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MEDIA CONTACT:

Bitra Milanian

(888) 779-8489

[bita@bflybuzz.com](mailto:bita@bflybuzz.com)

Zaman Productions proudly presents:

**HOMAY & THE MASTAN ENSEMBLE to Perform at the Lincoln Center;  
Iranian Classical Musical Ensemble Banned By  
The Iranian Government Brings Their Music To the U.S. and The World  
Saturday, September 19, 2009 – 8 p.m. – Alice Tully Hall, Starr Theater– New York**



*NEW YORK, NY- September 14, 2009*—The highly acclaimed and controversial Iranian musical masters, **Homay and The Mastan Ensemble**, come to New York City on **September 19, 2009** at 8 p.m. to perform the latest compositions by **Homay** at **Lincoln Center**. This performance is one of the highlights of their 11-city U.S. tour, which started in Los Angeles at the Walt Disney Concert Hall presented to a sold-out audience, in collaboration with the world-renowned **Maestro Shardad Rohani**.

Founded in 2005 by **Parvaz Homay**, **The Mastan Ensemble** grew to become one of the most popular traditional Persian musical ensembles in Iran. Since early 2009, **Parvaz Homay** has been banned by the Iranian government officials to perform any of his musical pieces publicly in Iran.

Following the paths of the greatest Sufi masters, Rumi and Hafez, **Homay & The Mastan Ensemble** encourages its audiences to live consciously. They share the universal idea of striving for a creative life by flourishing love and peace from within. Rhythmic, uplifting and mesmerizing, the Ensemble plays traditional Persian music in a way that has never been heard before.

Only in his twenties, **Homay** is an exceptional classical artist who composes, writes his own lyrics, sings and produces his music. His ensemble consists of eight Iranian musicians. A true patriot to his motherland Iran and its people, **Homay** recently composed "Sarzamin e Be Karan" or "Boundless Land", which is dedicated to the people of Iran, delivering a message of hope and peace for their country and its future. The premiere performance took place August 16<sup>th</sup> at the Walt Disney Concert Hall and will be performed at the September 19<sup>th</sup> show at Alice Tully Hall.

**Homay & The Mastan Ensemble's** U.S. Tour follows eight, straight sold-out performances in **Homay's** hometown Rasht, located in northern Iran. The Ensemble toured the U.S. and Canada in 2008, performing on some of the most renowned stages in the Americas, including *Walt Disney Concert Hall* in Los Angeles, *Strathmore* in Washington, D.C. and *Roy Thomson Hall* in Toronto, Canada. For more information about their tour and tickets, please visit: [www.ZamanProductions.com](http://www.ZamanProductions.com)

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**About Zaman Productions**

Zaman Productions started operations in 1990 and since then has produced many great music and theatre events in San Diego, but also throughout California and the U.S. Among Persian Classical Music artists produced are such luminaries as M. R. Lotfi, M.R. Shajarian, H. Alizadeh, H. Omoumi, S. Nazeri, Parissa, K. Kalhor, and the first ever San Diego appearance of Dastan Ensemble with Bijan and Pashang Kamkar. [www.zamanproductions.com](http://www.zamanproductions.com)



[www.HomayMastan.com](http://www.HomayMastan.com)

### **The Mastan Ensemble**

**Parvaz Homay;** Vocals

**Mehrdad Arabi;** Daf

**Arjang Faramarzi;** Tonbak

**Pasha Hanjani;** Ney

**Alireza Mehdizadeh;** Kamancheh

**Azad Mirzapour;** Tar

**Mahmood Nozari;** Santoor

**Ali Pajooheshgar;** Barbat

### **Parvaz Homay;** Vocals, Composer, Writer, Arranger & Lyricist

29-year old Parvaz Homay born in a small village in the Province of Guilan in Iran started his artistic work as a painter, while obtaining a diploma in painting and studying acting and playing in various theatrical pieces, and directing some of them. At age 9, he began reciting poetry and at 19, he chose music as his art of choice and entered the Music Conservatory of Tehran. He selected singing [avaz] as his main area of focus in his performances and studied with some of the renowned Persian Classical Masters. In 2005, he started the Mastan Ensemble. The Ensemble, has performed in various countries throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe, all received successfully by their fans worldwide. The Ensemble returned to the U.S. in August of 2009, and kicked off their U.S. tour, with a special production of "Moses and The Shepherd", an operetta written by Homay and arranged by Maestro Shardad Rohani, which was performed to a sold-out audience at the Walt Disney Concert Hall on August 16, 2009. The tour continues throughout 11 U.S. cities.



### **Arjang Faramarzi;** Tonbak

Arjang was born in 1976, in a family who was interested in music and highly appreciated it. The sound of the Tar of his brother, Arash who was one of the Master Houshang Zarif's students, his parents' encouragements, and also his persistence were reasons that made Arjang to be absorbed into the land of music. At age 11, Arjang began playing Tonbak under supervision of late Master Naser Farhangfar, the poet and the genius in Tonbak, at Zoroastrian Youths Organization (Faravahar). Arjang has cooperated with and participated in various musical groups and ensembles with which he has performed many concerts around the world. Arjang has BS in Medical-Engineering.



### **Pasha Hanjani;** Ney

Pasha began his musical education in National Conservatory of Music in Tehran. He studied Ney (the traditional reed flute of Iran) with renowned Musicians A.Afsharnia & A.Kianinejad. He got his masters degree in music from Art University of Tehran and at the same time he taught Ney at the University. Pasha has performed in numerous world famous concert halls such as: Walt Disney hall in Los Angeles and Theatre de la Ville in Paris. Pasha Hanjani is a noted Ney improviser and teacher of Persian music, having served on the Tehran Radio & TV as a soloist, composer and arranger. He currently plays music with various musical ensembles around the world, including Homay & The Mastan Ensemble.





**Alireza Mehdizadeh; Kamancheh & Gheychak**

Alireza Mehdizadeh, born in 1980 in Tehran, graduated with a Bachelor of Music from Tehran's Soureh University, studied Kamancheh & Gheychak with Masters Manouchehr Veysanlou, Samer Habibi, Aliakbar Shekarchi and Saeed Farajpour. He has collaborated with various Persian classical music ensembles, while teaching Kamancheh. He started touring and working with Homa & The Mastan Ensemble in 2007.



**Azad Mirzapour; Tar**

Azad Mirzapour started learning music at the age of 5 from his father, Rasoul Mirzapour and at 10, he entered the Music Conservatory in Tehran. His Masters in Tar, included Tinoosh Bahrami, Reza Vohdani, Arshad Tahmasebi and Hossein Alizadeh.

In 1999, he entered University of Tehran's Fine Arts College where he graduated with Masters in Music. He writes and plays music and has collaborated with various albums published in Iran. He was responsible for various productions for radio programming, including Hoor Ava and Kordi. He has been collaborating with the Homa & The Mastan Ensemble since 2007 and has toured with the Ensemble throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Iran.



**Mahmood Nozari; Santoor**

Mahmood Nozari was born in 1986 nearby Qazvin, Iran. He started learning music at the age of 10 and later chose Santoor as his instrument of choice. His Masters include some of the most prominent Santoor Masters in Iran. He has toured with many ensembles, and is one of the original members of the Homa & The Mastan Ensemble.



**Ali Pajooeshgar; Barbat**

Ali Pajooeshgar has a Masters degree in Music from Tehran's Music Conservatory. He has worked with various musical ensembles in Iran and has been teaching Barbat for the past seven years. He has performed with Iran's National Orchestra.



**Mehrdad Arabi; Daf**

Mehrdad Arabi, an internationally acclaimed Master of Persian music, has received numerous awards, for his work from the likes of Daytona Symphony Society, the University of Borneo, the City of Madrid and the City of Nicosia in Cypress. He was recently awarded the prestigious Master Musician Fellowship from the Durfee Foundation in Los Angeles. He began studying Tonbak, as a teenager, with the renowned Morteza Ayan and Nasser Eftetaah. He is the founder of Persian Drums Institute and teaches Tonbak & Daf in Southern California area.