



Tehran, St. Petersburg Orchestras stage ensemble performance

Arts & Culture Desk

Tehran Symphony Orchestra and the New Chamber St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra staged a joint ensemble playing at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on February 24. The concert, led by conductor Yaroslav Zabo-yarkin, featured an impressive repertoire of classical music and works by Iranian composer Behzad Abdi, drawing attention from both Iranian and Russian music enthusiasts, IRNA reported. This performance was part of the 'Musical Bridge: Tehran-St. Petersburg' project, organized with the support of the Presidential Fund for Cultural Initiatives of Russia and in collaboration with the Rudaki Foundation. The program was graced by several prominent figures, including representatives from the Russian Embassy in Iran, Ahmad

Sadri, the head of the Music Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance, and Amir Abbas Setayeshgar, senior advisor to the Rudaki Foundation. The program included works by iconic composers such as Mikhail Glinka's 'Kamarinskaya' and 'Valse-fantaisie,' Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky's 'Nocturne' and 'Variations on a Rococo Theme' for cello, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's 'Symphony No. 40,' and the moving 'Elegy' for cello by Behzad Abdi. These pieces highlighted the orchestra's smooth integration of Russian and Iranian musical traditions. The 52 musicians, split between 26 members of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra and Russian musicians, showcased an extraordinary level of cohesion and coordination throughout the concert.

Special mention goes to Dmitry Ganenko, who performed a captivating cello solo and received standing ovations, leaving the stage three times in acknowledgment of the audience's appreciation. This collaboration was part of an ongoing exchange between the two nations, following an earlier performance in St. Petersburg, which featured Iranian string musicians alongside members of the Youth Symphony Orchestra of St. Petersburg. The Tehran Symphony Orchestra, founded in 1943 by Parviz Mahmoud, continues to thrive under the auspices of the Rudaki Foundation. The performance exemplified the power of music to unite cultures and demonstrated the impressive potential of international collaboration in the world of classical music.



● BORNA

Eleven natural sites in Isfahan join Iran's national heritage list

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The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department of Isfahan Province announced on Tuesday that eleven natural sites in the region were officially listed as national heritage.

Rouhollah Seyyed al-Asgari, the province's cultural heritage deputy, said that the Ponehzar Waterfall and the Durak Waterfall, along with the tulip fields in the Fereydunshahr County, have been included in the country's natural heritage register, IRNA reported. Plus, ancient mulberry trees located in the villages of Sarhang, Sardar Mesdaghi, and Haj Daneh in the Sara-siab region, Imamzadeh Badrud County of Natanz, as well as the botanical garden of the historical city of Kashan, have also been recognized as national natural heritage. The provincial official noted that the ancient plane



tree in Lanjan County, the old mulberry tree in Charamahin, and the plane tree in Najafabad of the historical city of Naein are among the other newly registered natural assets from Isfahan. With the national registration of these eleven natural sites, the total number of national natural heritage sites in Isfahan has now reached 60. According to IRNA, Isfahan Province is a major tourism hub in Iran, boasting over 22,000 historical sites (1,940 of which are registered nationally and 15 internationally), along with more than 600 historical houses and a variety of natural, cultural, religious, and recreational attractions.

9th Int'l Fajr Handicrafts Festival wraps up

Minister: Handicrafts promote cultural dialogue among nations

Arts & Culture Desk

The 9th International Fajr Handicrafts Festival, also known as Sarv-e Simin, concluded on February 24 at Tehran's Milad Tower, honoring the cultural heritage of Iran. The event saw the participation of prominent figures, including Reza Salehi Amiri, Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and Saad Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council. A distinguished panel of 13 judges, both domestic and international, selected the winners from a competitive pool of 20 finalists, ILNA reported. Salehi Amiri stressed the significance of Iranian handicrafts, stating, "Handicrafts create a cultural dialogue among nations." This art form not only has economic potential but also serves to introduce the culture, art, and aesthetics of Iranians to the global stage, he added. He added, "This is a significant night for the large family of handicrafts, cultural heritage, and tourism," expressing gratitude for the presence of the Judiciary Chief and representatives from 20 different countries. The minister revealed that there are approximately 570,000 ac-

tive artisans in the handicrafts sector, many of whom are women.

He emphasized that discussing handicrafts means discussing art, creativity, lifestyle, and cultural dialogue. He asserted, "Handicrafts should be exported beyond borders, as they have the potential to generate revenue surpassing that of oil, while simultaneously introducing the beauty and art of Iran to the world." The visibility of Iranian carpets abroad, for instance, showcases the artistry of Iranian women and craftsmen. Salehi Amiri also pointed out Iran's vast tourism potential, stating, "Iran has one of the largest tourism capacities in the world." He noted the country's diverse tourism offerings, from historical and cultural to natural and therapeutic, encouraging those who visit to take advantage of this variety. He criticized the negative portrayals in some foreign media, urging them to showcase the beauty and security of Iran, stating, "Our youth can dispel the dark cloud of Iranophobia with appropriate content creation." The minister addressed ongoing tourism projects, revealing that there are currently 18,043 active accommodations and over 2,700 tourism projects under

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Reza Salehi Amiri addresses the audience during the closing ceremony of the 9th International Fajr Handicrafts Festival, at Tehran's Milad Tower on February 24, 2025.



development. He affirmed that even during the COVID-19 pandemic, tourism projects continued, driven by the passion of those in the industry.

Iran's rich artistic heritage inspiring

The event also featured remarks from Saad Al-Qaddumi, President of the World Crafts Council (WCC), who expressed deep affection for Iran, stating, "Iran has always held a special place in my heart, just as it has in my mother's." He praised Iran's commitment to preserving its rich cultural heritage and highlighted the selection of 16 cities and villages as global handicraft locations as an evidence to the diversity and richness of Iranian arts.

Al-Qaddumi described the festival as a unique opportunity for participants to come together, share ideas, and honor the invaluable worth of traditional handicrafts. He expressed gratitude to all those who contributed to the event's success and emphasized the festival's role in enhancing connections between Iranian artists and the international handicraft community. As the festival drew to a close, Al-Qaddumi underscored the importance of preserving and promoting cultural traditions, encouraging participants to continue fostering the relationships formed during the event. He expressed hope that the connections established would lead to new collaborative opportunities in the future.

General Tender for Rexroth Permanent Magnet Motor
Saipa Wheel Manufacturing Company intends to purchase 1 Rexroth Permanent Magnet Motor. Interested companies are requested to offer their quote based on the specifications mentioned in the attached file on: www.kswco.com. Please receive the tender form and send your PI to commercial2@kswco.com by March 03 2025. Please write Tender No 031195 in email subject.
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