

Fajr Music Festival, reflection of Iran's diverse musical landscape: *Secretary*



● IRAN DAILY

Arts & Culture Desk

The secretary of the 39th Fajr International Music Festival Reza Mahdavi expressed his broad perspective on the festival, considering it a reflection of Iran's diverse musical landscape. He made the statement during the press conference of the 39th edition of the festival held at Tehran's Rudaki Hall on February 6, IRNA wrote. He highlighted the festival's potential to contribute to the cultural and economic development of Iranian society. He underscored efforts to make the festival more accessible to the public and emphasized the role of educational institutions in promoting cultural awareness. Mahdavi also acknowledged challenges

in international promotion and called for increased efforts in publicizing both international and youth performances. He expressed optimism that by providing necessary platforms for international competition, the festival could better showcase Iranian artists. Amir-Hossein Samiei, the director of the music department at the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance also provided insights into the event's organization. Samiei stressed the festival's commitment to cultural justice, ensuring a balanced representation across different regions of the country. A significant focus was placed on the inclusion of children and youth in the musical program, showcasing performances by

these age groups, including special performances by music academies, Samiei added. The festival also aimed to create a dynamic space by featuring women's musical groups and various orchestras. The festival, spanning Tehran and 15 other provinces, will begin with performances by the Nahal women's group and the National Orchestra of Iran, according to Amir-Abbas Setayeshgar, the CEO of the Iran Music Association. The 39th Fajr International Music Festival, organized by the Iran Music Association in collaboration with the Rudaki Foundation and led by Reza Mahdavi, will run from February 12 to 17, featuring competitive (Barbad Award) and non-competitive sections across Tehran and other provinces.

 **Mohammad Ali Rajabi**
Cartoonist



Hamedan Cultural Week to be held in Armenia

Arts & Culture Desk

The Hamedan Cultural Week is set to take place in Yerevan, the capital of Armenia, from February 7 to 16.

The event is organized by the Embassy and the Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department in Hamedan Province, ISNA wrote.

The opening ceremony, coinciding with the 45th anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory, and Iran's National Day, will be attended by Mehdi Sobhani, the Iranian Ambassador to Armenia, the head of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department in Hamedan Province, and a delegation of Armenian tourism and cultural officials, Iranian residents in Yerevan, and the cultural commu-



nity of Armenia. An exhibition showcasing the talents and handicrafts of skilled Hamedani artists will be held in the Blue Mosque Hall, aiming to introduce the cultural capacities of Hamedan, featuring crafts such as leatherwork, pottery, and Mat weaving (Morvar bafi).

The traditional music ensemble "Ayeen" from Hamedan will participate in cultural events throughout the week, performing at locations including the Armenian State University, and the National Library of Armenia, as well as the Shahid Fahmideh Educational

Complex. On February 20, the group will perform on the National Day in Yerevan, while on February 21, it will entertain the audience in the Syunik Province city of Kapan. Naqqali performances from the 'Shahnameh' (Book of Kings) will be among the cultural week's programs, engaging the audience with selected tales. According to the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, Mohammad Asadi Movahed, Iran's Cultural Attaché, emphasized the promotion of cultural and artistic capacities of different Iranian provinces to boost cultural economy. He said "It is hoped that in the coming year, similar cultural weeks from several other provinces will be held in Armenia."

Three Iranian artists to stage concert in Russia during Nowruz

In a special concert on the occasion of Persian New Year, three Iranian artists are set to perform at the renowned Mariinsky Opera House in St. Petersburg, Russia. The concert, scheduled for March 22, will feature collaborations with the Mariinsky Theatre Orchestra, presenting compositions made by Ali Rahbari, IRNA wrote. The artists, invited by Ali Rahbari, a distinguished conductor and a permanent guest at the Mariinsky Opera, are Amin Ghaffari, a talented violinist, and Reza

Fekri, a tenor vocalist. The concert will showcase three compositions by Rahbari. The first part, 'My Mother Iran No. 1' (Lament), will be performed by Amin Ghaffari on the violin, accompanied by the symphonic orchestra. Ghaffari, recently awarded the first prize in a violin competition in Japan, will interpret this piece that dates back around 50 years to its premiere in Vienna by Bijan Khadem-Missagh, based on traditional and religious Iranian music. The 'Lament' section will be dedicated to Iranian musician Hossein

Alizadeh. The second part, 'My Mother Iran No. 8' (Arabization), is a critical commentary on the influence of Arab music in Iranian compositions. This piece is crafted for the

symphonic orchestra. In the third and final section, 'My Mother Iran No. 11' (Thus Spoke Zoroaster), Reza Fekri, accompanied by the Iranian chorus and the symphonic orchestra, will perform.



UN tourism chief to attend Iran's flagship tourism show



Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has said that Secretary-General of the World Tourism Organization Zurab Pololikashvili will participate in the 17th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition (TITE). At the press conference of the exhibition on Tuesday, Shalbafian said that the TITE, which is one of the largest exhibitions in the country, will be held in 20 halls with 982 participating booths in an area of 60,000 square meters from February 12 to 15, 2024, IRNA re-

ported. He added that the 17th Tehran International Tourism and Related Industries Exhibition will be held in 20 halls with 982 participating booths in an area of 60,000 square meters. He further noted that representatives and tourism industry activists from Russia, Turkey, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Tajikistan, Zimbabwe, Tanzania, and Sri Lanka have pavilions in this exhibition. Also, 69 foreign travel agencies mostly from Russia's Kazan and St. Petersburg, apart from the agencies that have booths, have put in a request to take

part in the exhibition, he added. He underlined that appropriate places are provided for bilateral and multilateral business cooperation talks for foreign participants. Referring to the hosting visitors from Malaysia, Indonesia, Iraq and Tunisia, Iran's Deputy Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts said that the UN tourism chief and his entourage as well as the Secretary-Generals of the ECO and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and the head of the Tourism Committee of Uzbekistan will attend Iran's flagship tourism show.