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PRESS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

**THE BROAD STAGE PRESENTS IRANIAN
VOCALIST/COMPOSER/PERFORMANCE ARTIST
SUSSAN DEYHIM**

**IN A PROGRAM TITLED *PANORAMIC- JAZZ, WORLD
AND MIDDLE EASTERN MUSIC***

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 7:30 PM
SPONSORED BY LEVITT PAVILIONS

(Santa Monica, August 16, 2010) -- Forget what you think you know; this Iranian composer, vocalist and performance artist is an entirely new experience not to be missed, transporting audiences with a profoundly moving fusion of digital processing, traditional orchestrations, the mysticism of Middle Eastern music and Western concert hall vocal technique.

“It is such an eclectic night in which I will share the stage with a few great collaborators. Richard Horowitz and I will premiere a few of our compositions connected to a CD release on my label *Venus Rising Records*,” says Deyhim.

John Beasley will be doing new arrangements of Coltrane’s *Naima*, Joao Gilberto’s version of *Estate*, Banan’s *Elaheye Naz*. Mohsen Namjoo a young revolutionary singer/ songwriter/composer, and very influential among Iranian youth will also perform. The All-Star Band includes Iranian Guitarist Ardeshir Farah, violinist Keyavash Nourai and John Ossman on bass.

Deyhim opens the *Women of the World* series at The Broad Stage. Women of the World are individual concerts featuring a who’s who of female musical pioneers from

The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage
The Edge Second Space

Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center
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around the world, including singer-songwriter Judy Collins (October 8th, 2010); Iranian vocalist and performance artist Sussan Deyhim; and Grammy-winning a cappella vocal group Sweet Honey In The Rock (December 19th, 2010), committed to the African American musical legacy and traditions.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Sussan Deyhim is an Iranian composer, vocalist and performance artist. She is internationally known for creating a unique sonic and vocal language imbued with a sense of ritual and the unknown. She was part of the national ballet company in Iran from the age of thirteen and she traveled all across Iran studying with master folk musicians and dancers. In 1976, she joined The Bejart Ballet in Europe after receiving a scholarship to attend Bejarts' performance art school Mudra where she was trained in many of the great world, dance, music and theater traditions as well as in classical ballet. Her music remains true to the spirit of her ancient heritage while pointing to the future with a very personal and poetic dramatic sensibility. In 1980 she moved to New York embarking on a multifaceted career encompassing music, theatre, dance, media and film.

Sussan's wide-ranging collaborations with leading artists from across the spectrum of contemporary art have included, Ornette Coleman, Bobby McFerrin, Peter Gabriel, Bill Laswell, Talvin Singh, Micky Hart, Branford Marsalis, Jerry Garcia, Doug Wimbish, Adrian Sherwood and The Blue Man Group and with two of the most prominent female visual artists Shirin Neshat and Sophie Calle.

Her composition Windfall/Beshno Az Ney was recently used by U2 throughout the US and Europe. "U2s 360 tour" in one of the largest scale rock tours to this day. Beshno Az Ney is an intro to U2 "Sunday Bloody Sunday" in a solidarity number with Iran's Green movement.

Currently Sussan is working on "The House Is Balck," a media opera based on works and life of the literary icon of Iranian contemporary poetry Forough Farrokhzad. On this project Deyhim collaborates with the brilliant Iranian writer, scholar, activist Azar Nafisi and award winning director David Schweizer and long time collaborator co-composer Richard Horowitz. She will compose music and sound design for an exquisite installation by Lita Albuquerque, recipient of the esteemed National Science Foundation Artists and Writers Program Grant, alongside famed film director Werner Herzog with his project "Encounters at the End of the World."

Film/Television Credits: *The Last Temptation of Christ*, music: Peter Gabriel; *Any Given Sunday*, music: Richard Horowitz; *Unfaithful*, music: Jan Kaczmarek; *Sleeper Cell*, music: Paul Haslinger (Golden Globe winning Showtime series); *The Kite Runner*, music by Alberto Iglesias; *The Rise of the Argonauts* (Video Game), music: Tyler Bates;

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***Tobruk* music in collaboration with Richard Horowitz, winner of Czech Lion Award in 2009 and *The Stoning of Soraya M*, music by John Debney.**

John Beasley, pianist/composer/producer, potent imagination can be heard in his recordings and playing. A prodigious performer and a prolific composer working in many styles and genres, with musicians from the jazz, classical, rock and pop music worlds, and on platforms including recordings, TV, film, video games and commercials, his approach to composing and playing is intelligent and exquisitely realized, always acknowledging the past while relentlessly exploring the present and future.

Beasley is a Louisiana native and third generation musician. His father is a pianist, bassoonist and composer. His mother is a brass instrumentalist, band conductor and orchestrator. His grandfather was a trombonist. Growing up around musicians, Beasley also learned how to play trumpet, oboe, drums, saxophone and flute, mainly because of his mother's need for wind and brass instrumentalists for her bands.

Declining an oboe scholarship from the Julliard because of his stronger love for jazz, Beasley went on to play, tour and record with some music luminaries, including Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, Steely Dan (MD, Christian McBride.), James Brown, Queen Latifah (MD), Jon Hassel, and Chaka Khan, to name a few. Recognizing Beasley's talent for composing and arranging, major recording artists have added Beasley's original piano sound, arrangements, and music to their projects. While touring with Miles Davis, Beasley was inspired to release his first solo recording "Cauldron," which was produced by Steely Dan's Walter Becker.

Highly regarded as a composer, at the young age of 24, Beasley started writing music for Paramount, Disney, and MGM's television shows, namely: *Cheers*, *Family Ties*, *Star Trek* and *Fame*. He also wrote the Touchstone TV logo, which is still used today. His first brush with Hollywood films was as a pianist and synthesist on film scores for film luminaries such as Thomas Newman, Dave Grusin, Alan Silvestri, and Carmine Coppola in box office hits: *WALL-E*, *Finding Nemo*, *Erin Brockovich*, *Godfather III*, *A Bug's Life* and *Austin Powers: The Spy who Shagged Me*.

With the popularity of reality shows, Beasley, started working as Musical Director or Arranger on some of the top music and dance shows, including *American Idol*, *Pussycat Dolls Presents*, *The Search for the Next Doll*, *America's Got Talent* and *Singing Bee*. On Season 4 of *American Idol*, Beasley was Associate Musical Director overseeing the 12 female finalists. He arranged the selected songs and coached and rehearsed the contestants for their performances. To his credit, Carrie Underwood took the title and went on to earn a GRAMMY and become a No. 1 country music sensation.

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Richard Horowitz is internationally known for creating a unique sonic language that fuses together his roots in classical, jazz and electronic music with the intensity of the trance music he first experienced in Morocco at the age of nineteen. He plays keyboards, percussion and the ney, an obliquely blown reed flute - one of the oldest human wind instruments. Since the late sixties his compositions have been inspired by the ritual drama of ancient music and by the shadings, motifs and overtones of instruments and voices from these cultures. He has worked with tribal, classical and popular musicians from North Africa to Indonesia and has collaborated with Sussan Deyhim since the early eighties. His tracks are translations that morph ancient sources into the resonance of full spectrum surround-sound.

Richard has scored many feature films, receiving Golden Globe and Los Angeles Film Critics awards for his work on *The Sheltering Sky* directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. Other scores include Oliver Stone's *Any Given Sunday* (BMI Award), Sundance Grand Jury Prize winner, *Three Seasons* directed by Tony Bui and produced by Harvey Keitel, Jason Klot and Joana Vincente, *Tobruk* (Czech Golden Lion Award), and *Lakota Woman* directed by Frank Pierson, produced by Jane Fonda.

From 1968 to 1979 Horowitz lived in Paris and Morocco where he studied Arabic, French, music and eastern philosophy. He was mentored by Paul Bowles, who also nominated him for the American Academy of Arts and Letters, Goddard Liberson Award.

Richard's main collaborator has been Sussan Deyhim. Deyhim and Horowitz began recording in 1981 in New York. Their first release was *Azax/Attra: Desert Equations*. It has since become a cult classic and was one of the pioneering efforts to create what would later be called world music, drum and bass and trip-hop.

After the success of *The Sheltering Sky*, Horowitz eventually settled in London with Deyhim in 1993 to work on a CD for Sony Classical. The result, *Majoun*, was recorded in New York, London, Paris, Los Angeles, Morocco and Indonesia. High performance Magazine described it as "Imbued with a sense of ritual and the unknown".

Horowitz and Deyhim composed *The Gift of Love* for Deepak Chopra and also collaborated with Shirin Neshat on the multimedia production *Logic of the Birds* performed in Siracusa Sicily, London and Lincoln Center. Horowitz also produced *Gnawa Night Spirit Masters* with Bill Laswell and *Ritmos del Futuro Maroc/Seville*, the music for the Moroccan National Day at Seville Expo 92.

In 1997 Horowitz founded - and served as artistic director for - The Gnaoua (Gnawa) Festival in Essaouira, Morocco. The festival now attracts over four hundred thousand people every year and has helped raise the appreciation for Gnaoua music both inside and outside Morocco.

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He has recently completed the scores for the films *Casanegra* directed by Nouredine Lakmari, *Les Amants de Mogador* starring Max von Sydow, David and Layla starring David Moscow and Shiva Rose, *Return to Rajapur* starring Lynn Collins, Frank Langella, and Justin Theroux, *Tobruk*, Jihad for Love and Meeting Resistance. In 2006 he directed and co-produced a documentary film shot in India about the old masters of Indian music for The Annenberg Foundation and produced Tcheky Karyo's first CD for Universal Music France. He also scored and co-starred in *Beautiful Child* directed by Fabrizio Cheisa. and composing a new CD and media opera *The House is Black* with Sussan Deyhim.

Jon Ossman is a native of New York's Mid-Hudson Valley, Jon began playing String Bass at age 11 in the school band. On his thirteenth birthday He was given an Electric Bass and by 14 Jon was working with local bar bands and playing club dates and casuals with a local Salsa band. At age 17 Jon moved to New York City to steep himself in the study of North Indian Classical Music and the Sitar. While keeping with his studies Jon continued playing bass with various groups when in 1982 He joined Richard Lloyd (Television). Through the years Jon has gone on to perform and record with a number of exceptional artists and players. Credits would include; Chris Botti, Marc Cohn, Paula Cole, John Hall, Levon Helm, Garth Hudson, Dominic Miller, Sting...

Jon lives in Los Angeles. He can be seen performing locally with The Michael White Quintet Unit 2, and touring nationally with Marc Cohn this summer and fall.

Keyavash Nourai was born in Tehran, Iran where he began his serious pursuit of a musical career at the age of 10. He studied the violin and kamanche with the acclaimed Kamran Daroughe. He continued his musical studies in the United States under the tutelage of Alexander Treger, Eugene Fodor, Mark Menzies, and other prominent musicians. In addition, Nourai extended his skills by studying under the Indian violin masters L. Subramaniam and L. Shankar.

At the present time, Nourai plays and teaches numerous Persian instruments, such as setar, santur, tombak, and the quartertone piano. Also, he has mastered different styles of Radif playing which has given him various musical avenues for his virtuosic violin playing and improvisation. In addition, he has also composed numerous symphonic pieces and chamber music for orchestra.

Mohsen Namjoo is an Iranian singer, songwriter, composer and a non-conformist Setar player. Born in a small north-eastern town of Iran in 1976, he began his musical training as a gifted student at the age of 12. He was admitted to the theatre and music faculty of the University of Tehran in 1994 after receiving traditional vocal and musical training with some of the greatest Iranian masters.

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Namjoo's unconventional approach to the dogma of traditional music in formal institutions pushed him out of the mainstream where he found a vast audience with his debut album Toranj. Namjoo single handedly took on the mainstream on several fronts. He transformed the traditional persian style into a modern rendition that attracted younger generations while he simultaneously blended his music with western traditions of Rock and Blues. Namjoo did not stop with his great success as a musician and began to take on the dogma of traditional music lyrically. First with unconventional renditions of classical and neo-classical persian poetry and gradually with his own sophisticated, yet youthful and approachable sense of word play. There are no other examples of the Namjoo phenomenon in the contemporary Persian music scene. Given the circumstances in Iran, it is only natural that an artist like him would be lucky to find himself outside of the country, far from the hands of repression.

Ardeshir Farah is part of the Grammy Nominee guitar duo "Strunz and Farah". The unique style of acoustic guitar playing of "Strunz and Farah" has influenced many guitar players. They have released 16 Cd's and one performance DVD. Their CD primal Magic was Billboard Magazine's "World Music Album of the Year" and was Number One on Billboard's World Music chart for weeks and their next release Americas was nominated for a Grammy for the "Best World Music Album of the year" and was also on top of the Billboard's World Music charts for many weeks. They have performed numerous concerts in USA, Canada, Central America and South America over the years and they have shared the stage with Chic Corea, George Benson, Miles Davis, Jackson Browne, etc. Ardeshir has also performed and recorded with Iranian artists like Dariush, Googoosh, Faramarz Aslani and many others.

About The Broad Stage:

Under the leadership of Director Dale Franzen and Artistic Chair Dustin Hoffman, The Eli and Edythe Broad Stage at the Santa Monica College Performing Arts Center opened its doors in Santa Monica in October 2008. Inspired by Italian "horseshoe" theaters, yet conceived in an absolutely contemporary vernacular, The Broad Stage is an artist's dream and an audience's delight. Unlike any performance space in the country, it is sublimely intimate with 499-seats and strikingly grand at the same time – allowing eye contact with artists from the boxes to the back row –forging a new kind of artist and audience experience in Los Angeles. Theater, dance, film, operas, musicals, symphony and chamber orchestras will be presented on one of the city's largest proscenium stages. Designed without compromise to embrace the artistic process from inspiration to opening night, and conceived as a global theater and community hub. In addition to The Broad Stage, The Edye Second Space, a smaller black box theater, presents new, developing and innovative work in theater, music and dance

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as part of the 21st Century Cabaret Series. Under the Radar Series (UTR) features younger, innovative artists and chamber pieces and plays. Programming at The Edye is intentionally spontaneous, reflecting the dynamic nature of the space and allowing the latest, most exciting artists to be booked on short notice. UTR is only \$20.

Single tickets NOW on sale at The Broad Stage box office, 310/434-3200 or go to www.TheBroadStage.com. The Broad Stage is located at 1310 11th Street, Santa Monica, CA 90405 (at the corner of 11th Street and Santa Monica Blvd.). Tickets: \$57 - \$95. Parking is FREE.

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