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Nikpay Music Productions Proudly Presents:

**HAMED NIKPAY**

**"All Is Calm On The Road / Asoudeh Dar Raah" Concert Tour  
Montreal, San Francisco, Vancouver, Toronto & Los Angeles**

For tickets and detailed information visit: [www.HamedNikpay.com](http://www.HamedNikpay.com)

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*SAN FRANCISCO, CA, July 1, 2009*— On August 15, 2009, Hamed Nikpay and his acclaimed ensemble, kickoff their concert tour **"All Is Calm On The Road / Asoudeh Dar Raah"** in Montreal, Canada for a live performance of songs from his new album, **"ALL IS CALM / ASOUDEH"**.

The album which is an aesthetic fusion of Persian melodies written by Hamed with Flamenco beats, has received much recognition and praise from enthusiasts of traditional and contemporary Persian music alike. Among those critics is Ari Siletz who writes *"Asoudeh establishes Nikpay as the rare artist with both scholarly pedigree and musical originality."* Hamed was one of the first and few artists who showed his solidarity with the Iranian men and women who are struggling for freedom and democracy by writing and performing the song **"The owner of this Land—Maaleke een Khaak"** to bring attention to their cause ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqONCJoADtQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqONCJoADtQ)).

At the forefront of experimental music, Hamed Nikpay's passion for his innovative genre is embedded in his solid knowledge of fundamentals of Persian music, his ability to perform numerous Persian instruments (Tar, Setar, Oud, Tanbour, Daf and Baghlama) masterfully, and his incisive interpretation and selection of Persian poetry for his songs. These artistic attributes have enabled him to create musical paragons, which are gripping and much revered by admirers of world music.

Accompanying Hamed on this tour is a brilliant ensemble of some of the most distinguished musicians. They are **Greg Ellis**-Percussionist, **Daniel Fries**- Flamenco Guitarist, **Dimitris Mahlis**- Multi Instrumentalist, and featuring Saxophonist, **Farzin Farhadi**.

## **Concert Tour Details**

### **Montreal, QC; August 15, 2009**

Oscar Peterson Concert Hall; 7141 Sherbrook Street West, Montreal, QC, Canada

Ticket Prices: Pre-Sale \$30. At the Door \$40

Ticket Info: Peyman Akhavan 514-836-7467 OR Tapes Digital 514-223-3336

### **San Francisco, CA; August 23, 2009**

Palace Of Fine Arts; 3301 Lyon Street, San Francisco, CA

Ticket Prices: Pre-Sale until 7/23/09: \$25, \$35, \$55. After 7/23/09: \$30, \$40, \$60

Ticket Info: [www.RadioJavan.com/HamedNikpay](http://www.RadioJavan.com/HamedNikpay) OR Local Persian Markets

### **Vancouver, BC; August 29, 2009**

Centennial Theatre; 300 Lonsdale Ave. North Vancouver, BC, Canada

Ticket Prices: Pre-Sale \$35, \$40. At the door \$40, \$45

Ticket Info: Rostam Poolad 603-984-3084 OR Local Persian Markets

### **Toronto, ON; September 12, 2009**

Richmond Hill Center for the Performing Arts; 10268 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, On, Canada

Ticket Prices: Pre-Sale \$35, \$40 \$55. At the door \$40, \$45, \$60

### **Los Angeles, CA ; October 3, 2009**

Wilshire Ebell Theatre; 4401 West 8th Street, Los Angeles, CA

Ticket Prices: Pre-Sale until 9/03/09: \$25, \$35, \$55. After 9/03/09: \$30, \$40, \$60

Ticket Info: [www.RadioJavan.com/HamedNikpay](http://www.RadioJavan.com/HamedNikpay) OR Local Persian Markets

# Hamed Nikpay & Ensemble—*Artist Biographies*

## **GREG ELLIS**

A drummer and percussionist, Ellis has worked with diverse artists from Beck to Billy Idol, and has released four albums on Narada Records. He has also recorded, and performed with masters of India Tabla such as Ustad Zakir Hussain, Japanese Taiko drummer Kodo, Grateful dead drummer Micky Hart, as well as master musicians from Iran, Africa, and Turkey. His extensive work with composers Ben Watkins and Tyler Bates can be heard in the major motion pictures *The Matrix: Reloaded* and *The Matrix: Revolutions*, *Fight Club*, *Lara Croft: Tomb Raider*, *Dawn Of The Dead* (2004), *City Of Ghosts*, *Dukes of Hazard*, & *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Ellis' work is also expected to be heard in upcoming animated film *Brave Story* and in the film adaptation of Frank Miller's graphic novel *300*.

## **FARZIN FARHADI**

A highly accomplished and multi talented producer for more than a decade, Farzin is one of the most innovative contemporary song writers and performers of his generation, working in diverse genres. A Saxophonist by training, he is a graduate of Berklee College of Music in Boston, whose compositions and orchestration transcend east-west genres of today's world music. His melodic tunes influenced by his partiality to jazz, and his innate affinity for Persian music enlivened with mystical poetry of Rumi, are innovative, inspiring and rapturous. His jazz/world album, "My World" was considered for a Grammy nomination in the world music genre and was broadcasted by hundreds of radio stations around the world. His last album, "The Beloved is Here" an interpretative collection of songs based on the poetry of Rumi, featured the acclaimed Iranian singers, Dariush, Ramesh, and Faramaz Aslani, and with his ensemble Ruminati, he has performed songs from this album in concerts throughout the U.S. [www.myspace.com/farzinfarhadi](http://www.myspace.com/farzinfarhadi)

## **DANIEL FRIES**

A graduate of UC Berkley in music, Daniel has studied Flamenco guitar in Spain with such world renowned masters as Manolo Sanlucar, Paco Pana, & Jose Luis Roderigus. He has composed, directed, and performed with renowned local as well as world class Flamenco artists in US, and around the world. Firmly grounded in the traditional Spanish Flamenco, Daniel continuously explores the interfusion of Flamenco with music from around the world such as India, Middle East, and Latin America. He collaborated with Hamed Nikpay in producing Hamed's album "All Is Calm". [www.friesarts.com](http://www.friesarts.com)

## **DIMITRIS MAHLIS**

A multi instrumentalist and song writer, Dimitris's masterful skills in playing Oud, Guitar, and multiple other Stringed instruments, coupled with his formal education in Eastern and western musical genres, have resulted in recording & performing experiences that are original and soulful. He has performed and toured with music stars from all over the world and produced 4 albums of his own compositions for Oud and Guitar. [www.myspace.com/dimitrisjimmymahlis](http://www.myspace.com/dimitrisjimmymahlis)

## **HAMED NIKPAY**

Born in Iran in 1977, Hamed learned to sing at the age of seven, encouraged by his mother who loved Persian music and poetry. At nine, he studied Tar & Setar, under the tutorship of some of the masters of classical Persian music such as Hooshang Zareef, Zeydollah Tolouee, Attaolah Jangook, Farokh Mazharee, and Daryoush Pirniakan. By the time he was twenty; he could play five instruments expertly, adding Tanboor, Oud and Daf to his existing repertoire. His interest in classical Persian music coupled with his passion to write his own music, motivated him to learn fundamentals of music composition from such music Masters as Vartan Sahakian, and Farhad Fakhreanee. He received top honors for improvisation for Setar and vocal in the All Iranian Students Music Festival held in Tehran in 2002.

After receiving a B.A. degree in music composition, he began writing his own music and performing in concerts as a vocalist and multi-instrumentalist, with some of the highly acclaimed music ensembles before wide audiences in Iran, Europe and Asia. He has recorded two albums in Iran, performing as a fusion vocalist, and has produced two more in the US. He has also recorded as a vocalist, with an ensemble of selective members of Tehran Symphony Orchestra pieces composed and directed by Majid Derakhshani, one of Iran's greatest contemporary music composers. Hamed has also written music scores and performed solo instruments in several motion pictures made by some of the most distinguished directors of the Iranian cinema. His most recent work was the hit theme song for the widely broadcasted TV series 'Ahooyeh Mahe Nohom', composed by Ramin Behna, one of Iran's best cinematic music composers.

Since his arrival in U.S., Hamed has performed in numerous concerts before enthusiastic audiences throughout the U.S. His mesmerizing voice has earned him the reputation of being 'One of Iran's Best Young Vocalists' among both the American and the Iranian audiences. He currently resides in Palo Alto, California, where he teaches, writes and records music. [www.HamedNikpay.com](http://www.HamedNikpay.com)