

Babak Falsafi is a classical guitarist with unique sound and repertoire. He was born in Iran where the Persian, Armenian, Turkish, Moorish and Kurdish cultures meet each other. This resulted an outstanding trait of his scholarship personality "cosmopolitan and culturally diverse". He began to play the guitar at the age of nine and since then has been pioneering new boundaries in classical guitar. Babak's musical life started in the time of war in Iran. He gave his first benefit concert for the refugees of war in 1981 when he was 11. In this performance he played *The Good Children of the South* for his new classmates who could escape to Tehran from the war zones in South Iran. Upon immigration of his mentor and teacher master Iranian guitarist Bagher Moazen to Canada, Babak just at the age of 14 dedicated his life to teaching and performing classical guitar by popular demand in his native Iran.

The sound of his guitar was always heard on the national TV and radio where he occasionally performed *An Attempt, in the Prison* and *The Good Children of the South* as some of the main compositions of Bagher Moazen. As a youngster Babak always dreamed of becoming a guitarist or a scientist. Years later he dropped his pursuit of an engineering degree when he realized that his stronger passion was for music. Babak was the first Iranian Guitarist to perform a solo recital in public after long abandonment of public music performance in Iran which occurred from 1978 to 1992. This performance was organized by the newly reformed at the time Iranian Music Society in Roodaki Hall of Tehran in 1992. He was also invited to collaborate with the Iran-Austria Cultural Center of Tehran to organize a guitar talent show and masterclass which was taught by Leo Witoszynsky in 1996. As a young pedagogue Babak not only successfully bridged between the famous Tehran House of Guitar and the younger generation of Iranian guitarists but also pioneered new methods and trained several guitarists who were the first group of young artists to enter the guitar departments of universities in Iran in early 90s. After his breathtaking performance in the embassy of the Czech Republic in Tehran he received an official invitation and scholarship to study in the Prague Conservatory of Music from 1997 to 1999. During his stay in Prague he both enjoyed student and professional life when besides studying at the conservatory he was assigned the artistic director of Prague International School of Music and fine Arts. Despite his fruitful and enjoyable life in the Czech Republic he immigrated to the United States to join his family in 1999.

Babak is a graduate of San Francisco Conservatory of Music where he studied with Marc Teicholz and worked from 2001 to 2006. During the recent years he dedicated all his summers to teaching and performing in Iran and served as a founding member, president and conductor of Iranian Guitar Orchestra which was established in Iran in 2004. He managed to take the orchestra to Ordu Guitar Festival in Turkey to perform in 2005 and in the same year founded the Tehran Guitar Competition in Iran. Currently Babak and his wife reside together in San Jose, CA. Babak is on the board of San Jose School of Guitar which makes its home at Le Petit Trianon Theater in down town San Jose. He continues to work at SJSJG on different projects as a scholar, pedagogue, composer and producer.



As an Iranian born classical guitarist Babak has always desired to capture the oriental roots of his instrument. He arrived in the United States in the beginning of the new millennium and was so surprised by the diversity of the Bay Area. In this cosmopolitan region he made friend with many musicians. He discussed with Matthew Grasso the possibility of a developed acoustic guitar with additional frets and strings. Scott Richter liked the idea and began to work on building the guitar in 2006. The guitar was finished in early 2008 and since then Babak has been discovering the possibilities of this new instrument by composing and improvising on it.

