



August 15, 2022

Faculty of Music

University of Toronto

Toronto, ON M5S 2C5

I am writing to recommend Hadi Milanloo for an Elahé Omidyar Mir-Djalali Dissertation Completion Fellowship. I recommend him very highly and urge you to consider his application.

I have known Hadi for six years in my capacity as a professor in the Ethnomusicology program at the University of Toronto and as a member of his dissertation committee. He came to us extremely highly recommended by the Memorial University of Newfoundland ethnomusicology program, and was our top pick for the PhD program in his incoming year. He came to us as one of a very small number of recipients of the University of Toronto's prestigious Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students, and has certainly lived up to our expectations. His doctoral research is an important corrective to the neglect of female musicians in Iran's Persian classical music scene, and his account of this group promises to shed a new light on experiences of women in post-revolutionary Iran, against prevailing narratives of helpless Middle Eastern women. The dissertation also reckons with the deep chauvinism of the concept of virtuosity globally and in Persian art music in particular, with implications for the study of musical virtuosity globally. With several chapters under his belt he is well on the way to a dissertation that will be groundbreaking in the fields of ethnomusicology, Iranian Studies, and Women's Studies.

I have had Hadi in several graduate courses, administered his comprehensive and oral examinations, and overseen his teaching of his own class. He is a thoughtful and intelligent participant in seminar discussion, and his presentations are meticulous and insightful. His research paper and his many conference presentations are exemplary, notable especially for their evocative ethnography, his ability to empathize with his research subjects, give them voice, and let them guide his argument rather than using them as data to prove his own hypotheses. His scholarship and teaching are grounded in a broad and deep knowledge of Persian art music both in theory and practice, as well as a considerable familiarity with global feminist thought.

Hadi is also an exemplary member of the ethnomusicology community at U of T, generous with his support for junior colleagues, and an active participant in colloquia. As coordinator of the University of Toronto Ethnomusicology Roundtable he demonstrated his skill and creativity in programming work and logistics, and his facility as a host and interlocutor.

In short, Hadi is a leading scholar in his field whose dissertation work creates significant new

knowledge. He has an exceptionally bright future as a scholar, and your support will help to ensure that. He is a brilliant and wonderful person. Again, I give him my highest recommendation, and I urge you to consider his application. Please feel free to be in touch if I can be of further assistance.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JP', enclosed within a thin black rectangular border.

Joshua D. Pilzer

Associate Professor

University of Toronto

Faculty of Music

joshua.pilzer@utoronto.ca