

Oakland Youth Orchestra
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December 21, 2009

The Oakland Youth Orchestra is proud to announce that we are commissioning an orchestral piece with traditional Persian instrumentation, to be debuted at a free concert on Sunday, May 23, 2010 at 3:00 pm at the Scottish Rite Center in Oakland. The piece is being composed by award-winning composer, conductor and educator Omid Zoufonoun, whose brother, Amin Zoufonoun will be performing the Persian instrumentation. Both are sons of the renowned Persian musician Mahmoud Zoufonoun. In **Manteq at-Tayr** (**Language of the Birds**), the Oakland Youth Orchestra will be joined by the ancient sounds of a traditional Persian instrumentalist in order to musically explore the Seven Valleys to Enlightenment as depicted by the 12th century Persian poet Farid ud-Din Attar.

We believe that this piece will expose our audiences to new types of music, in addition to creating a spirit of harmony between countries and cultures. We are very excited to share Persian culture and music with our audiences, many of whom have not previously had this opportunity. We would be honored if you could join us for this exciting event as well!

We need your help! This piece is made possible through generous grants from the James Irvine Foundation and the East Bay Community Foundation's East Bay Fund for Artists. The latter is a challenge grant, in which we need to raise \$5000 from individual donors for this commission. Please help us achieve this goal by donating and/or passing this information on to others who may be able to help.

Tax-deductible donations may be made online at www.oyo.org or by mail at the above address. Please be sure to designate that it is for the Persian piece. We are grateful for any and all support!

Gail Edwards
General Manager

Zahra Mahloudji
Administrative Associate