



ŠAHNĀZI, 'ABD-AL-ḤOSAYN

ŠAHNĀZI, 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn, (b. Tehran, 1284 Š./1905; d. Tehran, 1327 Š./1948) musician and performer of the *tār* (a plucked long-necked lute). He was the younger son of Āqā Ḥosayn Qoli (q.v.), the master musician and player of the *tār*. 'Abd-al-Ḥosayn received his *tār* training from his elder brother 'Ali-Akbar Šahnāzi, and learned the Persian repertoires (*radifs*) from his brother-in-law, Bāqer Khan Rāmešgar, the celebrated performer of the *kamānča* (spiked fiddle) eventually becoming one of the prominent performers of the *tār* and the innovator of certain new techniques of tuning this instrument. Šahnāzi was one of the first musicians to join Radio Tehran after its inception in 1940, eventually becoming one of the chief planners of its musical programs.

In his performances, Šahnāzi did not concern himself with following the repertoires of Persian music; instead, he preferred to improvise sweet-sounding *gušas* (melodic pieces), and gradually became the innovator of what was later called *širin-navāzi* (sweet improvisation; Behruzi, pp. 85-86). The prominent features of Šahnāzi's performance were his swift strumming, his expressive musical phrases, and his innovativeness in the composition and performance of rhythmic melodies (Šad sāl *tār*, p.10).

Because of his early death and the shortage of recording facilities during his lifetime, Šahnāzi's surviving solo works are limited to certain performances in *homāyun* and *bidād*, *rāst-e panjgāh* and *māvarā'-al-nahr*. There are also some *tašnifs* (rhythmic songs) in *čahārgāh*, *šahrāšub*, *afšāri*, and *šekasta* with the vocal performance of *Eqbāl-al-Sultān Ađar*, and some in *māhur* and *qarā'i* with the vocal performance of *Javād Badi'zāda*.



Bibliography:

Š. Behruzi, *Čehrahā-ye musiqi-e Irān*, I, 2nd ed., Tehran, 1993, pp. 85-86.

Šad sāl tār, Tehran, 2001. S. Sepantā, *Čašmandāz-e musiqi-e Irān*, Tehran, 1990, p. 74.