



انستیتوت مطالعات استراتژیک افغانستان
Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies



بھکاری فرهنگنا برای صلح
AVICENNA Peace Award-V

Friday, 28 June 2024 | London

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18:00-18:30	Guests' arrival
Opening Session	
18:30-18:40	Church Choir Performance
18:40-18:45	Introducing remarks by Dr Davood Moradian, Director, Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS).
Program	
18:45-19:05	Scholarly Light: Afghanistan's Cultural Heritage: From its "medieval Renaissance to its present dark age" by Prof. Michael Barry, University of Princeton/American University of Afghanistan.
19:05-19:15	Sound of Damascus Arabic Music by Bassel and Friend.
19:15-19:25	Human Solidarity , Speech by Ms Tessa Drysdale, World Jewish Relief
19:25-19:40	Music Performance by Michel Gasco (Spain) & Sulaiman Haqpana.
19:40-19:50	"Who are they" on the lives and achievements of Professor John BAILY and Ms Veronica Doubleday by Sulaiman Haghpana, PhD Candidate, University of Brunel, UK.
19:50-20:00	Presenting award by Dr Benafsha Yaqoobi, Ph.D. Candidate & Women Rights Activist
20:00-20:25	Accepting Speech and Music Performance by Professor John BAILY and Ms Veronica Doubleday.
20:25-21:00	Dinner
Moderators	Bahram Aman, Journalist at Afghanistan International TV Meetra Qutb, Communications Specialist and Human Rights Activist

Avicenna:

Abu ‘Ali al-Husayn ibn Sina is better known in Europe by the Latinized name “Avicenna.” Avicenna is probably the most significant philosopher in the Islamic tradition and arguably the most influential philosopher of the pre-modern era. Born in Afshana near Bukhara in Central Asia in about 980, he is best known as a polymath as a physician whose major work, the *Canon (al-Qanun fi ‘l-Tibb)*, continued to be taught as a medical textbook in Europe and the Islamic world until the early modern period, and as a philosopher whose major *summa* the *Cure (al-Shifa’)* had a decisive impact upon European scholasticism and especially upon Thomas Aquinas. Primarily a metaphysical philosopher concerned with understanding the self’s existence in this world in relation to its contingency, Avicenna’s philosophy is an attempt to construct a coherent and comprehensive system that accords with the religious necessities of Muslim culture. As such, he may be the first prominent Islamic philosopher. *

*Source: The Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy.



Avicenna

Avicenna Peace Award:

Real and often perceived differences contribute to and drive conflicts within and across societies and nations. Bridging such differences through dialogue is vital in preventing, resolving, and transforming disputes and realizing our collective potential in building a more humane, just, and peaceful world. To this end, there are inspirational personalities that can help transcend our self-imposed isolation by broadening our mutual understanding and recognizing the abundant commonalities that exist across different societies and cultures. In line with the AISS' core objective in promoting awareness and cooperation through dialogue, the Avicenna Award honors distinguished individuals, institutions, initiatives and projects, advocating dialogue, intercultural exchange, mutual coexistence, and non-violent approaches. The Award is named after one of the World's renowned scholars, Avicenna, whose life and work transcended cultural and geographical boundaries.

Previous winners include:

- Professor Michael Barry (USA/2018).
- The Honorable Rashid Al Ghannouchi (Tunisia/2019).
- Senator Anarkali Kaur Honaryar (Afghanistan/2020).
- The Jewish Federations of North America HIAS + JCOREIsraAID World Jewish Relief (USA/UK/2022)

Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies:

The Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS) was established in October 2012 in Kabul and has since become a premier research institution in Afghanistan. After the fall of the Afghanistan Government on 15th August 2021, AISS had to close its Kabul office and relocate to the UK. In March 2022, AISS succeeded in registering in the UK and opened its office at the University of Sussex in Brighton. Research England and the University of Sussex have provided support to AISS for its integration into the UK's academic ecosystem and provided a platform for fleeing Afghan researchers/scholars.

AISS aims to create an intellectual space to address strategic issues about Afghanistan in the broader regional and international contexts. AISS seeks to foster timely discussions on Afghanistan by publishing high-quality research reports and promoting stakeholder dialogue. All our activities and programs are based on the principles of Professionalism, Independence, Internationalism, and Progressive Values. The AISS is an independent, not-for-profit research institute that provides qualitative, non-partisan, and policy-oriented research alongside academic publications, translation of books/reports, professional training, and policy advocacy with a distinct focus on Afghanistan.

Speakers' and Performers':

Professor Michael Barry: University of Princeton/American University of Afghanistan

Ms Tessa Drysdale: World Jewish Relief

Dr Benafsha Yaqoobi: Ph.D. Candidate & Women Rights Activist

Michel Gasco: Musician

Sulaiman Haghpana; Ph.D. Candidate, University of Brunel, UK, and Musician (Tabla player).

Professor John BAILY: Emeritus Professor of Ethnomusicology and Head of the Afghanistan Music Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Ms Veronica Doubleday: Author, Musician, Academic Researcher, and Specialist in Afghan women's music.

Bahram Aman, Journalist at Afghanistan International TV

Meetra Qutb, Communications Specialist and Human Rights Activist

Afghan Folk Music

Afghan folk music is a diverse genre that reflects Afghanistan's rich cultural heritage. Its styles encompass unique melodies, rhythms, and instrumentation, influenced by the country's diverse geographical location and ethnic groups. Each region and ethnicity have its distinct style of music deeply rooted in the people's culture, customs, and beliefs, playing an essential role in preserving and transmitting the country's cultural identity. Unlike classical music, ordinary people often play Afghan folk music during their leisure time and at celebrations and ceremonies, characterized by repetitive melodies and rhythms.

Unfortunately, years of war and unrest have put Afghan folk music at risk, leading to the loss of musical knowledge and skills as many musicians and singers have been forced to flee the country. The recent ban on music by the Taliban regime has further endangered the practice and preservation of Afghan folk music. However, various organizations and artists outside Afghanistan are working to collect, record, and teach Afghan folk music to preserve and revitalize this valuable music and its cultural significance.

In recognition of the dedication shown over the past 30 years by this year's Avicenna Award winners, Professor John Baily and Ms. Veronica Doubleday, we are honoring them for the extraordinary and decades-long efforts they have made to preserve and promote Afghanistan's folkloric music and empower women. We are

eternally grateful to them and would like to express our heartfelt thanks.

This year's winners

Ms Veronica Doubleday studied literature at the University of Sussex and then moved to Iran and Afghanistan with her husband, the ethnomusicologist John Baily. She is an author, musician, and academic known for her expertise in Afghan women's music. In addition to writing various articles, chapters, and encyclopedia entries, she has also released her selected field recordings in Afghanistan: Female Musicians of Herat (UNESCO Collection, 2002).

Another notable publication is Ustad Muhammad Rahim Khushnawaz: Afghan Rubab with Songbirds (Felmay, 2016), a compact disk based on recordings she made in 1994 during a trip to Herat. Veronica continues to perform her unique repertoire of Afghan songs on concert stages and in private gatherings, often accompanied by John and other esteemed musicians. Since the Taliban came to power in 2021, they have organized several fundraising concerts to support urgent charitable causes.

Professor John Baily is a renowned ethnomusicologist dedicated to studying and promoting the musical traditions of Afghanistan and empowering Afghan women within the musical domain. He has contributed significantly to the field, specifically focusing on Afghan music. Professor Baily was born in Glastonbury, Somerset,

England. He pursued his academic journey at the University of Oxford, the University of Sussex, and The Queen's University of Belfast, where he specialized in ethnomusicology. Throughout his career, Professor Baily has held teaching

positions at prestigious institutions and has conducted extensive research on Afghan music. He is known for his expertise in playing the Afghan Rubab. He has published various works on Afghan music, including a notable monograph, "War, Exile, and the Music of Afghanistan."

Beyond scholarly pursuits, Professor Baily actively promotes Afghan music through the Afghanistan Music Unit at Goldsmiths, University of London. His award-winning documentary film, "Amir: An Afghan Refugee Musician's Life in Peshawar, Pakistan," sheds light on Afghan musicians' challenges during the conflict.

Veronica Doubleday and John Baily have dedicated their life's work to the music and people of Afghanistan, actively supporting Afghan music and musicians throughout the last four decades of conflict. Veronica has a unique repertoire of traditional songs in Dari Persian, accompanying herself on the Daireh (frame drum). At the same time, John is an accomplished player of the Afghan Rubab and Herati dutar (types of lute). As a duo, or working with other noted Afghan musicians, they have given concerts all around the world.

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