

AFG-CL-01

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Letterhead: Emblem of [REDACTED]

Date: 13 March 2023

Number: 124

To Dr. Tim Curtis, Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

We are glad to have this opportunity to hold an exchange with you [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Rubab, also known as "The King of the Mystical Music of the East", holds a special place of cultural significance in our country, and is our nation's most famous musical instrument; the inexhaustible reverent mention of its name in the literary texts of the writers and poets of Dari Persian further proves this point.

The exciting and uplifting sound of Rubab is ever-present in our mystical evenings, and accompanies our aggrieved nation's mirth and fun. Rubab finds its origins in today's Afghanistan and the great Khorasan region of Iran, and the co-cultural nations of Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, all share in the ancient heritage of this cultural phenomenon of our ancient land. Therefore, we ask the respected organization of UNESCO to follow through with the global registry of Rubab with its origins partly in today's Afghanistan and its heritage shared with the neighboring nations.

We hope that Rubab's life-affirming voice helps incite the melody of peace and friendship in the world, and help make our neighboring nations grow closer than ever before.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-02

[REDACTED]

To the esteemed organization UNESCO,

In an unprecedented decision, UNESCO has decided to globally register the Rubab instrument. I, as an Afghani citizen, want to reiterate that Rubab acts as a solid foundation for the authentic music of my nation. The people of Afghanistan know this instrument as they know their own flesh and blood. Therefore, our plea to UNESCO is to remember Afghanistan alongside the neighboring co-cultural countries when considering the global registry of Rubab, so that the weary and neglected Afghanistan, as a part of the region that Rubab has its ancient roots and origins in, does not find itself yet again bereft of its most rudimentary cultural and authentic values in the global scene.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED], poet and author,

March 9, 2023

AFG-CL-03

To Dr. Tim Curtis,

I am a teenager student in Kabul, and, knowing the beauty in the art of the ancient and cultural Rubab instrument, which is played alongside a reading of Persian poems, and has its roots in the Khorasan region of Iran, hereby declare my happiness and support for the global registry of "The Art of Making and Playing Rubab" in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list. It goes without saying that this undertaking will cause more cultural cohesion and prosperity when it comes to this cultural and ancient domain and help introduce it further globally.

Yours Truly,

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of the sender.

AFG-CL-04

Dear Mr. Tim Curtis, Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

Wishing you further success, it is hereby respectfully written that:

"Rubab" is the most famous musical instrument in the historical-cultural area of the Great Khorasan with its geographical origin which today is Afghanistan. This musical instrument in different cities such as Herat, Kabul, Balkh, and other cities is still crafted and its exciting sound promotes happiness in happy and friendly gatherings of the people of this land. As Rubab's songs foster mystic passion and create turmoil with the chants of the Sufis, in the same way, have also sympathy for the sad hearts of the suffering people of our land. Now that an opportunity has been provided for countries with a common culture, including Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, all to inherit this cultural phenomenon of the ancient land of the Great Khorasan, I, as a member of the scientific board of [REDACTED] take into account this step as a good fortune and for the benefit of further unity and closeness among the people of these countries, and also, I request the respected UNESCO to cooperate in the inscribing of this heritage as an Afghanistan musical instrument and the shared heritage of neighboring countries.

Respectfully

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-05

To Dr. Tim Curtis, Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

I, [REDACTED] Rubab crafter and Rubab oyster veneering artisan, have been in this business for 30 years. This has always been a family business, and our artworks have been portrayed in museums.

Rubab is an ancient instrument and have been around for more than 2000 years. This musical instrument has been made and played in what is today's Afghanistan for centuries, and has been improved upon alongside changes in our culture and musical understanding. Rubab also has many admirers and enjoyers in our neighboring co-cultural countries, who also make and play the instrument.

I hereby declare my support for the global registry of Rubab in the Intangible Cultural Heritage list of UNESCO, put forth by artists from Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, who have decided to stand together and support the heritage of Rubab.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-06

To Dr. Tim Curtis, Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

I, [REDACTED] musician and head of Afghanistan's music department, declare my utmost support for this project. I do believe this endeavor should have been undertaken years ago, since Rubab is an ancient Afghani local musical instrument. I would also like to thank everybody who have started and made this project possible.

I hereby declare my approval and commendation for the joint effort by Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan to add Rubab to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Yours Truly,

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-07

To Dr. Tim Curtis, Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

We wish you health and merriment, and would like to thank you for all the work you do to safeguard our cultural heritage.

██████████ is an organization that works to safeguard our cultural, historical, and identity-defining values, as well as to preserve our cultural heritage.

Historical research has shown that the Rubab instrument has been mentioned in the works of Persian-speaking thinkers, poets and mystics since the ancient past, and this proves that this instrument has been historically used in the region that is today's Afghanistan, and also those of Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. Rubab's contemporary style has been commonplace in the Badakhshan region of Afghanistan, and was first introduced in the court of Akbar the Great (third Mughal emperor, 1556 to 1605).

Rubab has intermingled with Rumi's poetry and has made available the theme to the formation of Sama. The notes of Rubab excite the Sufi dancing whirling dervishes, and brings about the ethereal love that Rumi encouraged.

██████████ believes that the Rubab instrument is an ancient heritage made in Afghanistan, and jointly owned by Afghanistan, Iran, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, and its global registry in the name of these nations would end up strengthening friendship and compassion in the overall co-cultural region, and helps further motivate the Rubab makers and players.

Yours Truly,

AFG-CL-08

Rubab of Kabul

Greeting

I [REDACTED] am a citizen of Afghanistan. I completed my education in the major of filmmaking at Victoria University in Melbourne City. I write poetry in the Persian language and published a book [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from the collection of my poems. I am also a calligrapher and a Rubab player.

[It is said that] The origin of Rubab is a region about Kandahar and Herat in today's Afghanistan; this heart-touching instrument of the Great Khorasan has been introduced and spread among countries by this region's musicians. I request the respected UNESCO to inscribe this instrument of Afghanistan, which is also known as Rubab of Kabul, as a shared cultural heritage of Afghanistan and its neighboring countries on the World List.

Thank you

[REDACTED]

2023/03/11

AFG-CL-09

Dear Mr. Tim Curtis,

Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

I, [REDACTED] the son of [REDACTED], one of the masters of the art of Rubab playing and crafting in Afghanistan, learnt Rubab playing and crafting from my father.

The Rubab instrument is one of Afghanistan's traditional musical instruments, the origin of which and its playing and crafting has been developed in Afghanistan.

Rubab, speaking of current usage, has 21 strings, 3 main strings made of nylon, 3 king strings, and 15 sympathetic strings.

In the process of Rubab crafting, I can say that the Rubab is made of seedless mulberry wood, which is also known as both Shir Tut wood and Bramkhani wood.

Rubab is made of 3 pieces, which include the body, neck, and head of Rubab. Then these three pieces are linked together and Rubab is covered with hide, using the goat hide.

And then strings are passed through Rubab.

I support preparing the joint file for the inscription of Rubab on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the countries of Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

Farewell

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-10

Dear Mr. Tim Curtis,

Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

I [REDACTED] am an artist [REDACTED] [REDACTED], who has been participating for 40 years in television programmes as a saxophone player, recently as a singer [REDACTED] in the wedding receptions of my compatriots and in official and unofficial circles. I currently live in Istanbul, Turkey with my family. I express my support as an artist [REDACTED] regarding the Rubab musical instrument and at the same time I must remind you that [Rubab] forms the backbone of the music

I support preparing the joint file for the inscription of Rubab on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage by the countries of Afghanistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, and Tajikistan.

[REDACTED]

AFG-CL-11

Dear Dr. Tim Curtis,

Secretary of UNESCO's Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Convention,

first of all, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation for your fruitful efforts to inscribe the cultural heritage of the civilizational area, especially Afghanistan and Iran.

The Rubab musical instrument is one of the graceful instruments of oriental music, which Persian famous poets such as Daqiqi Balkhi, Nasir Khusraw Balkhi, Mevlana Jalal al-Din Muhammad Balkhi (Rumi), Hafez-e Shirazi, Abdul-Qadir Bedil and most of the speakers of this civilizational area talked about and described it in their works.

Rubab is an instrument with age of several centuries, as this instrument has been used since the distant past in Sangardi and mountain songs, and speaking of local and folk songs, it has always accompanied the songs of villagers, and has been played in the ears of the nobles of Aryan descent, so that its songs shine in the sky of Eastern literature, and find its way in the rich romance works and mystical prayers.

It sometimes accompanies the sparkle of Shams and the voice of Rumi with the same romantic tone, and according to history, dear Rumi, this famous sheikh of the city, jumps out of the pulpit, he listens to the soulful sound of the Ney, and his heart listens to the heart touching sound of the Rubab.

It is obvious that Rubab, like many other musical instruments, has followed a winding path of evolution, as at first this musical instrument was played differently with a variable-tension bow and it had a continuous sound, and based on a historical narrative in the 10th century of the solar Hijri, at the same time of Akbar the Great emperor of India, in the foothills of Badakhshan, Afghanistan, it was invented again in a different form and in the form of String-Plectrum and at this stage it acquired a better geometric shape and sound.

The evolutionary process of the instrument has continued until the modern era; Master Mohammad Omar, who has the title of "King/Sultan of Rubab" in

Afghanistan and the Indian subcontinent, brought the evolutionary process of this instrument to the level of perfection so that by changing its strings and tonality, he brought it out of the local state and according to the modern knowledge of music he provided Rubab with seven main and five secondary music tonality and this is when Rubab becomes a famous and popular musical instrument in Asia, the Indian subcontinent and the whole world.

I appreciate the process of inscribing this enduring instrument and masterpiece of humanity on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage as a creative heritage of Afghanistan, shared with the nations of Iran, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, and I wish that one day the civilizational manifestations of proud civility spread again in the East and the world witness the dawn of the civilization and friendly unity among our people and the people of all the countries of the region.

[REDACTED]

March 15, 2023

In the name of God

And greetings to the cultural activists and enthusiasts of the Rubab musical instrument, especially the Rubab instrument of Afghanistan,

And greetings to the colleagues of the UNESCO Commission,

This is [REDACTED] the nephew and apprentice of Master [REDACTED]

The Rubab instrument is one of Afghanistan's traditional musical and authentic instruments of today's Afghanistan and [it is said that] Rubab is originated from Ghazni in Afghanistan, and its playing and crafting have been developed throughout Afghanistan.

Rubab, speaking of current usage, has 21 strings, 3 main strings made of nylon, 3 king strings, and 15 sympathetic strings and this usage is the result of the annual hard works of Master Mohammad Omar also known for "King/Sultan of Rubab".

Rubab is made of seedless mulberry wood, which is also known as both Shir Tut wood and Bramkhani wood in Herat.

Rubab is made of 3 pieces.

These 3 pieces include the body, neck, and head of Rubab.

Then these three pieces are linked together and Rubab is covered with goat hide.

And then strings are passed through Rubab.

In that part, I invite you to [watch] the old video from the recordings of 40 or 50 years ago, in which my uncle and master talk briefly about the Rubab instrument of Afghanistan and continue to play an original Herati song with this instrument:

[REDACTED]

Master [REDACTED] says that Rubab has history of more than three thousand years in the Ghazni city of Afghanistan, and over time it has developed.

Master Mohammad Omar is one of the most famous Rubab teachers in Afghanistan and in 1974 he was invited to the United States of America to teach the Rubab instrument of Afghanistan to the students of the Music University of that country and this trip can be said to be an opportunity for the history of the Rubab instrument of Afghanistan.

So, the present Rubab instrument of Afghanistan is one of the Afghanistan heritages, and during the past, it has been promoted in Afghanistan's neighboring countries, also it has been known and promoted in Europe and America and the people of Afghanistan are proud of this heritage.

I am happy that the Rubab as an essential and traditional instrument of Afghanistan will be inscribed, as it has been developed from today's Afghanistan to other countries.

In recent years, to expand the Rubab instrument of Afghanistan, I have worked hard to share this art and instrument with my friends through social media, which you can watch in the link below.



As an Afghan citizen who lives in Frankfurt, Germany, I am ready to do whatever I can to help the UNESCO Commission, and please contact me as soon as necessary so that we can inscribe this element on the world List.

Farewell

