



***THE EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE KINGDOM OF BELGIUM
MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN
TO THE EUROPEAN UNION
MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN TO NATO***

*Address: Av. Franklin Roosevelt, 99, 1050
Brussels, Belgium*

*t. 322-6728844, f.322-6723946,
e-mail: press@uzbekistan.be*

PRESS-RELEASE

5 December, 2005

**PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF
ORIENTAL MUSIC “SHARQ TARONOLARI” IN BRUSSELS**

The presentation of the International Festival of Oriental Music entitled “Sharq taronolari” (“Melodies of the Orient”) took place in the Museum of Musical Instruments in Brussels on 24 November, 2005.

The International Festival of Oriental Music “Sharq Taronalari” in Samarqand occupies a special place in the musical life of Uzbekistan and the whole region and is conducted once every two years since 1997.

The fifth festival “Sharq Taronalari” took place in Samarqand between the 24 and 30 August 2005. The musicians, composers, art specialists, scientists, journalists from more than 50 countries from 5 continents: Asia, Africa, America, Australia and Europe participated in the Festival.



The presentation of the Festival “Sharq taronolari” in Brussels was organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Uzbekistan to Belgium and Royal Museums of Arts and History. More than 200 hundred people, representatives of political, economical and cultural circles of Belgium, diplomatic corps, EU and other international organizations, accredited to Brussels, attended the event.

Welcoming the guests of the presentation, Mrs. Anne Kahen-Delhaye, General Director of the Royal Museums of Art and History, said that the traditional music, song and dance have always been the most honest and direct way for peoples to express fundamental emotions such as fear, desire, anger and joy. Folk music festivals are therefore true displays of humanity, showing sentiments deeply rooted in each specific culture, and at



the same time universally recognizable by all. This message of mutual respect and understanding through artistic expression is no doubt celebrated by the magnificent International Festival of Oriental Music “Sharq taronalari” in Samarkand, said Mrs. Anne Kahen-Delhaye.

Speaking at the presentation, H.E. Vladimir Norov, Ambassador of Uzbekistan to Belgium, said that holding of the Festival of Oriental Music “Sharq taronalari” in Uzbekistan, and namely in Samarkand is not accidentally. Along the centuries Uzbekistan was one of the hotbeds of world civilizations, the central connecting part on the Great Silk Road, the place of contacts and active trade, economic and spiritual cooperation between the East and the West. The glory of city of Samarqand, which became one of the cultural and spiritual centers of medieval world, reached the Europe in the Middle Ages.

And today the people from the many corners of the world, who like and highly appreciate the Eastern culture and art, are directed to Samarqand.

Oriental music is the philosophy of the East, one of the essential parts of the Eastern world and has a great place in the world cultural heritage.

The International festival of Oriental Music “Sharq taronalari”, which is organized by the initiative of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, gained for the short period of the time international recognition and is attracting the attention of many well-known specialists of the art not only from the East, but also from the West.

On the view of the majority of the participants of the international musical festival “Sharq taronalari”, this forum became the unique instrument of realization of vivid requirements of the world community in the mutual cultural links, in the intention to good, beauty, elegance, peace and stability, which primordially placed in conscience of each people, each nation.

Ambassador V.Norov also emphasized, that the presentation in the Museum of Musical Instruments in Brussels is taking place on the eve of wide celebration on 8 December of 13th Anniversary of the Constitution of the independent Uzbekistan, in which the will of people of Uzbekistan on construction of the

democratic legal civil state was expressed, and the priority and protection of human rights and interests of each citizen are legislatively guaranteed.

For achieving of these goals, the special attention has being paid in Uzbekistan to development of the wide international contacts and cooperation with international and European structures, said Ambassador V.Norov.

After concluding of his speech, Ambassador V.Norov presented a gift to the the Federal Museum of Musical Instruments of Belgium one of the oldest musical instruments of Uzbek people – a wooden flute Nai, which was made by craftsman B.Khakimjanov in 1993, commemorating the 2nd year of the Independence of the Republic of Uzbekistan.



Thanking the Uzbekistan Embassy for the gift, Mrs. Ann Kayen-Delhayé expressed the hope that a wooden flute nai will become a beginning of the future big collection of the national Uzbek instruments at the Museum of musical instruments of Belgium.

This year for the first time in the history of the International Musical Festival “Sharq taronalari” the musical group from Belgium – ensemble “Zaman” participated in the festival. Zaman ensemble is composed by four musicians - Quentin Smolderen, Keltoum Yasef, Carlo Strazzante and Nicolas Hauzeur, Belgians of diverse origin, who have in common passion for oriental music.

Speaking on behalf of the group “Zaman”, Mr. N.Hauseur said that it was a great privilege for ensemble “Zaman” to take part to this very special event in Samarkand and represent the Kingdom of Belgium. As Oriental Music performers, playing on the mythical Registan Square will remain one of our most beautiful musical moment, said N. Hauseur.

The way we were welcomed in Samarkand was remarkable, said N.Hauseur. Spontaneous hospitality of Uzbek people lies under it as well as the wish of the organizers to base the Festival on a rich human relationship and cultural level.

The Festival gives also the opportunity to his participants coming from every corner of the planet to meet in a very friendly atmosphere. Beside the contest’s performances, musical meeting can happen at any time. In the hotels where musicians from different corners of the world, reside we could here rehearsals and jam session to any floors, said Belgian musician.

N.Hauseur said that as participant of this last edition of “Sharq Taronalari” festival, he would like confirm that it seems to emerge a real desire from Uzbek authorities as well as from cultural actors in Tashkent and Samarkand to develop the international musical network.

The Belgian musician noted that the Sharq Taronalari showed that an intercultural dialogue in Uzbekistan finds its representation in real life.

Within the program of presentation, the “Zaman” ensemble performed a concert of Oriental music, including the classical Uzbek melodies, they learned in Samarqand. The public of the Museum for Musical Instruments could appreciate skills of performers of “Zaman” on Uzbek instruments as Rubab and Doira, as well as on turkish traditional instruments as ud, qanun, and keman.



The guests of the presentation had also a possibility to watch a special film, about the opening ceremony of the festival. The film includes the basic information about the festival, extracts from the welcoming speeches of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, President of the General conference UNESCO Mr. Michael Omeleva and Chairman of the Jury of the festival Mr. Tag Gi Oh from Republic of Korea. The speakers emphasized that Musical festival “Sharq taronalari”, supported by UNESCO, during the last years took up its deserved place among prestigious world music forums and attracts the musicians and admirers from many countries of the world.

This year a well-known French composer and singer Sh.Aznavur took part at the festival by the invitation of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov. Speaking at the opening ceremony of the festival in Samarqand, Sh. Aznavour said that he saw a lot of festivals, but the “Sharq taronalari” amazed him very much. “It is indeed huge and grandiose festival, and it is being held in such mythical place, and you can never imagine what it is about, until you come here yourself and see by your own eyes”, said Sh. Aznavour and continued that it was dream of his childhood – to visit Samarqand. And this dream, thanks to invitation of President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, become true, said Sh.Aznavour.

The musical part of the grand opening ceremony of the festival expressed the colorful presentation of the rich musical culture and artistic skills of the people of Uzbekistan. The opening ceremony of the festival of oriental music “Sharq taronalare” at the Registan square, featured at the film, produced an indelible impression on the guests of the presentation.

Sharing with their impressions about the event at Museum of Musical Instruments, the guests of the ceremony noted that the “Sharq Taronalari” Festival has a special significance for the raising of awareness in Europe of the role of cultural and historical heritage of the Uzbek people in the development of intercivilisational dialogue. It was also stressed that advancing the goals of the Sharq Taronalari Festival in Europe will undoubtedly serve to strengthen the ties between the peoples of Uzbekistan and EU member-states in the field of culture, science and education.