Farhang Foundation is a nonreligious, nonpolitical, and nonprofit foundation dedicated to celebrating Iranian art and culture for the benefit of the community at large.
In March 2020, as Farhang was preparing for its annual celebration of Nowruz at UCLA, we were...
On July 16, 2019, Farhang Foundation was honored to once again join forces with our great partners at Grand Performances in presenting the inaugural Audacity of Sound music festival. This nonstop, immersive, and interactive seven-hour live musical extravaganza showcased Grand Performances’ joyous love for music from around the world, championing Los Angeles’s deep talent pool, producing signature, one-of-a-kind collaborations telling L.A. stories – both then and now.

Farhang Foundation was proud to continue our long-running partnership with Grand Performances in showcasing Iranian music at this year’s festival. The year’s featured Iranian artists included vocalist Sara Naeini, as well as Iranian composer and Setar virtuoso Masoud Rezai.
Originated by The Broad, Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again was the largest exhibition to date of internationally acclaimed artist Shirin Neshat’s approximately thirty-year career. The exhibition featured over 230 photographs and eight immersive video installations, offering a rare glimpse into the evolution of Neshat’s artistic journey as she explored topics of exile, displacement, and identity with beauty, dynamic formal invention, and poetic grace.

Beginning with her early photograph series, WOMEN OF ALLAH, the exhibition features iconic video works such as RAPTURE, TURBULENT, and PASSAGE, monumental photography installations including THE BOOK OF KINGS and THE HOME OF MY EYES, and the global debut of LAND OF DREAMS, a new, multilayered work featuring a body of photographs and two videos. Farhang Foundation was proud to be the cultural partner of this historic exhibition.
Un-Private Collection: A Conversation with Shirin Neshat, Shoja Azari, and Ghasem Ebrahimian

The Broad’s Un-Private Collection series presented a conversation with Shirin Neshat, joined by her longtime collaborators, Shoja Azari and Ghasem Ebrahimian, moderated by Ed Schad, the curator of The Broad’s special exhibition, Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again. Susan Deyhim, a frequent musical collaborator, performed live excerpts from Neshat’s films.

Sussan Deyhim, a frequent musical collaborator, performed live excerpts from Neshat’s films.

The Broad at ARRAY: Shirin Neshat + Garrett Bradley

The Broad and filmmaker Ava DuVernay’s nonprofit film collective ARRAY brought together Iranian-born artist Shirin Neshat and New Orleans-based filmmaker Garrett Bradley (whose films are featured in this year’s Whitney Biennial) at the new ARRAY campus in Historic Filipinotown.

The event began with screenings of excerpts from Neshat’s new work, Land of Dreams, and Bradley’s short film, America, followed by a conversation with the artists on the themes of movements and migrations across time and land, which are explored in their work.

Allegories of Flight at The Broad

Presented in conjunction with the special exhibition, Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again, Allegories of Flight explores the Iranian American artist’s influences, including artists and filmmakers whose works embody “poetic, philosophical, and highly politically charged narratives and visual style.” Neshat has stated that her own work — whether made in Morocco, Mexico, the United States, or Iran — offers more questions than answers. Mysticism is important to Neshat’s practice and to Iranian culture, where flight plays an important role as a metaphor for the freeing of the spirit. This event included live music, poetry readings, and performances featuring artists mining a plethora of themes found in Neshat’s work and Persian literature — including resistance, healing, metaphor, and mysticism — to tell stories across a constellation of cultures and identities.

Renowned poets Natalie Diaz and Naomi Shihab Nye presented their work in Oculus Hall; Saint Abdullah and Davia Spain with Matías Anaya activated the first floor lobby space with live music; and Black Lives Matter cofounder Patrisse Cullors performed a newly commissioned performance work in the exhibition galleries.

Shirin Neshat: The Logic of Poetry

In conjunction with Shirin Neshat: I Will Greet the Sun Again, this event took place in the exhibition galleries, and poets, scholars, and artists across a range of media and from varied backgrounds, performed, and reflected upon Neshat’s works and delved into the universal themes of the exhibition: mysticism, metaphor, exile, politics, the natural world, feminism, and intimacy. Featured guests included (in order of appearance) Sholeh Wolpé, Sahba Molatabeli, Majid Naficy, Kazim Ali, Carolina Rivera Escamilla, Jazmin Garcia, Jennifer Saporzadeh, Vickie Vertiz, Houman Sarshar, Odarya Nini, Christopher Soto, Dana Washington, and Shonda Buchanan.
Farhang Foundation was proud to support USC’s Persian Academic and Cultural Student Association (PACSA) in collaboration with the Kiarostami Foundation in presenting a series of documentaries as part of their DocuNight film series. The free screenings included:

- The Story of Boulevard & The Mannequins of Ghale Hassan Khan by Davood Ashrafi and Sam Kalantari
- Flax to Fire by Aliasghar Hajibaba
- Puzzley by Mehdi Ganji
- Like A Woman by Mojgan Farnia
- Janbol by Vina Bazorgmehr and Hadi Kamali Moghaddam
- Finding Farideh by Kourosh Moebe and Azadeh Moussavi
- The Broker by Azadi Moghaddam
- Homework by Abbas Kiarostami
- Platform by Sadar Mosayebi
- and Fight Feast by Seyed Vahid Hasselini
Feasting Iranian Style: A Symposium on Food

We were proud to join forces with UCI Irvine’s Jordan Center for Persian Studies in presenting a series of free lectures and cuisine-tasting events featuring the history of Iranian Cuisine. The talk featured renowned scholars.

“Meat in Ancient Iran: From the Gathas of Zarathushtra to the Shahnameh of Ferdowsi”
By Dr. Touraj Daryaee – Maseeh Chair in Persian Studies – U.C. Irvine | Director, Jordan Center for Persian Studies

“Scraps from the King’s Table: The Invention of the Qajar Cuisine”
By Dr. Khodadad Rezakhani – Associate Research Scholar – Princeton University

“Dining with the King: The Fine Art of Feasting at the Persian Courts”
By Dr. Linda Komaroff – Curator of Islamic Art – Los Angeles County Museum of Art

The event concluded with a Qajar-era cuisine-tasting feast by Parastoo Rezaei of Maison de la Fork.

17th Annual Iranian Cultural Show

The UCLA Iranian Student Group’s Annual Cultural Show entered its 17th year in 2019, bringing people of all cultures and backgrounds together to enjoy Iranian culture through the performing arts. This year’s event featured an exclusive headlining concert by Iranian alternative rock musician Ali Azimi, who joined us from London. The event took place at UCLA’s Historic Royce Hall and also featured traditional dances and theatrical performances by UCLA students.
The 4th Annual Celebration of Iranian Cinema at UCI Irvine was held on September 7 and 8, 2019, in collaboration with the Jordan Center for Persian Studies, and copresented by the UCLA Film & Television Archive.

The event featured the O.C. premiere of four critically acclaimed Iranian films including *Hendi & Hormoz*, *Sheeple*, *Before Summer Ends*, and *Tehran, City of Love*. This annual event presents the best in Iranian film to our Orange County audience for an exclusive weekend of cinema.
The 11th Annual Farhang Short Film Festival Awards Ceremony was held on September 30, 2019, at UCLA’s Schoenberg Hall. The sold-out event was hosted by actress and comedian Melissa Shoshahi, and the top six short films of the year were screened to an audience of over five hundred. First Prize of $10,000 was awarded to Saman Salehi and Payam Hajibabaei for their film, *Wireless*. Second Prize of $5,000 was awarded to Leila Khalilzadeh for her animated film *The Fried Fish*, and Third Prize of $3,000 was awarded to Masmam Rezooee for her outstanding drama *Family of Too Many*.

The Farhang Short Film Festival is the only festival in the world dedicated to celebrating Iranian short films, with over $180,000 in cash prizes awarded to winning filmmakers from around the world. The red-carpet ceremony was followed by an after-party and reception with music by DJ Omid Walizadeh.

The 2019 jury panel included the legendary father of Iranian animation, Dr. Noureddin Zarrinkelk, Golden Globe-winning composer Richard Horowitz, screenwriter and playwright Dr. Naghmeh Samini, award-winning actor and writer Saber Abar, and jury chair Mark Amiri, CEO of Sidsra Films.
Farhang Foundation in collaboration with the Craft Contemporary of Los Angeles presented the Orange County exhibition opening of FOCUS IRAN: Contemporary Photography and Video, a biennial juried exhibition of contemporary photography and video works established in 2015 exploring Iranian culture or heritage. The exhibition, which debuted at the Craft Contemporary in Los Angeles in January 2019, traveled to UCI’s Viewpoint Gallery for the second leg of the tour. The exhibition kicked off with a special opening reception with the artists from the show, and the free show ran from October 5 to November 6, 2019.
Farhang Foundation and the Jordan Center for Persian Studies hosted the 5th Annual Mehregan Conference and Celebration at UC Irvine.

The event featured two riveting talks:

“Hidden and Evident Myths in Iran’s Dramatic Literature” by Dr. Naghmeh Samini

“ Mythology in War Poetry” by Mrs. Sayeh Eghtesadnia.

The event featured two riveting talks: “Hidden and Evident Myths in Iran’s Dramatic Literature” by Dr. Naghmeh Samini and “Mythology in War Poetry” by Mrs. Sayeh Eghtesadnia.

The free event was attended by over three hundred guests and concluded with a live concert performance by Shayandokht Abedinimanesh, Dara Afraz, and Maryam Fouladi.

Women in Contemporary Persian Literature, Poetry, and Journalism

USC’s Persian Academic and Cultural Student Association presented a speaker event focusing on Women in Contemporary Persian Literature, Poetry, and Journalism.

Esteemed speakers included journalist Homa Sarshar, poet Roja Chamankar, and scholar Houra Yavari. The event was moderated by poet and journalist Mandana Zandian.
On November 2, 2019, Farhang Foundation hosted its 9th Annual Fundraising Gala at the historic Beverly Wilshire Hotel in Beverly Hills. The event was attended by over five hundred guests and sponsors.

The gala event featured musical performances by Kamyar and his exciting ensemble, and the night’s master of ceremonies was the hilarious K-Von. All funds raised at this annual event support Farhang Foundation’s more than eighty annual programs, projects, and initiatives, including the historic new Iranian Music Degree Program at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music.
Hassan Solhjou is a senior producer at BBC World Service. He is the editor and presenter of a film showcase in the BBC Persian network. He studied cinema in Iran and the United Kingdom.

Joobin Bekhrad presented a talk about cultural hybridity and his experiences growing up in the Iranian diaspora, and the ways in which they have informed his acclaimed writing. Bekhrad is the founder and former editor of Reorient and the Canadian Desk Editor of Art Asia Pacific. He has also contributed to a host of other notable publications, such as Columbia University’s Columbia Journal (where he served as Online Guest Editor in late 2016), The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Economist, The Financial Times, The Guardian and The Independent, Forbes, GQ, Paper, CNN, and the BBC. He has been interviewed by Newsweek, Monocle, PRI, and the CBC, and has seen his award-winning writing translated into a wide variety of languages.

In addition to his many articles, he has translated Omar Khayyam’s Rubaiyat from Persian into English and has written a Tehran-set novella (Coming Down Again), a novel about Toronto’s Iranian community (Guguli), a book of essays and stories about Iranian culture (With My Head in the Clouds and Stars in My Eyes), and four volumes of Iran-inspired poetry (Turncoats of Paradise, Down the Twilit Hill, Elsewhere, and Lovers of Light).

The event was moderated by visual interdisciplinary artist and fashion designer Hushidar Mortezaie, a Los Angeles-based artist known for his glamorous Iranian aesthetics, humor, and political overtones, and whose designs have been worn by such notable individuals as Brad Pitt, Björk, and Beyoncé, and featured in publications including Vogue Italia, The Huffington Post, W Magazine, The L.A. Times, and Artforum.
Farhang Foundation was proud to once again support all the Iranian films at the 2019 AFI FeST, the largest film festival in the United States. This year’s highlights included the AFI FeST award winner for best Short, Sonia Haddad’s _eXAM_, as well as the U.S. premiere of _Son-Mother (Pesar-Madar)_ by Mahnaz Mohammadi.

The AFI FeST is held at the iconic Chinese Theatre in Hollywood and attended by over seventy-five thousand moviegoers annually.

Farhang Foundation proudly held its first Iranian pop-up dinner experience event featuring Chef Behzad Jamshidi and Sommelier Alissa Wilmina-Diaz for a multicourse, wine-paired tasting menu influenced and inspired by Iranian narratives and cultures. The tasty event was hosted at Chef Tom Colicchio’s CRAFT Los Angeles Restaurant in Century City and was completely sold out.
In 2019 Farhang Foundation held its 7th Annual Celebration of Shab-e Yalda (the celebration of the Winter Solstice) – an ancient Persian tradition – in Schoenberg Hall at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music. The night included music, poetry, and storytelling, featuring the one and only Gordafarid, the world’s first female epic Story Teller (Naqal), with music by the Kooban Ensemble.
Farhang Foundation, the USC Libraries, and the USC Dornsife Department of Middle East Studies presented a crowdsourced exhibition curated by Dr. Pedram Khosronejad. Aroosí: 150 Years of Iranian Wedding Traditions explored their great ethnic diversity, religious plurality, and cultural differences. Iranian society considers the wedding ritual and its related ceremonies and customs to be one of the most important pillars of Persian culture. Iranian families within Iran and in the diaspora celebrate the weddings of their loved ones with great joy and happiness.

This first-ever exhibit provided a remarkable cultural insight through fascinating visual art and material culture of the Iranian wedding since the reign of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar (r. 1848-1896). The exhibition covered not only the formal aspects, such as the pre-wedding documents and the beautifully ornamented marriage contracts, but also Qajar embroidered fabrics and textiles, paintings, and photographs demonstrating the diversity of wedding traditions among Iranian families. The free exhibition was on display from February 23, 2020, through August 31, 2021, at USC’s Doheny Library.

Special thanks to all who participated in this exhibition by lending their wedding treasures and artifacts for this project.
Presented in conjunction with AROOSI: 150 YEARS OF IRANIAN WEDDING TRADITIONS, this talk event was one of the first interdisciplinary academic colloquia regarding Iranian traditional weddings and related ceremonies, initiated by the Farhang Foundation, USC Libraries, and USC Dornsife Department of Middle East Studies.

Distinguished specialists related to Iran (historian, ethnomusicologist, and social anthropologist) discussed different historical, sociocultural, and performative aspects of the rich tradition of Iranian weddings during Qajar-era Iran (1796-1925).

Based on historical narratives from the autobiographies of Qajar rulers and foreign travelers, and also through the examination of the art objects and material culture of this important period in the history of Iran, speakers opened new windows and presented their fresh research findings to their audience.

FEATURED SPEAKERS:
- Pedram Khosronejad (Western Sydney University): The Importance of Persian Wedding Photographs and Material Culture in Preservation of Family History
- Shahla Bahavar (University of Southern California): Introduction to the USC Persian and Iranian Library Collection
- Manoutchehr Eskandari-Qajar (Santa Barbara City College): Wedding Ceremonies at the Court of the Early Qajar Shahs
- Hari Khalfpour (University of Southern California): Weddings in Safavid Iran as Seen by European Visitors
- Amir Pourjavady (University of California, Los Angeles): Music in Persian Weddings During the Late Qajar-Era Iran

Irish-American poet / writer / playwright Sholeh Wolpé and Iranian playwright Nassim Soleimanpour were joined by Nathalie Handal, editor of the groundbreaking classic The Poetry of Arab Women: A Contemporary Anthology, and multiple prizewinning poet Lory Bedikian for readings and conversations on bridging the gap between perceptions and reality of cultural norms. The artists dug deeply into the lives they live and the lives that people in the West imagine for them.

Nassim Soleimanpour’s most recent play, Nassim, was performed as part of The Broad’s 2020/21 Season in April 2021.
In 2020 Farhang Foundation was proud to join forces with the Westfield Century City Shopping Center to celebrate Nowruz (Iranian New Year) by displaying a beautiful grand haft-Sîn in the atrium of the center for ten days during the Nowruz festivities. This marks the first time ever that a major shopping center in the United States officially celebrated Nowruz. Special thanks to After 8 Events for the beautiful haft-Sîn design.

2020 Nowruz Banner Competition
Farhang Foundation’s annual Nowruz Banner Competition began in 2011, and it has become a tradition that preludes Farhang’s signature event. The winning design is installed on more than six hundred street poles throughout the major streets of Los Angeles during the months of February and March.

Each year Farhang, through its Nowruz Banner Competition, reaches out to a global community of artists, illustrators, and graphic designers, enlisting their talents to create and submit original designs that capture the essence of Nowruz.

2020 WINNING DESIGN
SETAREH FEYLIZADEH
This year’s winning design was awarded to Iranian artist Setareh Feylizadeh from France. “Nowruz is the time for rebirth and rejuvenation; it resuscitates the dizziness and brings warmth to the cold. For centuries, Nowruz has been one of the most celebrated holidays in Iranian culture. It is part of our shared recollection as far back as history can remember. For me, Qajar imagery always sparks the notion of old and new, past and present. The new year reflects these qualities as it is a time to reflect on tradition, but also instills the hope of transformation and renewal. Participating in a competition such as this, especially one which connects us to our roots, cultures, and traditions, has been so rewarding. The ultimate prize of winning this competition is the chance to connect with another community of Persians in another part of the world through spreading the message of Nowruz, which bonds us together and brings us closer to one another.”

Born in Tehran, Setareh Feylizadeh is a graphic designer and the founder of the Lozi Graphic design firm in Paris. She started painting at an early age and focused on the arts in her formative education in Tehran. She went on to receive her Master’s in Fine Art at Azad University. In 2009 she moved to India, where she worked as a graphic designer, while also pursuing her PhD in Fine Art at Delhi University. From 1993 to 2011, her work was showcased in numerous exhibitions within Iran and India. Setareh moved to Paris in 2013, where she currently works in different fields such as graphic design, visual identity, corporate design, and visual art.

Nowruz Haft-Sîn at Westfield Century City
In 2020 Farhang Foundation was proud to join forces with the Westfield Century City Shopping Center to celebrate Nowruz (Iranian New Year) by displaying a beautiful grand haft-Sîn in the atrium of the center for ten days during the Nowruz festivities. This marks the first time ever that a major shopping center in the United States officially celebrated Nowruz. Special thanks to After 8 Events for the beautiful haft-Sîn design.
Farhang Foundation and the UCLA Library Film & Television Archive proudly presented the long-running annual celebration of the best in Iranian cinema. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the films were presented online with a number of world premieres that were attended by over a thousand viewers throughout the United States and Canada, thus exposing this beloved series to more individuals than ever before.

PREMIERE FILMS INCLUDED:

- **Coupl 53**
  - Directed by Mona Zandi Haghighi
  - Starring Fatemeh Motamed Araya
  - Old Secrets Cast Long Shadows

- **Afghan Violet**
  - Directed by Mona Zandi Haghighi
  - Starring Fatemeh Motamed Araya

- **Nasrin**
  - Directed by Jeff Kaufman
  - Narrated by Olivia Colman

- **Deer**
  - Directed by Neon Kianian
  - Starring Ronay Zamani

- **Sun Children**
  - Directed by Majid Majidi
  - Starring Rouhollah Zamani

- **There Is No Evil**
  - Directed by Mohammad Rasoulof
A Global Destination for Art

Farhang Foundation was proud to partner with the Fowler Museum at UCLA in presenting A GLOBAL DESTINATION FOR ART in two virtual episodes focusing on accomplished Iranian artists. Artists from all over the world flock to work in Los Angeles, drawn by the energy of ingenuity and the space for experimental expression.

AMIR H. FALLAH

We were delighted to help support an artist-led walk-through of Amir H. Fallah’s exhibition at Shulamit Nazarian Los Angeles, followed by a conversation with Shiva Balaghi.

ARDESHIR TABRIZI

Our second artist visit included Ardeshir Tabrizi’s colorful mixed media paintings and works on paper featuring imagery and methods that reference the rich literary and visual traditions of Iran, a country he left in his childhood.

2020

AFI FEST

Presented by

Farhang Foundation was proud to continue our partnership with the AFI FEST for the sixth year, supporting all the Iranian films at America’s largest film festival.

This year’s highlights included the U.S. premiere of Mohammad Rasoulof’s award-winning film THERE IS NO EVIL, winner of the Golden Bear at the Berlin Film Festival. THERE IS NO EVIL became the most viewed foreign film at the festival.

In addition, we were also thrilled to present the premiere of The VISIT by Azadeh Moussavi.

The 34th edition of the AFI FEST was presented as a virtual festival because of the ongoing pandemic. With geographic and financial barriers removed, AFI FEST 2020 attracted nearly 57,000 filmgoers to screenings of 125 films from 39 countries.
8th Annual Virtual Celebration of Shab-e Yalda

In 2020 Farhang Foundation was proud to continue our long-running tradition of celebrating Shab-e Yalda, and although this year we were not able to greet our guests in person as we usually do at UCLA’s Schoenberg Hall, we were delighted to welcome over eighteen hundred guests from over thirty countries to our virtual celebrations.

The program featured storytelling by the world’s first female Iranian epic storyteller Gorjabad, as well as Hafez readings and storytelling by Kahrin Marzouki Gabbay, and very special musical performances by renowned musicians Shahin Shahrada and the Mehrbanoo Band. We were delighted to be able to share the joys of Yalda with a truly global audience this year.
10th Annual Farhang Foundation Fundraising Virtual Gala

Farhang Foundation celebrated its 10th Annual Fundraising Gala on Saturday, November 7, 2021. This year’s event was held online and was attended by over a thousand guests from over fifty countries. As part of the celebrations, Farhang Foundation reached out to three Iranian musical artists from around the globe to join us virtually with special performances dedicated to legendary Iranian performers of their choice.

We are thankful to all our incredible donors and sponsors for their generosity during this challenging year.

Special Thanks

SUSTAINING CHAIRS:
Nushin & Farhad Mohit
F. Francis & Dionne Najafi / Pivotal Foundation
Ali C. Razi

SUSTAINING CO-CHAIRS
Mark Amin
Mehraban & Taraneh Khajehnouri

Arash Avin
Tribute to Banou Homeyra

Niaz Nawab & Erwin Khachikian
Tribute to Forough Farrokhzad

FarAvaz
Tribute to Ramesh and Pouran

We are thankful to all our incredible donors and sponsors for their generosity during this challenging year.
Our annual Distinguished Lecture Series at USC was presented online for the very first time in our long history, and it allowed more attendees to join us from all over the world. We were honored to welcome Professor Abbas Amanat (Yale University) to this year’s virtual lectures. Professor Amanat (BA, Tehran University, 1971; DPhil, University of Oxford, 1981) has taught and written about the early-modern and modern history of Iran, the Muslim world, the Middle East, and the Persianate world for more than three decades. He is a Consulting Editor and longtime contributor to *Encyclopaedia Iranica* and is currently the Director of the Yale Program in Iranian Studies at the Yale MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies.

We kicked off 2021 with a new virtual series in collaboration with celebrity Chef Mojdeh Eghbal in a one-hour special. The program presented a special three-course dinner menu influenced by regional cuisines of Iran, and we invited various celebrity guests to join us for an intimate dinner where they could share their personal thoughts about their cultural identity and how their Iranian background influenced them in their lives and careers. Our debut episode featured Yara Bahonar (Renowned Violinist), Tara Grammy (Actor/Creator/Host of Persia’s Got Talent), Farzad Kohan (Renowned Artist), Nazanin Noor (Actor/Writer/Judge on Persia’s Got Talent), Sunny Razvanzach (White Lilac Inc.), and Ali Sabet (Renowned Artist).
We were proud to be able to return to celebrating Nowruz in 2021 with the virtual 12th Annual Celebration of Nowruz. This year's free program had over fifty-five hundred registered guests who joined us for the live event. For the first time in Farhang history we were able to welcome attendees to our celebration from four continents and twenty countries, and we were extremely proud to have featured guest artists from around the world with live performances from the United States, Europe, and Iran.

Performers included: Mahdieh Mohammadkhani & Azad Mirzapour from Iran, Niyaz Featuring Azam Ali from the United States, Ramtin Ghazavi Accompanied by Davin Ghazavi from Italy, the Istgah Orchestra from Iran, the Atine Ensemble from France, Shookas Aghar from the United States, and the Melieka Fathi Dance Company from the United States. To top things off our young students from our Persian 101 After-School Program at the Los Angeles Unified School District delivered a heartwarming dance performance that they had prepared virtually as a group.

The celebrations didn’t forget about our younger audience members either. Leading up to Nowruz, we created two Nowruz children’s arts-and-crafts projects for our little Farhangees thanks to our Nowruz committee member Ms. Neda Rouhani, who helps our younger viewers learn how to create fun and artistic Nowruz art projects at home.
Farhang Foundation proudly presented this free virtual concert event gifted to all residents of Southern California. The exclusive concert by the legendary Kayhan Kalhor honoring the legacy of Mohammad-Reza Shajarian was presented as a part of Farhang Foundation’s Annual Celebration of Nowruz in Orange County. Beautifully produced under the artistic direction of Master Kayhan Kalhor, it featured all-new music by Master Kalhor in memory of the passing of beloved Iranian singer and cultural icon Mohammad-Reza Shajarian.

Special guests included the stage debut of Hadi Hosseini. The concert took place in the singularly spectacular location of the Mahinestan House – which dates back to the Qajar Dynasty – in the ancient desert city Kashan, an important stop on the magnificent Silk Road that is full of history. The passing of Iran’s most beloved and admired vocalist M. R. Shajarian in October 2020 has left a country in mourning and an acute emptiness in the musical landscape of Iran. Shajarian’s voice was loved by over a hundred million Persian-speaking people and music lovers worldwide. He was considered a national hero, and his songs and legacy are permanently and indelibly embedded in Iranian culture.

Lost in the Desert Sky: Kayhan Kalhor Ensemble in Memory of Mohammad-Reza Shajarian was produced by Isabel Soffer and The Generators in partnership with Kayhan Kalhor.

Farhang Foundation joined forces with the prestigious Pacific Symphony of Orange County in presenting our free annual celebration of Nowruz.

Guest artists included pianist and composer Shardad Rohani, guitarist Lily Afshar, vocalist Sara Hamidi, and the brilliant Sohrab Pournazeri improvising on the tanbour from Tehran. The virtual event was hosted by actress and comedian Melissa Shoshahi.

Special thanks to the Pacific Symphony Orchestra and musical director Carl St.Clair.
We were delighted to return to the Westfield Century City Shopping Center in 2021 for the second year in a row in presenting our Grand Haft-Sîn display at one of Los Angeles’s most popular shopping centers. We applaud the Westfield for recognizing the ancient tradition of Nowruz and including this celebration as part of their annual programs. Special thanks to After Eight Event Productions for another exceptional Haft-Sîn design.

Nowruz
AT WESTFIELD CENTURY CITY

Nowruz
Piruz
A Persian Feast
Celebrating the
Iranian New Year

Farhang Foundation and Michelin Star restaurant Knife Pleat presented Nowruz Piruz: A Persian Feast Celebrating the Iranian New Year. The five-course menu by Chef Tony Esnault and Ms. Shamsi presented guests a variety of spectacular dishes, all focusing on the various delights of the Nowruz holiday.
Farhang Foundation and the New West Symphony joined forces in presenting Global Sounds, Local Cultures, A TOUR OF IRAN, as part of the Symphony’s 2020-21 virtual season, which highlighted the extraordinary communities of Southern California.

The Tour of Iran program was presented under the direction of Grammy Award-Winning musical director Michael Christie and featured renowned Iranian musicians Pejman Hadadi, Masoud Rezaei, and Grammy Award Winner Hamid Saeidi, as well as two-time Grammy Award Winner Mezzo Soprano Sasha Cooke. Special guests included Choreographer Melieka Fathi and renowned Iranologist Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak.

FEATURING MUSIC BY:

Raham: Seven Valleys of Love for Strings (Simorgh, Murmuration)

Mozart: Magic Flute Overture

Ranjbaran: Enchanted Garden: Joy

Rameau: Suite from Zoroastre

Handel: Xerxes: “Ombra mai fu”

Gounod: from the Opera “Faust”

Entr’Acte | Faites lui mes aveux (Flower Song) | Si le bonheur (When fortune beckons)

Rezaei: From album “Nothingness”

“Another Birth” | “Cold Autumn” | “Failure”

A virtual reception with Michael Christie and guest artists followed immediately after the concert.
Our historic Iranian Music Program at UCLA’s Herb Alpert School of Music launched its first annual music conference series under the direction of newly appointed director of the program, Professor Farzad Amoozegar. The series featured musicians Sepideh Raissadat and Azam Ali, who each gave compelling presentations on Iranian music.

Ms. Raissadat’s presentation was titled Within the Walls: A Temporal and Spatial Overview of the Lives of Female Singers in Iran.

Ms. Ali’s presentation was titled An Allegory of Belief, Truth, Power, and Resistance in Art. Taking a self-reflective approach, she examined how music serves different aspirations for a second-generation Iranian, often playing a central role in political movements: strengthening and unifying the voice of the people seeking social justice against a common adversary.

The Iranian Music Conference Series was made possible thanks to the support from the Farhang Foundation, the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music Department of Ethnomusicology, and the UCLA Center for Near Eastern Studies, with additional support from the Dean of the UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music.

The First Annual UCLA Iranian Music Conference Series

OF KINGS AND PAINTINGS

Farhang Foundation and Homa Films presented the world premiere screening of OF KINGS AND PAINTINGS, directed by Sara Nodjoumi.

OF KINGS AND PAINTINGS presented the history of the extraordinary art of Iran from 1785 to 1925. The documentary was the first film to explore the work of Iran’s most significant artists of this remarkable era that straddled the transition between tradition and modernity. While offering an overview of painters and paintings of the Qajar era and its influence on Iranian artists and photographers today, the film wove together art history and Iranian history. Farhang Foundation was honored to host an exclusive live Q&A with top art experts and filmmakers: Dr. Abbas Amanat, Dr. Layla Diba, Dr. Maryam Ekhtiar, Mehran Haghighi, and Sara Nodjoumi.
Live Virtual Talks by Influential Iranians and Scholars of Iran

One of Farhang Foundation’s post-pandemic virtual programs included the launch of Farhang Connect, a live virtual talk series featuring influential Iranians and scholars of Iran. The diverse series featured one-hour episodes, each covering a wide range of topics, including Iranian history, poetry, literature, fine arts, architecture, cuisine, and music. Farhang Foundation was proud to welcome our esteemed guests from all over the world to join us for this series.

**FEATURED GUESTS INCLUDED:**

Hossein Amanat  
Behzad Bolour  
Andy Baraghani  
Dr. Fereshteh Daftari  
Dr. Ahmad Karimi-Hakkak  
Reza Dehghani  
Dr. Shazad Ghanbari  
Nadia Deljou  
Naz Deravian  
Melody Ehsani  
Erfan  
Dr. Talinn Grigor  
Dr. Jan P. Hogendijk  
Armita Hosseini  
Behzad Jamshidi  
Moj Mahdara  
Jordan Mechnier  
Nicky Nadjoumi  
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Farhang Flavor
Celebrating the Art of Iranian Cuisine

Farhang Foundation celebrated the art of Iranian Cuisine with the launch of the extremely popular new series, Farhang Flavor. The series aimed to feature simple and easy-to-make recipes by accomplished chefs who are inspired by Iranian cuisine and ingredients. The program quickly became one of Farhang’s most popular initiatives of the year with over a million views worldwide, and featuring guest chefs from Iran, Canada, Europe, and throughout the United States.
During the period of social distancing and lack of public performances, Farhang Foundation celebrated the performing arts by inviting esteemed artists from around the world to join us online with intimate performances from their homes. The series quickly achieved a large fan base and created a positive platform for both performing artists and audience members. Each week Farhang presented new premiere performances ranging from music, storytelling, and dance to poetry. We were delighted to welcome renowned artists as well as new emerging artists to join us for this exceptional program.

Shayandokht Abedinmanesh
Shooka Afshar
Aidin Ahmadinejad
Tino Amy
Omid Arabian
Afne Ensemble
The Ava Choir
Araaf Azin
Nazarie Badiei
Darya Dadvar
Susan Deyhimi
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FarAvaz
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Mahsa Ghassemi
Ramtin and Davin Ghazavi
Gordafarid
Feysan Hadadi
Olehr Hamin
The Istgah Orchestra
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Saeed Kamijo
Ewln Khachikian
Aseaa Koochakan
The L.A. DaF ensemble
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The Maleke Fathi Dance Company
Azad Mogharm
Mahseh Modarreskhani
Nizah Novab
Niyaz Featuring Azam Ali
Mir Hossein Pouriavady
Chloe Pournoroudy
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Masoud Rezaei
Shardad Rohani
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Shila Shokoori
Shaneh Shrevet
Naser Sheikzadegan
Aseem Sheikarchi
Arezeh Shekarchi
Nazar Shekarchi
UCLA’s Student Iranian Music Ensemble
Kourosh Taghavi
Shahin Yousefzamani

SPECIAL GUESTS INCLUDED:
Farhang Foundation believes that the most immediate and enduring way to preserve Iranian heritage and honor its culture, history, and language is through education. In 2015, with the community’s support, Farhang Foundation launched the first-ever Persian Language and Culture after-school program in partnership with local public and private schools of Southern California. This program, which is provided free of charge to participating schools, creates a platform for K-12 students to be exposed to Iran’s rich and beautiful language and culture.

To date, over eight hundred students have enrolled in this free program across fourteen schools throughout Southern California.

**Persian 101**
Persian Language and Culture After-School Program

**Lectures on Iranian Modern and Contemporary Art**

UC SANTA BARBARA
IRANIAN STUDIES INITIATIVE

This lecture series has been made possible with the generous support of the Gramian-Emrani Foundation.

**PIONEERS OF NEW PAINTING IN IRAN**
Dr. Alice Bombardier

**POSSIBILITIES FOR IRANIAN ART:**
Sketch for a Theory of Historical Creativity
Majid Akhgar

**SIAH ARMAJANI:**
A Pragmatic Deconstructivist
Abi Reza Sahaf Zadeh
Help Share Iranian Culture

Become A Member Today!

Join member-supported Farhang Foundation in this mission. Today, during uncertain times, Farhang and the artists and cultural projects we support need your backing more than ever.

So, please join today and remember, it’s our Farhang!

Farhang.org/Membership

Farhang Sources of Funds
2019 – 2021

Please consider financially supporting us with a tax-deductible donation at:
Farhang.org/Donate

After all, it is our farhang...

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