The Journey

INTER-CONTINENTAL CONCERTS

The Journey is the Bronze Medal Winner Album of Global Music Awards in USA in 2016
Shahed Mohseni Zonoozi
Founder & Producer

Shahed is an Iranian independent composer and media producer. Playing the Santur by the age of eight, his musical talent was apparent from an early age. Soon after, he picked up a special interest in music composition and audio recording. As a Maestro, he has recorded several patents and won various festival prizes for invention and innovation.

Studying in North Cyprus, Shahed observed talented people from different nationalities. This experience encouraged him to create a media program that would incorporate the diverse talents that had converged there on the tiny island. This culminated in the establishment of InterContinental Concerts in 2011.

Production of album “The Journey”, is the outcome of his efforts in finding, gathering and cooperating with a large number of talented armatures and professionals at Eastern Mediterranean University from 2011 to 2015.
InterContinental Concerts

Inter-Continental Concerts (ICC) is a multimedia production organization that produces music, live concerts, performance videos and feature films. ICC values diversity and promotes unity among all people on earth. Our primary goal is to bring together artists from around the world to participate in our various productions and projects.

From 2011 to 2017, ICC produced a series of programs consisting of videos, music albums and live concert events featuring artists from around the world. Designed to express a global perspective, this international collaboration demonstrated how PEACE, LOVE and LIFE can be communicated through the language of music. Building on a well-received and very successful concert series, ICC continues to develop relationships and create opportunities for collaboration.

Inter-Continental Concerts was founded in 2011 by Shahed Mohseni Zonoozi and Sam Mosallaeeipour. The two met while attending school at the Eastern Mediterranean University in Cyprus. During their studies, they had made many friends from many nations. Inspired by this cultural kaleidoscope, the two decided to put together a team of dedicated artists committed to using music and the performing arts to create a positive impact on their community.

The Journey

The Journey is the first official offering from ICC. This album represents ICCs fundamental goals, philosophy and world view. Offering a variety of styles from different regions of the world, this album takes the listener on a geographical tour, from the Far East to the Mediterranean Rim to Africa. This album was made possible by the generous participation of a large and passionate group from over 15 nations who cooperated in writing, creating, playing and producing each piece. The album was recorded between 2011 and 2014 and post production was completed in 2015.

The Journey is the 2016 Bronze Medallion Winner Album of Global Music Awards in production in California and also contains three other award winning tracks. “The Cyprus Station” is the 2016 World Music Winner of International Songwriting Competition in Nashville, “Unrecognized Country” received the World Music Bronze Medallion at the Global Music Awards and “Far Away” was chosen as a semi-finalist for Song of the Year in Nashville.

Welcome to The Journey ...
Album

1. The Cyprus Station
2. Eternal Love
3. Life (Жизнь)
4. Persian Nowruz (نوروز پارسی)
5. Gole Eshgham (Гули ишкам)
6. Far Away
7. Power of Love
8. The Fellowship
9. My Life is Çok Güzel
10. Unrecognized Country
It is said that everything happens for a reason. If this saying is true, then living in Cyprus for Inter-Continental Concerts team has been one of those meaningful things. For the I.C.Cs members, this Island has been like a transit station that while nobody stays at it forever, still it provides them the chance of tasting the flavor of unity and see the beauty of diversity in the world through cooperating with other people, from different parts of the world and with different cultural backgrounds.

A great opportunity that however, is valid only for a limited period. This special situation of the island has influenced the life of I.C.Cs members dramatically. The Cyprus Station has provided the Inter-Continental Concerts team an incredible chance for joy, fun and maturity. The song "The Cyprus Station" is about this journey ...
The song Life is addressing an important issue of our modern time; Perplexity of the human being. It points at this fact that we are responsible for building our own life in the way that serves best to our salvation path. It suggest that the key of success in this matter is to look inside ourselves and find out our dreams, believe in them and endeavor for making them come true. Only by then, the light inside our heart will be alive and lead us towards salvation and gratitude.

This song is a joint production of 3 artists; Shahed Mohseni Zoroizi and Salar Hamzei from Iran and Maria Musaeva from Kyrgyzstan written in Russian language. The amazing guitar solo is played by Salar Hamzei who wrote the melody of the song as well.

An equinox is an astronomical event in which the imaginary plane of Earth’s equator passes the center of the Sun. As a result, the northern and southern hemispheres are equally illuminated. There are two equinoxes every year, in March and September, when the Sun shines directly on the equator and the length of night and day are nearly equal. The equinoxes, along with solstices, are directly related to the seasons of the year. In the Northern Hemisphere, the vernal equinox (March 19, 20 or 21) conventionally marks the beginning of spring in most cultures.

The arrival of spring is called “Nowruz” in Iran, which means “the new day”. Nowruz that marks the first day of spring originated in Persia (Iran) in one of the capitals of the “Achaemenid empire”. This day is celebrated by the cultural region that came under Iranian influence and has been celebrated by people from diverse ethnic communities and religious backgrounds for thousands of years. It is a secular holiday for most celebrants and is enjoyed by people of different faiths, but remains a holy day for Zoroastrians.

The UN’s General Assembly in 2010 recognized the International Day of Nowruz, describing it as a spring festival of Persian origin, which has been celebrated for over 3,000 years. During the meeting of The Inter-governmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Heritage of the United Nations, held between 28 September – 2 October 2009, Nowruz was officially registered on the UNESCO List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.*

The song “Persian Nowruz” is composed in Persian 8/8 rhythm which is the rhythm for the happy Iranian pieces. Additionally “Sanlur” and “Zuma” which are original Iranian instruments are played in this song with a modern arrangement.
05 Goité Eshgóm (Тули ишкм)  

Love exist everywhere, it knows no nationality and no geographical boundaries. "Gole Eshgóm" is a love song from the northern part of Asia, an expression of Love with Tajik language flavor which is composed in 6/8 rhythm. The song is a harmonic crossover between two variation of 6/8 rhythm, Tajiki 6/8 and Persian 6/8. The Persian lyrics of "Gole Esgh" is sang with Tajiki dialect.

06 Far Away  

Once upon a time  
In a big town  
In spring under the lovely sun  
Oh, what a beautiful destiny  
We faced for the first time  
Long time I tried to reach you  
The hardest I ever do  
I could hear each of  
My heart beats  
Even when I was  
Thinking of you  
Yes, I fell in love  
Oh, such a strong sense  
Flames of feels was  
Burnning in my heart  
By staring in your eyes  
Now horizon I saw  

Only thinking of you  
Imagine being with you  
What was the awesome nights  
Remember the evening  
I spent my time with you  
I wish time stopped  
And cannot continue  
The best ever hours of my life  
Yeah, there was just me  
And you by my side, Oh yeah  
Beautiful eyes, beautiful face  
Even now I fall with you again  
Sweet smile, sweet magic words  
Which makes me fall for you  
More and more  

It was like a dream  
The moments I spent with you  
Not so long and now it's all over  
You're gonna be so far away  
But why should I carry  
Just your memories now  
Oh no, don't leave me now  
Don't pass me by  
I can't stand with  
The empty feeling of your touch  
Why should I live by  
Just dreaming of you  
How I don't watch your face  
For rest of my life  
I'm gonna lose my whole  
But remember  
I'll come for finding you

The temporary residence in a place, as if you have to live a student life, has many aspects. One of them is facing an inevitable departure, among the people who have developed an attachment towards each other. However, after this station, the destinations are different. Political issues, cultural issues, financial issues and even having a different goal, causes people to be departed from each other. This issue has definitely a strong impact on the people with this experience, although, the respond to it, is quite different depending on the personality and experience of them. This song is written upon a true story and describes one of these responses.
We are living in the world of illusions. The illusions that are created from the systems that feed our minds. In our illusions, the reality that we observe is only our own interpretation of the external facts. But where is the truth? What are the answers to the ultimate questions?

The song “Power of Love” suggests that answers to these questions are in everything that faces us, we just need to stop the illusion that has covered our sights, then, the call can be heard and the truth behind the curtain will be revealed.

This song is the live recording of the Concert in 2013 with cooperation of the EMU choir. Live interaction of several nationalities on stage has reinforced the message of the song significantly.
The Fellowship is the story of a couple of young men and women of BFF type who live and study in North Cyprus, as they navigate their way through life and learn to grow up as they approach their thirties. With the help of each other, they get through the obstacles that life naturally has for them. There is a strong connection between them but they don’t blab in each other’s life. Moreover, even though there is always fights and arguments between the friends, they never really break up and always make it back together. Anyone in this group has his/her own special type of character and personality and is famous for a property, such as wisdom, intelligence, artistic quality, being passionate etc.

The idea of the song was born by Sam M. Pour and Shahed M. Zonoizi upon one of the graduation ceremonies when most of their friends were about to graduate. They decided to create something that could be remained as an appreciation gift for all of them. For that reason, they asked everybody to describe his/her most favorite friend in his/her own words. Based on these descriptions, the lyrics of the song was written. In the lyrics, the period of life that they have spent together is described as well. In this song, for a better transmission of the feelings, depending on the personality description of a person, a specific harmony structure and orchestration was designed. In certain parts, when there has been some special type of connection between two people, their harmonic structure is identical. For “The Fellowship”, a short movie-music video entited “The Fellowship of EMU”, with participation of friends, appearing in their own role at Cyprus, is directed in 2013.
Sun it rises everyday
I get down on my knees to pray
Things uncertain on this play
But still I forge out full of faith
Sometime all I get is pain
Other times I get to gain
The read ahead
Not always straight
Still I find these words to say
My life is çok güzel
Life is beautiful so so beautiful
Çok güzel, çok güzel, çok güzel
Every time you look around
See their faces with the frowns
People lower than the ground
Waiting for things turn around
Give a brother a helping hand
Make an eden of this land
Çok güzel could be a trend
Send this message to a friend
My life is çok güzel
My life is çok güzel
Life is beautiful so so beautiful
Çok güzel, çok güzel, çok güzel
And if your life is çok güzel
Put your hands up
Even when the sea dries up
Mountain start to float right up
We get life we get hope
We get ourselves a tomorrow
All we need are positives

"Çok Güzels" (çok (gouzal)), is a Turkish phrase meaning “Very Nice” or “Very Beautiful.” The official language in North Cyprus is Turkish, using the word “çok güzel” in this lyrics is a tribute to the culture and community that provided the Inter-continental Concerts the existence opportunity.

This song is somehow the Inter-Continental Concerts point of view towards the daily life; our thinking affects our living, and associations and activities shape our thoughts. the urge to always surround ourselves with people that share this reasoning and find ways to get the most out of the rich association available in such communities. The song “My Life Çok Güzels” describes this philosophy in an excellent way.

The Inter-communal violence in Cyprus finally led to separation of the island into the north part and the south part. The South is controlled by The Republic of Cyprus, which is officially recognized by the international society. However, the North part, Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) has not been that lucky, this part of Cyprus is only recognized by Turkey. As far as the rest of the world is concerned, the North is only an unrecognized region.

Previously in several cases it was mentioned that this so-called unrecognized country has had a great influence on the life of the people who have been living in it. The piece “Unrecognized Country” is here to send this message to the world that these people have a life in this unrecognized region, study here and can create all of this beautiful music to be heard by the rest of the world.
Musicians:

ACCORDEON: Şefkat Sardarzadeh
BASS: Emmanuel Paul, Shahed Mohseni
DRUMS: Samson Linz
ELECTRIC GUITAR: Babak Mahbazi, Emmanuel Oluga
ELECTRIC PIANO: Izi David
FLUTE: Behzad Heidarshenas, Isil Agić
GUITARS: Salar Hamzeh, Shahed Mohseni
PIANO, SYNTHS & SANTOOR: Shahed Mohseni
PERCUSSIONS: Ehsan Shafiee, Mehrdad Jadidzadeh, Okan Sadicoğlu
VIOLIN: Sam Qaimani
BACK VOCALS: Aşel Kalbekova, Karina Nesterova, Rachael Oduvami, Shadrack Peter

CHOIR CONDUCTOR: Chidiebere Awosu

RAP ARTISTS: Maria Muestra, Olaniyi Teidi (DJ Java)

MUSIC COMPOSERS: Shahed Mohseni, “THE CYPRUS STATION” & “LIFE” SPANISH GUITAR SOLOS BY Salar Hamzeh, “MY LIFE IS ÇOK GÖZÜL” BY Nibi Kayode

LYRICS: Shahed Mohseni, “LIFE” BY Maria Muestra, “THE FELLOWSHIP” BY Sam M. Pour in cooperation with Mija Poludi, Aşel Kalbekova, “MY LIFE IS ÇOK GÖZÜL” BY Nibi Kayode

ARRANGEMENTS & ORCHESTRA: Shahed Mohseni
Acknowledgment

We as the Inter-Continental Concerts would like to express our sincerest gratitude to Amir Tafreshi, Dr. Aysu Arsoy, Dr. Béla Vizvári, Farrokh & Farhad Shojaei, Farzad Nowshad, Fatih Bayraktar, Khashani Family, Dr. Majid Hashemipour, Murat Aliustaoğlu, Mustapha D. Ibrahim and Dr. Riza Bashirov, for all of their advises, encouragement, guidance, inspiration and motivation during the last five years.

We would also like to extend our immense gratitude to Eastern Mediterranean University and Art and Cultural Center of Famagusta Municipality for their staunch supports during the process of our programs.

Last but not the least, we would like to thank our families, friends and anyone who has been supporting us by any means during the period of our activities.

The following resources are used in some of the definitions, which are given in this booklet:

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nowruz

** http://www.universetoday.com