



## Salam Toronto Publications

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### Thoughts on the Tirgan Festival

We've been gearing up for it for months now, and here at Salam Toronto we've been running stories and interviews on it since mid-May, and now finally, the long-awaited and much-anticipated Tirgan Festival is almost here.

The festival is certainly large in scale; a budget of over \$650,000, 200+ volunteers, over 50 performances, and more than 100 artists. But to really appreciate the breadth and impact of Tirgan, we truly have to experience it. Of course, that might be a bit difficult to do right now since it has not begun yet, but let's give it a try.

This will be a four-day celebration of everything that is Iranian; its culture, food, art, literature, theatre and music. What truly makes this event special I believe is that it will showcase not just the superficial Iranian culture outsiders see through the media, but it will exhibit the diversity of culture within Iran. Whether it be listening in on an epic recital between Sohrab and Rostam, or taking in the sweet sounds of the Barbod Ensemble; regardless if you're participating in an acting workshop or watching a Kurdish dance performance; the organizers here apparently have ensured there is something for everyone.

So when you visit Harbourfront Centre this weekend to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of the festival, take a deep breath and soak in the glory of Iranian culture, in its many complex and diverse facets, and in all of its wonderful glory.



Azim Ahmed

