What is to be done. O Moslems? for I do not recognize myself.
I am neither Christian, nor Jew, nor Gabe, nor Moslem.
I am not of the East, nor of the West, nor of land, nor of sea;
I am not of Nature’s mint, nor of the circling’ heaven.
I am not of earth, nor of water, nor of air, nor of fire;
I am not of the empyrean, nor of the dust, nor of existence, nor of entity.
I am not of India, nor of China, nor of Bulgaria, nor of Saosin
I am not of the kingdom of ‘Iraqian, nor of the country of Khurasan
I am not of this world, nor of the next, nor of Paradise, nor of Hell
I am not of Adam, nor of Eve, nor of Eden and Bizwan.
My place is the Placeless, my trace is the Traceless:
’Tis neither body nor soul, for I belong to the soul of the Beloved.
Rumi

Tower Sounds: Ancient Voices and Electronics

by

Shahrokh Yadegari
featuring the voice of
Siamak Shajarian
and
Kate St-Pierre: Vocals
Keyavash Nourai: Violin
Dmitri Mehlis: Oud
Sainam Ramgotra:Tabla, Percussion

at Ann Hamilton’s Tower
on the Oliver Ranch
Geyersville, California
July 11, 2009 at 1:00pm

Lawrence Rinder: Curator
Michael Creason: Design Services Associate, Meyer Sound
Toby Algys: Associate Sound Designer
David Corsello: Assistant Sound Designer/Recording Engineer
Rachel Shachar: Costume Designer
Samantha Watson: Stage Manager
Blair R. Nelson: Company Manager
Shilla Shakoori: Graphic Designer
Manisha Navi: Production Assistant
Parvin Javid: Managing Director of Persian Arts Society

This event has become possible by the generous support of Steven and Nancy Oliver.
Shahrokh Yadegari  

(Ph.D. UCSD), composer and sound designer, has collaborated with such artists as Peter Sellars, Robert Woodruff, Maya Heiser, Steven Seitchik, and Vibeke Sorensen. His music has been performed and he has performed in such venues as the Carnegie Hall, Festival of Arts and Ideas, Ravinia Festival, Holland Festival, Vienna Festival, Forum Barcelona, and the International Computer Music Conference. He is currently on the faculty at the University of California, San Diego where he has founded a progressive sound design program at the department of Theatre and Dance.

Siamak Shajarian  

public musical life began when the Ministry of Culture and the Arts in Mashhad sponsored him at age eleven. He inherited his talents in singing from his father and in calligraphy from his mother. He studied the Persian vocal art (avaz) and its Radif with Ghafoorjan and Ghomol Hossein Zahireadin, and completed his studies under the direction of his brother, Mohammad Reza Shajarian and Esmaecl Mchritsh. In addition to mastering the vocal Radif of Persian traditional music, Shajarian has also studied Tar, Santur and Tombak. In 1977, he moved to the United States. Soon after he joined Oshagh Ensemble and gave numerous concerts across the U.S. and Canada. Shajarian has appeared on many festivals and radio interviews. His most recent recordings are "Kerekesheb" with Payvar Ensemble, "Shoukhe-e Sangdel" by Mohammad Ali Kiani-nejad, and "Light and Fire" with Lian Ensemble. Currently he lives in Los Angeles where he teaches Persian traditional vocal Radif.

Kate St-Pierre  

is most recognized for her versatility, be it in her voice or her character work. Vocally she is renown for her ethnic qualities, her throaty grunge-like belt into a pure operatic tone and her passionate phrasing. Kate has recorded works for multiple film scores and soundtracks. Recent releases include the soundtrack by Benoit Jutras (Cirque du Soleil, Journey of Man) for the new Franco Dragone (Cirque du Soleil, Celine’s New Day) show, for legendary film trailer composer Thomas J. Bergersen and again worked with Benoit Jutras for his 6 Flags project. Kate performed with her band KAVANAH at the Coachella Music Festival, and then went on to tour Europe with the band SOLACE.

Keyvash Nourai  

was born in Tehran, Iran where he began his serious pursuit of a musical career at the age of 10. He studied the violin and kamanche with the acclaimed Kamran Daronghue until he moved to United States in 1977. He continued his musical studies in the United States under the tutelage of Alexander Treger, Eugene Fedor, Mark Menzies, and other prominent musicians. In addition, Nourai extended his skills by studying under the Indian violin masters L. Subramaniam and L. Shankar. He attended the school of music at California State University, Northridge and earned his Bachelor’s degree in world music from the California Institute of the Arts, where he later earned his masters degree in Western Classical Violin.

At the present time, Nourai plays and teaches numerous Persian Instruments, such as setar, santur, tom-bak, and the quartettone piano. His recent focus is on arranging many traditional Persian songs in the style of Western Classical Music. Keyvash Nourai is proficient in various musical genres including Western Classical, Traditional Persian as well as fusion Jazz.

Dmitri Mahlis, oudist, guitarist, multi instrumentalist, is a musician of depth. Well versed in the musical philosophy of both eastern and western traditions, Dimitri studied western music theory at Berklee College of Music in Boston. Dimitri has had a fruitful career as a guitarist playing jazz and modern styles as well as being a composer for his own projects. Performance credits include: Axion of Choice, Hassan Hakmoun, Greek legend Grigoris Bithikotsis, Nyaz, jazz projectect Freddie Hubbard, Arito Moreira, Kevyn Lettau. Dimitri currently holds two of his own bands. Babaghanoush which showcases his compositions for guitar, and prana which features music written for oud.

Satnam Ramgottar  

is the latest addition to the Asian Underground movement making waves into pop culture. Collaborating with jazz artist Rodney Lee, Satnam has brought new light to the modern day piano by infusing elements of Indian Classical tabla.

Satnam has toured with world-renowned musicians in the past dozen years, including Beck, Sting, Seal, Vikka Costa, Lili Haydn, among other talents. Satnam has also recorded and performed with a myriad of artists, including Macy Gray and Hans Zimmer. His dynamic work on the drums and percussions has become increasingly popular in Hollywood. Satnam's credits include television shows M.D.'s (ABC/Disney), The Late Show with Craig Kilborn, the Rosie O'Donnell Show, CBS Morning Show, Late World with Zack, The Radio Music Awards (2001), and BBC's Top of the Pops. His drums and percussions can also be heard in major motion pictures such as Black Hawk Down, John Q, Zoolander, and most recently Matchstick Men.