



Tehran Symphony Orchestra stages 'Khosouf' inspired by Karbala tragedy

Arts & Culture Desk

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra staged two performances of 'Khosouf', one of Iran's landmark contemporary symphonic works inspired by the tragedy of Karbala, at Tehran's Vahdat Hall on Thursday and Friday, bringing to the stage a large-scale musical interpretation of one of the defining events in Shia history. The work, composed by Mohammad Saeed Sharifian, was performed under guest conductor Arash Amini, with vocals by Hadi Feizabadi and the orchestra's choir led by Behrang Shegarfkar. Friday's performance followed the opening night's concert, Fars News Agency reported. 'Khosouf', which literally means an eclipse of the

moon in Persian, is regarded as one of the leading works in Iran's contemporary symphonic repertoire centered on Karbala. Inspired by the epic of Ashura, it combines a symphony orchestra, choir and solo vocals to explore themes of sacrifice, freedom, faith and the pursuit of truth. The two-night performance gave audiences an opportunity to take in a symphonic interpretation of one of the defining events in Shia history. The symphonic poem is structured as five continuous movements that guide audiences through a poetic and spiritual journey to the tragedy of Karbala, where Imam Hussein (PBUH), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) and the

third Imam of Shia Muslims, was martyred more than 14 centuries ago in an unequal battle against the army of Yazid, the tyrannical ruler at the time.

The opening movement, "Introduction", draws on verses by the renowned Persian mystic Khajeh Abdollah Ansari. It is followed by "The Caravan's Journey to Karbala", featuring poetry by Bijan Taraqqi.

The third movement, "Tasua and Dialogue", leads into "The Final Night of Prayer", while the concluding section, "Ashura Day and Night of Strangers", depicts the Day of Ashura and the mourning that followed.

The integration of classical Persian poetry with large-scale symphonic orchestration creates an atmosphere



Iranian conductor Arash Amini leads a Tehran Symphony Orchestra performance at the iconic Vahdat Hall in Tehran, Iran, on August 6, 2026.

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of reflection and heroic sorrow.

The performances featured an extensive ensemble of string, woodwind, brass, percussion and harp musicians alongside the full choir, with Feizabadi performing the vocal passages. Mohammad Yahyazadeh served as orchestra manager, while Mohammadreza Karimi was concertmaster.

Rather than relying on direct narration, 'Khosouf' uses the expressive power of orchestral music, choral performance and solo voice



to invite audiences to reflect on the human dimensions of

the Karbala tragedy through a distinctive fusion of sym-

phonic music with religious and cultural themes.

Iran, Azerbaijan ink three-year sports cooperation deal



Social Desk

Iran and Azerbaijan signed a three-year program on sports and youth cooperation covering 2026-2028.

The agreement was signed in Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, by Iran's Minister of Sports and Youth Ahmad Donyamali and his Azeri counterpart Farid Gayibov after talks aimed at fostering cooperation in the sector, Mehr News Agency reported on Friday. Donyamali said the two countries should strengthen what he called "sports diplomacy."

Gayibov welcomed closer ties, saying that his country was ready to enhance sports cooperation with Iran in all fields

Under the program, Iran and Azerbaijan agreed to increase cooperation between sports federations, hold joint training camps and competitions, promote exchanges of coaches and athletes, expand cooperation in education, research and talent identification, and build up the use of each country's capabilities in the fields of sport and youth.

During the meeting, Donyamali thanked the Azerbaijani government and

people for expressing sympathy following the martyrdom of the leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in a US-Israeli strike on his residence in Tehran on February 28 and conveyed Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian's greetings to the Azerbaijani people and President Ilham Aliyev.

The Iranian delegation included Ambassador Mojtaba Damirchilou, Deputy Minister for Championship and Professional Sports Development Mohammad Shervin Asbaghian, Director General for International Affairs Mohammad Hassan Taghizadeh, Director General for Public Relations and Information Mohsen Motamedkia, and Alireza Hedayatpour, deputy for cultural cooperation and NGOs at Iran's Public Diplomacy Centre of the Foreign Ministry.

Iran to begin restoration of UNESCO-listed Soltaniyeh Dome interior soon

Arts & Culture Desk

Iran will start restoring the interior of the UNESCO-listed Dome of Soltaniyeh, one of the world's largest brick domes, in about a month's time after the government approved funding for the project, a provincial heritage official told IRNA on Friday.

Mikaeil Mousavi, director-general of cultural heritage, tourism and handicrafts for Zanjan province in northwestern Iran, said the government had allocated about \$161,000 for the repair, with an initial phase worth around \$43,000 due to get under way first.

The announcement follows a recent visit by Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Reza Salehi Amiri, who called for renovation work on the World Heritage site to be accelerated.

Mousavi said a contractor would be selected in the coming days before work begins.

The first phase will include restoration of the eastern and western sections of the dome, the construction and installation of a wooden entrance door, tile restoration



on the eastern side and improvements to the area surrounding archaeological excavations.

The second phase will focus on restoring the dome's inscriptions and interior sections.

Mousavi said that if the full budget is allocated, other damaged parts of the monument will also be restored, providing greater protection for the UNESCO World Heritage site.

Located about 40 km from the city of Zanjan, the Soltaniyeh Dome was built between 1302 and 1312 during the reign of Ilkhanid ruler Sultan Mohammad Khodabandeh, also known as Oljaitu. It is the only surviving structure of the former Soltaniyeh citadel complex, which once

included a mosque and other buildings. The monument is regarded as one of the most significant mausoleum structures of the Islamic period and one of the world's most important architectural landmarks. It is considered one of the earliest surviving examples of a double-shell dome in Iran, an innovation that later influenced monumental structures including the Taj Mahal in India and the dome of Florence Cathedral.

The octagonal structure, which rises about 50 meters above ground and is surrounded by eight slender minarets designed to improve earthquake resistance, is also renowned for its richly decorated interior.

Although much of its exterior ornamentation has disappeared, its interior still preserves extensive tilework, stucco, wall paintings and mosaics covering an estimated 9,000 square meters, making it one of Iran's most richly decorated historic monuments.

The Soltaniyeh Dome was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List in 2005 and remains one of Iran's best-known architectural treasures.

Pakistan envoy: Lasting...

Iran's Leader has particularly mentioned Pakistan in one of his statements and described it as a friendly country. How could this view influence bilateral relations?

We are grateful for the remarks by the "Rahbar" (Leader) regarding Pakistan. He essentially encapsulated the spirit of the relationship between Pakistan and Iran and reflected the sentiment of the leadership on both sides. We want to build on that. We hope to further strengthen our relationship in multiple fields, including trade, the economy, people-to-people contacts and cultural exchanges. Both sides should continue working together to promote mutual understanding on issues of importance to our two countries.

On regional security, to what extent does Pakistan believe security should be en-

sured through cooperation among regional countries rather than through the involvement of extra-regional powers?

Pakistan has always called for dialogue and diplomacy to resolve issues among brotherly countries in the region. All regional states are Muslim countries, and they share a great deal in terms of faith. There are also many commonalities in culture, economic frameworks and history. We need to build on these shared foundations. Security is an important aspect of both bilateral and multilateral relations. Therefore, the best approach would be to address our security challenges through regional initiatives. We need to initiate dialogue among all countries in the region to address these issues and find lasting solutions to the factors that create insecurity, particularly for the smaller states of the region. To achieve this, all regional countries have an important role to play.

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0440046

First Announcement

The National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) is seeking to procure the specified goods listed in the table below through a Qualitative Evaluation Call for conducting a public tender via the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD). All stages of the tender process including the receipt of tender documents, submission of bidders' proposals, and the opening of bid envelopes, shall be carried out exclusively through the Government Electronic Procurement System (SETAD) portal at www.setadiran.ir. Bidders who have not previously registered must complete the registration process on the aforementioned portal and obtain an Electronic Signature certificate to participate in the tender.

Item	Material Description	Quantity	UNIT
01	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-1/2 IN., I.A.D.C. 5.1/7	25	NO
02	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 8-3/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 5.1/7	10	NO
03	ROCK BITS, JET TYPE, LESS NOZZLES 6-1/8 IN., I.A.D.C. 5.1/7	35	NO
04	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 8-3/8 TO 12-1/4 INCH	40	NO
05	NOZZLES FOR SIZE 5-5/8 TO 6-3/4 INCH	40	NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at www.setadiran.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 5,254/87 EURO or 8,951,700,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS CFR, BANDAR IMAM KHOMEINI, IRAN. PAYMENT TERM IS C.A.D INCLUDING 25% ADVANCE PAYMENT, SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex, Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
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PUBLIC RELATIONS

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