is an emotive national emblem for the French because of the word's semantics; the Latin word gallus

means both Gaul and rooster. Ulrich placed sacred relics in a hole inside the rooster's breast, including fragments of Christ's Crown of Thorns and remains of St Denis and St Genevieve, infusing the sculpture with religious importance.

The Crown of Thorns, regarded as Notre Dame's most sacred relic, was among the treasures quickly removed after the fire broke out. Brought to Paris by King Louis IX in the 13th century, it is purported to have been pressed on to Christ's head during the crucifixion.

A sealed tube was also placed in the sculpture containing a list of the names of nearly 2,000 individuals who contributed to the cathedral's

reconstruction, underscoring the collective effort behind the works.

Notre Dame's new restoration chief, Philippe Jost, detailed pioneering measures taken to safeguard the cathedral against future fires in comments to the press.

The French president, Emmanuel Macron, who last week visited the site to mark a one-year countdown to its reopening, announced that the original rooster will be displayed in a new museum at the Hôtel-Dieu.

This move, along with plans to invite Pope Francis for the cathedral's reopening next year, highlights Notre Dame's significance in French history



and culture. The rooster's installation, crowning a spire reconstructed from Eugène Vio-

llet-le-Duc's 19th-century design, is a poignant reminder of its medieval origins as a symbol of hope and faith.