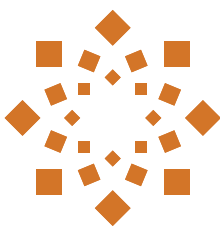




UNDER
GROUND
IRAN

NOV 15
CONCERT



**MIDDLE EAST
STUDIES**
BROWN



WATSON INSTITUTE
FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

BROWN UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

In celebration of Brown University's 250th Anniversary, Brown's Middle East Studies presents "Underground Iran," a music festival featuring Iranian groups Namjoo and Kiosk on stage together for the first time. Each group—banned from playing in their home country—brings a different performative aspect to its message.

MUSICIANS

MOHSEN NAMJOO

Hailed as "the Bob Dylan of Iran" by the New York Times, Mohsen Namjoo is an Iranian artist, songwriter, singer, music scholar and setar (traditional Persian lute) player based in Brooklyn, New York. His music seamlessly blends east with west, ancient with modern, both looking back to classical models and touching the souls of today's youth. Following his debut album Toranj (2007), Namjoo has released six more albums, most recently Trust the Tangerine Peel (2014). Since joining Middle East Studies at Brown as an artist-in-residence for 2014, Namjoo has given two sold-out performances, led courses on Persian and Iranian music and poetry, and given numerous talks and panels.

YAHYA ALKHANSA *(drums for Namjoo and Kiosk)*

A native of Tehran, Yahya Alkhansa started playing tonbak (traditional Persian drum) at the age of 9 before switching to drum set at the age of 16. He has toured with numerous Iranian underground rock musicians, joining the "127" band in 2002. He has also collaborated with Mohsen Namjoo and Kiosk on many recordings and live performances. Alkhansa has a bachelor of science from Azad University of Tehran in metallurgy, and he moved to the United States to pursue his education in music. He studied advanced drum performance in New York City's Collective School of Music and graduated in May 2012.

KASRA SABOKTAKIN *(bass for Namjoo and Kiosk)*

Kasra Saboktakin is one of Iran's prominent bass players, who has recorded and toured with a wide array of Iranian and international artists. He is a founding member of BARAD, a pioneering Iranian rock band that adeptly blended the musical essence of Iranian folk with Rock music. Saboktakin's career spans over two decades, and he has performed with Mohsen Namjoo and Kiosk on many previous occasions. He currently resides in Berkeley, California, where he studies music at UC Berkeley and works as a session player and a bass instructor.

KIOSK

Pioneers of the underground movement of Iran rock music, Kiosk has received critical acclaim for lyrics that highlight the paradoxes of Iranian society and its political system, combined with their unique sound that is accented with flavors of gypsy-style violin, accordion, and mandolin. Founded in Tehran in 2003 by Arash Sobhani, the band made a name for itself by recording material considered "inappropriate" by the Islamic cultural authorities. Prevented from performing in public or producing out of studios in Tehran, Sobhani moved the band to the United States in 2005. Since then Kiosk has recorded six albums, including the acclaimed *Ordinary Man* (2005), *Global Zoo* (2008), and *Parallel Establishments* (2013). This is the band's first performance for a Brown University audience.

ARASH SOBHANI

An architect by training and an avid photographer, Arash Sobhani is best known as the lead singer of Kiosk. Born and raised in Tehran, Sobhani moved to the United States in 2005. He is currently the host of political satire program "OnTen," and he has published articles and essays on the topics of architecture, politics and culture in various publications in Iran. In addition to the albums he recorded with Kiosk, Sobhani has collaborated in various live performances and recordings with artists such as Mohammad Noori, Faramarz Aslani, Ardeshir Farah, Shidrokh Mohaghegh, Shahryar Masroor, Mohsen Namjoo, Susan Deyhim, Ramin Behna, Hooman Javid, Paul Mehling, Eric Stein and more.

TARA KAMANGAR

Classical pianist, violinist and composer Tara Kamangar has been described as a "world-class musician who excels at blending the best of Western and Middle-Eastern compositions" (Gulf News). Her Delos release "East of Melancholy: Piano Music from Russia to Iran" debuted in the Top 20 of the U.S. classical iTunes chart this summer and was described as "a luxuriously lovely recital of virtuoso piano music—and executed with spectacular aplomb—she has curated it with an acute and subtle awareness of the connections between musical traditions" (WQXR).

MOHAMMAD TALANI

Along with friends, Mohammad Talani founded Band Band, an Iranian underground rock band. They performed in Tehran's universities and released an album shortly thereafter. He continued his music career in the United States by collaborating with various musicians as a session player, composer, and music producer.

ARDALAN PAYVAR

A native of Tehran, Ardalan Payvar moved to the United States in 1993. At age 7 he started to take classical piano lessons and later became interested in rock, jazz, and other styles of music. In 2007, he joined Kiosk, and in 2008, he co-founded Eendo, a band that combines various styles from rock and jazz to klezmer and manouche.

PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 15, 2014

Risd Auditorium, Providence River Greenway

7:00 p.m.:

DOORS OPEN

8:00 p.m.:

INTRODUCTION BY
BESHARA DOUMANI,
DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE
EAST STUDIES | BROWN
UNIVERSITY

8:10 p.m.:

KIOSK ON STAGE

9:30 p.m.:

INTERMISSION

9:45 p.m.:

NAMJOO ON STAGE

11:30 p.m.:

END OF CONCERT

SPONSORS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The "Underground Iran" festival is made possible through the generous support of numerous sponsors:



Brown University, the country's 7th oldest colonial college - named as such as its founding in 1764 predates the founding of the United States - is celebrating its 250th anniversary from March 7, 2014 - May 24, 2015. This historic occasion is being recognized in many forms, both on campus and throughout the world with our global community. The semiquincentenary is an important milestone for the University and provides numerous opportunities to reflect upon Brown's past, learn about Brown of today and imagine Brown in the future. To learn more about the history of the institution, the 250th Anniversary and calendar of events, please visit <http://250.brown.edu/>.

ROSHAN



CULTURAL HERITAGE INSTITUTE

Roshan Cultural Heritage Institute, a private nonprofit foundation based in Honolulu, Hawaii, sponsors cultural and educational activities and programs with a primary focus on preservation, transmission, and instruction of Persian culture. To execute its mission, the Institute develops initiatives that provide support for partnerships with other nonprofit organizations and institutions such as schools, universities, libraries, museums, and private sector donors that share its goals in support of Persian culture.



The Brown University Creative Arts Council supports the goals of individual creative arts departments and programs, while facilitating a common vision for the arts that transcends discipline and creates unity. Through its public activities, it seeks to maximize the visibility of the arts on campus, throughout the local community, and on a national and international level.

THE
COGUT CENTER
FOR THE
HUMANITIES

The Cogut Center for the Humanities at Brown University supports collaborative research among scholars in the humanities, focusing on interdisciplinary and comparative work across cultural and linguistic boundaries.



The Department of Theatre Arts and Performance Studies (TAPS) is the intellectual and artistic center at Brown for faculty and students interested in the aesthetic, historical, literary, practical, and theoretical explorations of performance in global perspective - theatre, dance, speech, performance art, and performative "roles" in everyday life.



The Department of Music at Brown provides an ideal environment for a liberal education, with its integrated faculty of scholars, performers, composers, and theorists. Its curriculum combines studies in history, theory, ethnomusicology, and musicianship with courses in composition, technology, and performance.

Special acknowledgements and thanks are due to Brown's Office of University Event and Conference Services, as well as the MES department undergraduate group and the student performers:

Christina Ames (vocals), Amanda Beaudoin (bass), Michael Chernin (drums), Joshua Kirschenbaum (saxophone), Chris Robotham (vibraphone), Justin Satriano (guitar).