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**THE MASTERS OF PERSIAN MUSIC BRING THREE GENERATIONS
OF MUSICAL HERITAGE TO CAL PERFORMANCES ON
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13 AT 8:00 P.M. IN ZELLERBACH HALL**

Sightlines: Pre-concert talk by Francesco Spagnolo, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.

BERKELEY, December 21, 2009—The **Masters of Persian Music** return to Cal Performances on **Saturday, February 13 at 8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall**. The program of traditional Persian music is set to medieval mystic poetry and features two of Iran's most prominent figures in Persian classical music, *tar* (plucked lute) master **Hossein Alizadeh** and *kamancheh* (spiked fiddle) virtuoso **Kayhan Kalhor**. The ensemble will also include the highly praised young vocalist **Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh**, trained by Iran's famed **Mohammad Reza Shajarian**; this is Nourbakhsh's first tour of North America. The other members of the ensemble include **Fariborz Azizi** (bass *tar*), **Siamak Jahangiry** (*ney*), **Pezhham Akhavass** (*tombak*) and **Rouzbeh Rahimi** (*santur*).

A *Sightlines* pre-performance talk will be given by Judah L. Magnes Museum's Director of Research, **Francesco Spagnolo**, on Saturday, February 13, from 7:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Zellerbach Hall. This event is free to ticket holders.

Teacher, composer, conductor, arranger and master of the *tar* and *setar* **Hossein Alizadeh** was born in Tehran in 1951. He studied at the School of Music at the University of Tehran, earning his bachelor's degree in 1975. While pursuing his formal education, he also studied *radif* with such masters as Houshang Zarif, Ali Akbar Shahnazi and Yousef Foroutan. Upon the completion of his studies, he became the conductor, *setar* and *tar* soloist for the Iranian National Orchestra of Radio and Television. In the 1980s, he furthered his musical education by studying composition and musicology at the University of Berlin.

In 2000, the Iranian Ministry of Culture declared him the foremost contemporary artist. As a teacher, he has trained many young musicians and has written and published a number of etudes for *tar* and *setar*. He has composed many groundbreaking works of contemporary and

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neo-classical Iranian music and recorded the entire body of the *radif*, based on the interpretation of Mirza Abdollah. Alizadeh performs extensively throughout the United States, Europe and Asia and has appeared on many radio and television programs around the world. He has taught at the University of Tehran, the Tehran Music Conservatory and the California Institute of the Arts.

Kayhan Kalhor is a virtuoso on the *kamancheh*. Kalhor, well-known for his performances with Yo-Yo Ma's *Silk Road* Project, was born in Tehran in 1963 and began his musical studies at age seven. A child prodigy, he was invited at age 13 to work with the Iranian National Orchestra of Radio and Television, where he performed for five years. At 17, Kalhor began playing with the most prestigious arts organization in Iran while continuing to study *radif* with a variety of masters. In his extensive travels throughout Iran, Kalhor learned and incorporated the musical traditions of different regions including Khorasan and Kurdistan, into his own music. He later studied Western classical music in Rome, Italy and Ottawa, Canada. He has composed for some of Iran's best-known performers as well as for the Kronos Quartet and Yo-Yo Ma. Kalhor has toured the world as a soloist and with ensembles performing Persian and Indian improvisations. *The New York Times* called him "a fiery improviser who moves from sighing, songful lines to fiercely percussive pizzicato fusillades and swirling arpeggios."

Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh studied music under the guidance, and was the leading disciple, of the master of classical Persian singing, Mohammad Reza Shajarian. He has performed with such renowned ensembles as the Shams and Aref as well as the Ukraine Philharmonic Orchestra. Regarded as one of the finest Iranian vocalists of his generation, Nourbakhsh is touring North America for the first time.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tickets for **Masters of Persian Music** on **Saturday, February 13** at **8:00 p.m.** in **Zellerbach Hall** are priced at **\$26.00, \$38.00, \$48.00** and **\$60.00**. Tickets are available through the Cal Performances Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall; at (510) 642-9988 to charge by phone; at www.calperformances.org; and at the door. Half-price tickets are available for purchase by UC Berkeley students. UC faculty and staff, senior citizens, other students and UC Alumni

Association members receive a \$5 discount (Special Events excluded). For more information, call Cal Performances at (510) 642-9988 or visit the Cal Performances web site at www.calperformances.org.

For select performances, Cal Performances offers UCB student, faculty and staff, senior and community rush tickets. Rush tickets are announced three hours prior to a performance and are available in person only at the Ticket Office beginning one hour before the performance; quantities may be limited. Rush ticket sales are limited to one ticket per person; all sales are cash only. Rush ticket prices are \$10.00 for UCB students; \$15.00 for UCB faculty and staff (UCB ID required) and seniors age 65 or older; and \$20 for all other community members. Information is available at (510) 642-9988, press 2 for the rush hotline, two hours prior to a performance only.

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CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Saturday, February 13 at 7:00 p.m.
SIGHTLINES

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

Pre-performance talk by Francesco Spagnolo. *Sightlines* is a continuing program of pre- and post-performance discussions with Cal Performances' guest artists and scholars, designed to enrich the audience's experience. This event is free to ticket holders.

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Saturday, February 13 at 8:00 p.m.

Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley Campus
Bancroft Way at Telegraph Ave., Berkeley

World Stage

Masters of Persian Music

Hossein Alizadeh, tar

Kayhan Kalhor, kamancheh

Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh, vocals

Fariborz Azizi, bass tar

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Siamak Jahangiry, *ney*

Pezhham Akhavass, *tombak*

Rouzbeh Rahimi, *santur*

Program: Traditional Persian music set to medieval mystic poetry featuring Hossein Alizadeh (*tar*), Kayhan Kalhor (*kamancheh*), Hamid Reza Nourbakhsh (vocals), Fariborz Azizi (bass *tar*), Siamak Jahangiry (*ney*), Pezhham Akhavass (*tombak*) and Rouzbeh Rahimi (*santur*).

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