

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

(310) 994-7930

info@bflybuzz.com

Butterfly Buzz, in association with Bamahang Productions proudly presents:

**SEPIDEH RAISSADAT for the first time in Los Angeles,
together with composer and *tar* virtuoso, IMAN VAZIRI
and guest artist, DARA AFRAZ, *tonbak***

*Followed by a Q&A session with Sepideh Raissadat
moderated by Professor Touraj Daryae*

LOS ANGELES, CA June 16, 2011 - Persian classical vocalist and musician **Sepideh Raissadat** will be touring the U.S. for the first time this summer together with *tar* virtuoso **Iman Vaziri**. They will be accompanied by various guest artists at each show during this four-city tour. **Dara Faraz** on *tonbak* will be joining the Ensemble in **Los Angeles**, which will take place at the **Skirball Cultural Center's** Magnin Auditorium on **Sunday, June 26, 2011** at **7 p.m.**

Sepideh began studying *radif* (the repertoire of the Persian classical music) at the age of 9 with the famous Persian singer **Parissa**, and continued with **Master Parviz Meshkati** and **Master Mohammad Reza Lotfi**. *Setar* is her major soloist instrument. Her first album was recorded at the age of 18 with the support of Master Meshkati. This was the first time a female vocalist was permitted to perform publicly in a duet in Iran, since the Islamic Revolution of 1979, at a time when they could only sing in choirs.

After obtaining her B.A. in Painting, she moved to Italy to pursue her artistic education, where she graduated in Musicology, majoring in Ethnomusicology from the University of Bologna. While in Italy, she was invited by the **Vatican** and different **Italian TV channels** and performed as a soloist with one of the oldest Italian choirs. She also performed with the most well known Italian musicians, such as **Franco Battiato** and **Andrea Parodi** to name a few. Over the past few years, she has academically researched pre-Islamic ancient Persian music. Her current major research area is focused on Sassanid music.

"A musician who knows the totality of the Persian musical history and tradition, Sepideh Raissadat's deep knowledge of the Persian musical tradition enriches her music unlike anyone else," said Professor Touraj Daryae, Howard C. Baskerville Professor in the History of Iran and the Persianate World, History School of Humanities at University of California, Irvine and Associate Director, Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture School of Humanities. "Her knowledge of Persian music and musical sensibility makes her a rare breed, as she understands, performs and teaches two thousand years of Persian musical tradition."



Dr. Daryae will be moderating a post-concert Q&A session with Ms. Raissadat at the Los Angeles performance.

"**14 cheerful pieces (Bazparidan)**" is the name of the latest album by Sepideh Raissadat and Reza Ghassemi (Moshtaq Ensemble) published by [Buda Musique](http://BudaMusique.com), an internationally renowned label in World Music edition. Those 14 pieces are all compositions by Reza Ghassemi, a famous novelist, theatre director and musician.

Tickets for the Los Angeles performance are available online at www.bflybuzz.com/events and **Ketab Corp, Music Box** and **Daricheh** or by calling **310.994.7930**.

Sepideh Raissadat U.S. Tour 2011:

- **June 18 - New York;** New York Society for Ethical Culture – **Info: 201-327-3494**
- **June 24 - Washington, D.C.;** Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center – **Info: 724-799-2067**
- **June 26 – Los Angeles;** Skirball Cultural Center – **Info: bflybuzz.com/events**
- **July 3 – Berkley;** Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse – **Info: [click here](#)**

For additional info and tour details, visit www.sepidehraissadat.com.



About Sepideh Raissadat

Born in Tehran, Iran in 1980, Sepideh Raissadat is an Iranian classical singer. Sepideh began studying radif (the Repertoire of the Persian classical music) at the age of 9 with the famous Persian singer Ms. Parissa, and continued with Mr. Parviz Meshkatian and Mr. Mohammad Reza Lotfi. Her major soloist instrument is the setar.

Her first album was recorded when she was 18, thanks to Ostad Parviz Meshkatian. This was the first time a female vocalist was singing in duet in Iran, after the Revolution of 1979, while they could only sing in choirs. After she finished her B.A. in Painting, she moved to Italy to pursue her artistic education. She graduated in Musicology majoring in Ethnomusicology from the University of Bologna.

While in Italy, she was invited by the Vatican and different Italian TV channels and performed as a soloist with one of the oldest Italian choirs. She also performed with the most well known Italian musicians such as Franco Battiato, Andrea Parodi, etc. Over the past few years, she has academically researched the pre-Islamic ancient Persian music. Currently her major research area is focused on Sassanid music. www.SepidehRaissadat.com



About Iman Vaziri

Iman Vaziri (1970) is an Iranian composer and tar soloist. He studied music and musicology at the Universities of Tehran and Cologne, Germany. From the age of 13 he dedicated himself to studying the *tar* and classical Persian music. He has been giving solo recitals throughout Europe. He works with Parissa on stage as well as in the studio, a CD was released lately. As a composer he is also firmly acquainted with western musical tradition, his opus includes chamber music for different instrumentation and film music. Iman Vaziri's works have been published in Iran and abroad.

www.ImanVaziri.com



About Touraj Daryaei

Touraj Daryaei is the Howard C. Baskerville Professor in the History of Iran and the Persianate World and the Associate Director of the Dr. Samuel M. Jordan Center for Persian Studies and Culture at the University of California, Irvine. He is the editor of the Name-ye Iran-e Bastan: The International Journal of Ancient Iranian Studies and the creator of Sasanika: The Late Antique Near East Project. www.TourajDaryaei.com