

CONCERT PROPOSAL

TEHRAN MODERN ENSEMBLE - ARTISTORET ARTISTS HOUSE

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Title

Concert, performing pieces by Loris Tjeknavorian, Akira Nishimura and Maurice Ohana

**Tehran Modern Ensemble - TME**

Tehran Modern Ensemble was founded on September 2016 by Iranian pianist and conductor Mohammad Shelechi dedicating most of its activities to contemporary classical repertoire. Through continuous research into diverse repertoire especially from middle eastern contemporary composers, Tehran Modern Ensemble collaborates with musicians and composers from all

over the world regarding different repertoire. Since 2016 Tehran Modern Ensemble performed many “world premieres” in its concert program. Keeping constant collaboration with european composers, Tehran Modern Ensemble also provides a platform for Iranian contemporary repertoire to be seen in international festivals all around the world.

In collaboration with Lugano Percussion Ensemble performing pieces by German and Swiss contemporary composers and after a great success in Tehran’s “80 Years Loris Tjeknavorian” Festival on January 5th, 2018 and performing early works of Iranian composer Loris Tjeknavorian for the first time in Iran, Tehran Modern Ensemble is expanding its repertoire with a dialogue between east and west. Tehran Modern Ensemble wishes to perform this particular repertoire all over the world in different music festivals and concert halls.

Project Description

TME for its next seasonal concert program in europe is presenting a particular contemporary percussion ensemble repertoire, choosing the pieces from three well known contemporary composers from different regions, Asia, Middle East and Europe - Akira Nishimura Loris Tjeknavorian, and Maurice Ohana.

Concert Program:

Akira Nishimura (1953*)

“Kecak” for Percussion ensemble (12’)

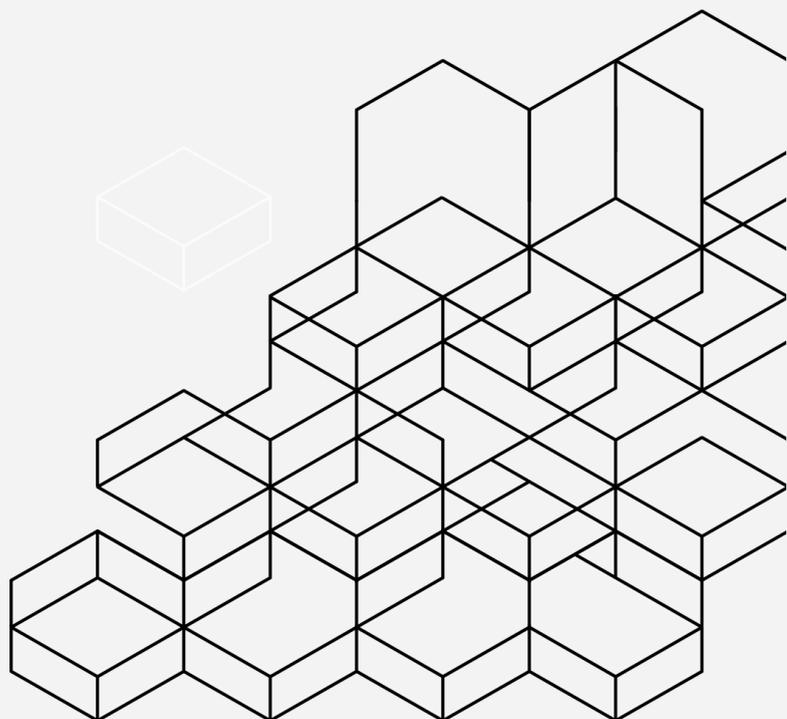
Maurice Ohana (1913 - 1992)

“Etudes chorégraphiques” ballet pour ensemble de 6 percussionnistes (18’)

Loris Tjeknavorian (1937*)

“Moods” for Oboe and percussion ensemble (11’)

“Requiem for Massacred” for Trumpet and percussion ensemble (27’)





Akira Nishimura (1953*)

Akira Nishimura was born in Osaka 1953. He studied composition and musical theory to postgraduate level at Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music. In 1977 he won the first of his numerous later prize winnings at the Queen Elizabeth International Music Composition Competition with HETEROPHONY for string quartet (1975) and the Luigi Dallapiccola Composition Award with MUTAZIONI (1977). In 1980 KECAK (1979) was selected as the best work at the International Rostrum of Composers, and he won awards at the ISCM World Music Days with ODE for EKSTASIS (1981) in 1982, then in 1984, 1988 and 1990. The Otaka Prizes were awarded to him in 1988 for HETEROPHONY for two pianos and orchestra (1987), in 1992 for A RING OF LIGHTS, double concerto for violin, piano and orchestra, and in 1993 for INTO THE LIGHTS OF THE ETERNAL CHAOS. In 2001, he was awarded the ExxonMobil

Music Prize and in 2004, the Suntory Music Award. He was composer-in-residence of the Orchestra Ensemble Kanazawa (1993-94) and of the Tokyo Symphony Orchestra (1994-97). Nishimura principally employs heterophony, a characteristic device of Asian traditional music, thereby subtly transforming the intervals, rhythm and melody of his dense multi-layered textures. Though similar to 'micropolyphony' of Ligeti, an Asian perspective informs his technique. Some works are heterophonic melodically, such as HETEROPHONY (1975), and some rhythmically, as in KECAK; the superimposition of trills, tremolos and harmonics contributes to the more complex textures of his later works. He has been commissioned from many overseas music festivals and ensembles such as ULTIMA Contemporary Music Festival Oslo, Octobre en Normandie, Arditti Quartet, Kronos Quartet, ELISION Ensemble, Hannover Society of Contemporary Music and so on. He is currently a Professor at the Tokyo College of Music and the Musical Director of the Izumi Sinfonietta Osaka, KUSATSU International Music Festival.

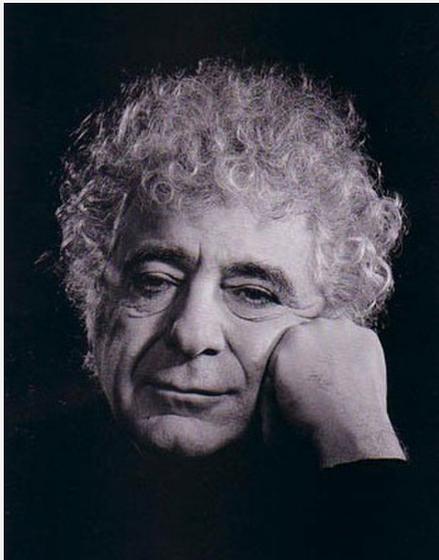


Maurice Ohana (1913 - 1992)

Born on June 12, 1913 in Casablanca, Maurice Ohana did almost all his musical studies in France, while pursuing his classical studies. He turned for some time to the architecture he abandoned to devote himself entirely to music. Very young, he began as a pianist in the Basque Country where his family is fixed; his career remains promising until the war that will take him away from the musical world, but also bring him back to Rome where he is the pupil and friend of Alfredo Casella at the Académie Sainte-Cécile. Once demobilized, he settled again in Paris in 1946. It was at this time that his first works were known in France. He founded, with three friends, the "Zodiac Group",

which proposes to defend the freedom of expression against the dictatorial aesthetics then in vogue. And to this day, he continues to embrace the manifesto of his youthful struggles. Deep constants appear in his work. From *Llanto por Ignacio Sanchez Mejias* (1950) to recent works, evolution tends to a rigor curiously associated with great freedom of pace, both in writing and in relations with the interpreter. Resolutely apart from the twelve-tone or serial movements, Maurice Ohana has nonetheless continued a revolution in the expansion of methods and the exploration of sound and the forms that result. Faithful to its Andalusian origins, while expanding their musical essence to universal

dimensions, Maurice Ohana has progressed towards a synthesis where we find the research and the preoccupations of current music. First of all, with regard to the range that it frees from the diatonic straitjacket, the rhythm it tends to free from the bar of measurement, and the vocal techniques that it brings back to their original virtues, out of the grip *bel canto*. Pianist from his childhood, he has retained a predilection for this instrument, but has also enriched various instrumental areas, including percussion, with works such as the *Silenciaire*, the *Quatre Études* becoming a classic, pieces for the new guitar ten strings, or vocal works such as *The Maurice Ohana* has never practiced teaching and has no students; However, it can be located at the center of a group of young composers from various backgrounds whose work it has long followed and whose orientation, in affinity with his own, is a confirmation of the validity of its original options. . Among them are Félix Ibarrondo, Ton-That Tiêt, Edith Canat of Chizy, Francis Bayer, André Bon, Guy Reibel and Nicolas Zourabichvili of Pelken. Maurice Ohana received the *Prix Italia* in 1969, the *National Music Prize* in 1975, the *Honegger Prize* in 1982, the *Musical Prize of the City of Paris* in 1983, and, in 1985, the *Maurice Ravel Prize*. In 1991, he was laureate of the *Grand Prix of Guerlain Music of the Academy of Fine Arts*. In 1992, he received the *SACEM Prize* for the best first performance in 1991. Since 1990, he has been President of the *Maurice Ravel International Academy* in *St-Jean-de-Luz*. He was Knight of the *Legion of Honor* and *Commander of Arts and Letters*. Maurice Ohana died on November 13, 1992 at his Paris home.



Loris Tjeknavorian (1937*)

born on 13th of October 1937 in Borujerd, IRAN is an Iranian Armenian composer and conductor. He is one of the most celebrated cultural figures in Armenia and Iran. As one of the leading conductors of his generation, he has led international orchestras throughout the world: in Austria, UK, USA, Canada, Hungary, Copenhagen, Iran, Finland, USSR, Armenia, Thailand, Hong Kong, South Africa, Denmark, and Israel. As a composer Tjeknavorian has written 6 operas, 5 symphonies, choral works (among them *God is Love*, *The Life of Christ*, the oratorio *Book of Revelation*, and a requiem), chamber music, ballet music, piano and vocal works, concerto for piano, violin, guitar, cello and pipa (Chinese lute), as well as music for documentary and feature films. His compositions have been performed by major orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Halle Orchestra, Philharmonic Orchestra Helsinki, American

Symphony Orchestra in New York, Tehran Symphony Orchestra, Johannesburg Symphony Orchestra, Haifa Symphony Orchestra, the Mexico Symphony Orchestra, London Percussion Virtuosi, Strasbourg Percussion Ensemble and English Chamber Orchestra. He has made some 100 recordings with RCA, Philips, EMI, ASV, and others. Tjeknavorian has received recognition for the impact of his weekly religious concerts in Armenia during the early 1990s from non-Armenian religious leaders including the Patriarch of the Eastern Orthodox Church, and received the Golden Cross from the head of the Rumanian Church. In addition to his widespread popularity in Armenia and Iran, Tjeknavorian has been awarded the Gold Medal from the Ministry of Culture of Armenia for his services to Armenian culture, and is the recipient of the Republic of Armenia's highest honor by president Sargsyan in recognition of his role in Armenian independence. In addition he has received the First Class Artistic Degree (Honorary Doctorate) from the Iranian Islamic Ministry of Culture for his lifelong cultural contributions, and the Austrian Presidential Gold Medal for his artistic achievements. In May 2015 Loris Tjeknavorian received the Ferdowsi Medal from the Ministry of Culture for his four operas based on the *Shahname*: *Rostam & Sohrab*, *Rostam & Esfandyar*, *Siyawash* and *Zahak*. The decoration of *Omar Khayam & Attar (Neyshabour)*, given to Tjeknavorian for his contributions to

Iranian culture. In addition Tjeknavorian undertook the copying of all of his scores electronically using the Sibelius format. The scores totaled 20,000 pages, consisting of operas, orchestral suites, concertos, choral, ballets, chamber music, works for strings, piano, percussion etc. In 2015-16 Tjeknavorian received commissions to compose two compositions for Choir & Orchestra: Salam (Peace), based on the poems of Ferdowsi, Sadi, Hafez and Rumi, and the War Requiem dedicated to the victims of the Iran -Iraq war. The New Barbad company recently issued 2 DVD box sets of 5 DVDs each. These are live performances of the Mozart and Verdi Requiems, Beethoven's Symphony 5 and the finale of the 9th, and Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade. The collection also includes a series of his own compositions (Ararat Suite, Pardis & Parisa Suite, Love Song Suite, etc) performed by the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra. In April



Mohammad Shelechi (1982*)

Born in Tehran, Iran on March 1982. Started to play piano at the age of five . He got his Master of Arts in Piano Performance and Master of Advanced Studies in Piano Performance from Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana, Switzerland under the guidance of Argentinian pianist Prof.Nora Doallo. He has studied for six years with renowned Croatian pianist Ivo Pogorelich in Lugano, Switzerland. In 2011 Mohammad Shelechi won the scholarship from “Minerva kunststiftung” (Minerva Art Foundation) of Zurich. From 2009- 2012 he studied conducting in Accademia Nazionale della Musica “Civica Scuola di Musica Claudio Abbado” in Milan, Italy under the

guidance of Italian conductor Renato Rivolta and graduated with Maximum vote and honors and after that he got his Master of Arts in Music Performance in Ensemble conducting (contemporary repertoire) at Conservatorio della Svizzera Italiana under the guidance of Mark Kissóczy and Arturo Tamayo. He expanded his experience in baroque music with collaboration of Italian harpsichord player Stefano Molardi. He participated in master classes with Vladimir Ashkenazy, Ivry Gitlis, Iradj Sahbaee and Wolfgang Redik. Mohammad Shelechi gave many Concerts as Soloist and Conductor in Tehran University, Tehran Azad University of art and architecture, MAHAK hall, With Orchestra sinfonica del conservatorio della svizzera Italiana (Lugano), Salzburg (Mozarteum), Tasis Music Festival (American School in Lugano,Switzerland), Milano Teatro dal Verme and Auditorium di Milano . In the spring 2016 he conducted a beneficiary concert with the orchestra of conservatorio della svizzera italiana with Johannes Goritzki, Sandro D'onofrio and Monica Trini in support of war refugees in europe raising 35,000 euros for refugee camps. On august 2016 he was invited by Alexander Rahbari to conduct Tehran Symphony Orchestra as a guest conductor. He is a founder and conductor of Tehran Modern Ensemble dedicated to perform contemporary music. Since 2017 he is piano professor in Tehran University. On January 2018 he was a conductor and artistic director of “80 Years Loris Tjeknavorian” Music Festival in Tehran, performing with Tehran Modern Ensemble.