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MEDIA CONTACT:

Bitra Milanian

(310) 746-5429

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

**HAMED NIKPAY & Friends Perform LIVE on [KPFK 90.7FM](#) Los Angeles in Support of "All Is Calm On The Road / Asoudeh Dar Raah" Concert Tour; *Global Village, Wednesdays with Yatrika Shah-Rais* on September 9, 2009 at 11 a.m. PST.**

LOS ANGELES, CA-September 8, 2009—Hamed Nikpay and his acclaimed ensemble will be guests on [KPFK 90.7FM](#) Los Angeles' *Global Village, Wednesdays with Yatrika Shah-Rais* on **September 9, 2009** at **11 a.m. PST.**, in support of his "All Is Calm On The Road / Asoudeh Dar Raah" Concert Tour, performing LIVE, songs from his brand new album, "All Is Calm".

Hamed's new 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 and their LIVE performance on [KPFK 90.7](#) 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 *SOLD OUT***

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

**San Francisco, CA; August 23, 2009 *SOLD OUT***

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

[Click here](#) for the review.

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

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

[Click here](#) for the review.

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

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

ticket Info: [www.richmondhill.ticketwindow.ca](http://www.richmondhill.ticketwindow.ca)

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

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

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

# Hamed Nikpay & Ensemble—*Artist Biographies*

## **ABOUT KPFK & PACIFICA**

Pacifica was born in the late 1940's out of the (now nearly forgotten) peace movement surrounding World War Two. Lewis Hill, a conscientious objector and Washington, D.C. newsman, was fired from his mainstream reporting job when he refused to misrepresent the facts. This was a time when the idea of a listener-sponsored radio station was a new one which had never been implemented. Many people doubted the viability of a broadcast model which didn't rely on some kind of corporate or government funding. But the idea was too compelling for Hill and others who agreed with him. Pacifica was born and in 1949 KPFA went on the air from Berkeley, California. KPFK, in Los Angeles, was the second of what would eventually become five Pacifica Stations to go on the air. It was 1959 and Terry Drinkwater was the first General Manager. Blessed with an enormous transmitter in a prime location, KPFK is the most powerful of the Pacifica stations and indeed is the most powerful public radio station in the Western United States.

## **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, Zeydolah 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)