



EVENT AND CONCERT

FEMALE VOICE OF IRAN

Iranian Women Musicians in Transcultural Dialogue

FEBRUARY 11, 2017

**MUSIKWISSENSCHAFTLICHES INSTITUT, UNIVERSITÄT ZU KÖLN
MUSIKSAAL (HAUPTGEBÄUDE)**

ABOUT THE EVENT: Since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran's cultural life and music have been strictly regulated. In the process women have been banned from singing solo in public and, as a result, many female vocalists have left the country. This has had a substantial impact on the transmission and cultivation of Iran's cultural heritage. Today the situation is slowly changing and a number of young female musicians are increasingly active in music performance and singing. Female Voice of Iran showcases Iran's rich musical culture and offers a forum for guest musicians and the audience to discuss the role of women as agents of change in Iranian society.

PROGRAM

15:00-15:30

Yalda Yazdani: "Female Voice of Iran: The Role of Women in Music in Revolutionary Iran"
(Introduction lecture and presentation of guest musicians)

15:30-16:00

Screening of "Female Voice of Iran", a video essay by Yalda Yazdani and Andreas Rocholl, with Cymin Samawatie, Haleh Seyfizadeh and others (Kadmos Film Production 2016).

16:00-16:15

Sepideh Raissadat: "An Introduction to the Lives of Iranian Female Singers in the Public and Private Spheres" (Lecture)

16:15-17:00

Discussion Forum with Yalda Yazdani, guest musicians Cymin Samawatie, Haleh Seyfizadeh, Sepideh Raissadat, Rouzbeh Motia, Ralf Schwarz, and the audience.

17:00- 17:15

Break

17:30-18:30

Live Music Performances

Duet: Cymin Samawatie, Vocalist and Ralf Schwarz, Contrabass

Duet: Haleh Seyfizadeh, Vocalist and Rouzbeh Motia, Santur

Solo Performance: Sepideh Raissadat, Voice and Setar

Improvisation group performance: Cymin Samawatie, Ralf Schwarz, Haleh Seyfizadeh and Rouzbeh Motia

PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT IS FREE OF CHARGE, NO REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY.



CYMIN SAMAWATIE is a vocalist, composer and conductor. Born to Iranian parents in Germany, she was raised bilingually and bi-culturally. She studied classical music in Hanover, focusing on percussion and piano, as well as jazz voice and composition in Berlin. Cymin Samawatie's compositions combine the musical colors of impressionism and the vitality of contemporary jazz. Her Berlin based quartet Cyminology (founded in 2002) combines Persian poetry and chamber-esque contemporary music. Her performance with Bobby McFerrin in 2003 was one of the highlights in her career. In 2008 she started collaborating with producer Manfred Eicher, founder of the record label ECM. In 2010 she began composing for musicians of the Berlin Philharmonic, with whom she has performed on several occasions. In 2013 Cymin Samawatie founded the unique orchestra "Divan der Kontinente".

HALEH SEYFIZADEH was born in Kermanshah, Iran. She began singing at the age of 13 with her first music teacher Masoomah Mehrali. In 2000 she started performing in the Ali Ghamsari ensemble. In 2006 she participated in the Festival of Iranian Folk Music in Tehran and was awarded the first prize in performance. Later she studied Persian classical singing with master Loris Hovian at the Music Department of the University of Art in Tehran. Haleh Seyfizadeh has performed for various documentary filmscores and theaters in Iran. She currently performs internationally with the Yade-Doost women ensemble.



SEPIDEH RAISSADAT is a key figure in the new generation of classical Persian vocalists. She began studying Persian classical music with the famous Iranian diva Parissa and later with renowned masters Parviz Meshkatian and Mohammad-Reza Lotfi. Sepideh Raissadat began her recording career at the age of 18 with an album with master Parviz Meshkatian (Konj-e Saburi, 1999). She was the first female vocalist to have a solo public performance in Iran after the 1979 revolution. She has frequently performed in Europe and North America and has garnered many invitations by prestigious institutions, including UNESCO, and international media such as BBC and RAI. Sepideh Raissadat obtained a BA degree in painting in Iran and holds a Bachelor of Music from the University of Bologna and a Masters in Ethnomusicology from the University of Toronto. She currently pursues her doctoral studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of Toronto.

ROUZBEH MOTIA is a composer and Santur player. He studied classical Persian music with the Iranian masters Faramarz Payvar, Esmaeel Tehrani, Saeed Sabet and Ardavan Kamkar. He holds Bachelor and Master degrees from Tehran University of Art, specializing in Iranian music. He also holds a BA degree in European music from the University of Paris. Rouzbeh Motia is currently working on his PhD project and teaches classical Iranian music as a guest lecturer at Cologne University. He has performed in various renowned international ensembles.



RALF SCHWARZ was born in Germany. He began to take organ lessons at the age of ten. Later on he focused on playing the guitar and performed in various blues, rock and alternative bands. Ralf Schwarz has collaborated with Cymin Samawatie on different projects since 1993. He started playing double bass and electric bass in 1999 and later on studied at the University of the Arts Bremen. He has been living in Berlin since 2003 and has performed internationally with different ensembles.

