



EVENT PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Run through April 2019

**Vox Musica to perform RUMI: A Film and Music Festival,
a three concert project in Sacramento California, April 26-28, 2019**

"East Meets West and Rumi is the Bridge" - Parisa Soltani

Sacramento, CA – Join Vox Musica and their collaborating partner Parisa Soltani for an unforgettable evening celebrating the life and writings of *Jalaluddin Rumi*. This 13th century mystic from Khorasan (now northern Afghanistan) was a best-selling poet in the US for over a decade, in large part because he touches a deep vein of truth in people. The collaborative performance will include music, poetry, and imagery through film and choral music, including world premieres of pieces written for Vox Musica by Honiball Joseph, a prominent Iranian-Assyrian composer, and Dr. Kira Zeeman Rugen of Scottsdale, Arizona.

This unique project is produced in joint collaboration with *One Through Love*, a cinematic multi-lingual film project and companion website which uses the poetry of Rumi to inspire and build new connections and understandings. Co-directed and co-produced by Emmy Award Winning filmmaker Stephen Olsson and Iranian-American filmmaker, scholar of humanities, translator and multilingual TV host, Parisa Soltani, this project ignites the fire of eternal longing for peace in the hearts of its viewers. *One Through Love* is a convergence of ideas, people, teachers and technologies, in the hope of building a connection and dialogue that celebrates the spirit and power of Love and transcends some of the mistrust and separation between the Islamic world and the west.

The concert project will interweave this collection of short inspirational and educational films, highlighting the life of Rumi and the Sufi culture, with choral settings of Rumi's poetry. The films and music together create a bridge by which western readers now can access a strong sense of Rumi's transcendent message of unity consciousness and mystical anti-orthodoxy.

Friday, April 26, 2019 • 7pm

Beatnik Studios (723 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95811)

Saturday, April 27, 2019 • 7pm

Verge Center for the Arts (625 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95811)

Sunday, April 28, 2019 • 7pm

Beatnik Studios (723 S Street, Sacramento, CA, 95811)

Tickets are \$20.00 pre-sale and \$25.00 at the door.

Ticket Information at: www.voxmusica.net/project-three



The Ensemble

Vox Musica, directed by Daniel Paulson, was founded in 2006 in a niche of untapped potential in Sacramento's budding classical music scene. This women's vocal ensemble enjoys the privileged position of nurturing the choral arts by combining outstanding vocal artistry with innovative programming. Vox Musica is committed to excellence in performance of diverse and challenging choral literature for women's voices and is dedicated to promoting new works, including many premiers and commissioned works. In a recent review, Edward Ortiz, Arts Editor for the Sacramento Bee, hailed Vox Musica as a "welcome addition to the music scene," praising the group's "stunning clarity," "intense color," and "delicate touch." Through collaborations with composers, conductors, choirs and musicians from around the world, Vox Musica's featured concert projects have included collected works from the 18th century Venetian Ospedali, eastern music from India, Persia, and Georgia, a concert of music for Taiko Drums and Women's Voices, and a concert project featuring electronic music. Vox Musica has released one compact disc, has presented dual concert

seasons in both Sacramento and Napa, and has been a featured artist on the prestigious Old First Concert Series in San Francisco and the American Choral Directors Association's 2011 National Convention in Chicago, IL.

Music Director: Daniel Paulson

Daniel Paulson, founder/music director, holds a Bachelor of Music degree in voice performance from Sacramento State University, and a Masters of Music Degree in Choral Conducting from the Three-Summer Masters of Music degree program at California State University, Los Angeles. His extended education includes studying early music with the Western Wind Ensemble, the King's Singers, and at the 2013 American Bach Soloist's Summer Academy. He has been a two-time guest presenter for the Los Rios Community College District "INNOVATE" Technology Summit, working with educators on the use of the iPad in the classroom, and recently was a featured presenter at the TEDx Conference, here in Sacramento. In the Summer of 2014 he spent a month teaching vocal/choral music as a guest lecturer at the National University in Costa Rica. Currently, he is Professor of Voice and Choral Music at Sacramento City College, is a resident artist with the Tahoe Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and serves as Founder & Music Director for Vox Musica.

The Film Director: Parisa Soutani

Parisa Soutani is an independent filmmaker, web producer, editor, and host/moderator for cultural and educational programs and events. Since late 2009, she's devised and executed digital best practices to grow viewership, impact, and fundability of various documentary films and TV and web series. Her work and influence spans across creative envisioning, planning and fundraising, production, post-production, and distribution, creating original content for broadcast and web, producing live webcasts, building online outreach and distribution models, online and offline community building, social media strategy, and impact measurement and analytics.

She is the Co-producer, Editor and Host for ONE THROUGH LOVE project on the poetry and teachings of Jalaluddin Rumi. Parisa is also Host and Editor for the bilingual television series BRIDGE TO IRAN on Link TV, and Series Technical Director and Editor for the PBS/Link TV television series GLOBAL SPIRIT.

She was born and raised in Iran where she studied Software Engineering at Tehran Azad University. Before coming to the U.S. in 2006, she studied Computer Technology and Information Systems at Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. In the U.S. she earned her B.A. in International Business at Sacramento State University and her M.A. in Humanities at San Francisco State University with a focus on Rumi's humanism. She's currently directing a documentary film about race, justice, and the policing of America.

Composer: Honiball Joseph

Honiball Joseph is an accomplished musician, composer, conductor, and pianist, with thirty years of extensive international experience in art. In addition to numerous recitals, he has organized, conducted, arranged and composed several orchestral and vocal concerts. In London, he performed Contemporary Assyrian Music at the British Museum (2019). In California, he performed in such venues as the Norman P. Murray City Hall in Mission Viejo (2018), De Anza Visual and Performing Arts Center in Cupertino (2017), Smothers Theater in Malibu (2016), C-PAEC in Calabasas (2015) and IQ studio in Orange County (2017). He also

performed at the most prestigious concert halls in Iran, such as Vahdat Hall (2011, 2014), Roudaki Hall (2005) and Milad Tower (2013). Additionally, he developed Performance Art; introducing a dialogue between music and other fine arts (2013-2014).

Honiball Joseph is the founder and current Chief Executive Officer of Gilgamesh Art & Culture Foundation. Besides Gilgamesh Art & Culture Foundation, he has founded and directed Gilgamesh Philharmonic Orchestra (2016-present), Iranian Choir of America (2015-present), Beneil Music Academy (2001-2015) and Messiah Ensemble (1998-2015). He also conceived and established the Virtual Iranian Global Art Festival in 2005 and served as its chair for three consecutive terms (2006-2008).

Honiball Joseph has been a music educator since 1986. He is passionate about helping high quality art become more accessible to the community. Creativity and generations of new ideas and novel styles in the art have been inseparable aspects of his life.

Composer: Dr. Kira Zeeman Rugen

Dr. Kira Zeeman Rugen is a composer, conductor, singer and professor from Scottsdale, Arizona. She is the Director of Choral Activities at Arizona Christian University where her choirs have toured around Arizona and California, and recently performed with Andrea Bocelli in live concert. Previously, Kira served as a faculty member at Grand Canyon University, where she taught music history, conducting and music education courses. She held the position of Faculty Associate at Arizona State University where she conducted Schola Cantorum (undergraduate music majors) and Choral Union the 100+ member community choir.

Kira's compositions (found at MusicSpoke.com) have been performed around the world. The Master Chorale of Flagstaff commissioned her composition "Earth Teach Me" for choir, strings and piano for their concert "to Love this Earth" in April 2019. In November 2017, Kira traveled to France to conduct the premiere of her composition, "Saint-Brieuc Magnificat," with the Saint-Brieuc Cathedral children and youth choir. Other choirs which have performed her compositions include the Phoenix Chorale, Kansas City Chorale, Pasadena Master Chorale, San Diego University Chamber Singers, Rockhurst High School, Arizona State University Men's Chorus, Orpheus Men's Chorus, Pinnacle Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir, Inspirare Nova, and the Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

Kira is the founder and Artistic Director for Solis Camerata, a professional choir which sings early music through modern repertoire. Now in their eighth season, Solis Camerata's collaborations include high-profile performances with the Phoenix Symphony for Zelda, Symphony of the Goddesses, Distant Worlds: Music from Final Fantasy, and performing at Talking Stick Resort Arena and Gila River Arena for the Game of Thrones Live Concert Experience under the baton of composer Ramin Djawadi. They have performed with The Chieftains for their 50th anniversary tour and they were invited to perform at the American Choral Directors Association Conference in Pasadena California in 2016. As a professional singer, Kira is in her fifteenth season as a soprano with the Phoenix Chorale, with whom she has won two Grammy Awards. Furthermore, she has performed for the Norvis Early Music Course in Durham England, Carnegie Hall's Young Artist Concert Series with Ton Koopman, Korea's Incheon International Choral Festival, and toured with Anúna (Ireland's National Choir) under Michael McGlynn throughout Ireland, Japan and China.

Percussion Artist: Alex Jenkins

Due to his in-depth study of the music of different cultures, Alex Jenkins' playing transcends musical traditions and boundaries. His expression of rhythm is heavily influenced by his study of Tabla. As a result, he has become known for his creative approach to music and his unique ability to fuse rhythmic ideas from various disciplines, into one cohesive sound.

Alex has studied Music, Drums and Percussion at CSUS Sacramento, The Ali Akbar Khan School of Music in San Rafael, and Drummers Collective in New York. In addition, he performs and records regularly, around California and beyond, playing a variety of music (on both drum set and tabla) including, jazz, rock, blues, fusion, Indian classical and just about everything in between. Alex leads his own group called "The Alex Jenkins Quartet" which continues to keep a very busy performing and touring schedule, playing more than 100 shows a year.

Currently, Alex teaches percussion at Skip's Music, Sacramento, William Land Elementary School and at Howe Ave Elementary. In addition, he keeps a busy teaching and clinic schedule which include workshops and clinics for various schools such as CSUS, American River College, Cosumnes River College, California College of the Arts in Oakland, UC Merced, Wood Creek High School, Orange Open Middle School, Citrus Heights Elementary, Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, The Drum Lab, Davis Waldorf School, Whitney Elementary and various music stores around California.

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