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Iranian musician to perform with Cologne Philharmonic
Tehran Times Art Desk

TEHRAN -- Iranian musician Bahman Mehabadi will be giving violin solo performances with the Cologne Philharmonic orchestra in June.

"I had a solo performance at the spring festival of Germany and Austria on March 24. In a meeting I had later with the director of Cologne Philharmonic choir, it was decided that I would accompany the orchestra on their European tour beginning in June," Mehabadi told the Persian service of MNA.

"The choir will be performing pieces by Mozart, Beethoven, Brahms and several others. I will also be bringing a selection of Iranian compositions with me for the performances," he added.

Mehabadi who is also the director of Iranian Sol ensemble said that the ensemble is waiting to receive a publishing license for its new album from the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

He regretted the improper situation for giving concerts in the country and said, "I have no motivation to hold concerts here in Iran. Iranian audiences fall into two categories: Those in the first don't pay much attention to classic music. Those in the second are individuals who really don't know much about classic music, but pretend they know it well enough to claim that classic music is not played professionally here in Iran. I totally disagree with people in the latter category and prefer not to give concerts here."

Photo: Bahman Mehabadi performs with the Sol ensemble during the 20th Fajr International Music Festival at Tehran's Vahdat Hall in February 2005.

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