

AFFIDAVIT OF ALEXANDER RAHBARI

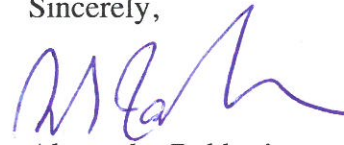
I, Alexander Rahbari, hereby declare under penalty of perjury that the following statements are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and recollection. I am writing this affidavit in support of Ali Birang's I-140 Immigrant Petition for Alien Worker.

1. My name is Alexander Rahbari, conductor and composer, native of Iran and citizen of Austria, currently residing at Oberstinkenbrunn 27, 2023 Oberstinkenbrunn, Austria. Throughout my career as a conductor, I have conducted more than 120 well-known and prominent orchestras around the world such as Orchestre de la Suisse Romande, Orchestre National de France, Czech Philharmonic, Leipzig Gewandhaus Orchestra, Sächsische Staatskapelle Dresden, NHK Tokyo, Stockholm Philharmonic, Zürich Tonhalle Orchestra, The Berlin Symphony Orchestra, Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra, Barcelona City Orchestra, Prague Symphony Orchestra, Czech Philharmonic Orchestra, New Zealand Symphony Orchestra, Tehran Symphony Orchestra, English Chamber Orchestra, English National Opera and many more. I also have worked with universally acclaimed musicians and composers. For instance, in 1980 I became the assistant of the legendary Herbert Von Karajan, who is generally regarded as one of the greatest conductors of the twentieth century. Moreover, I was the recipient of several prestigious awards such as the Gold Medal at the Concours International de Jeunes Chefs D'Orchestre (The International Contest of Young Conductors) in Besançon, France in 1997 and a Silver Medal at the Geneva Conductor's Competition. In 2003 I obtained the Reward of Honor from the City of Malaga for Outstanding Artistic Achievements. In 1985, I won the Dvorak Medal for my outstanding work with the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra. My compositions such as *La Fuerza Flamenca* (2000), *Persian Mysticism* -around G- (1969), *Symphonie Persane Nohe Khan* (1972) and *EXTA\$Y* The Musical (1995-1996) were internationally acclaimed.
2. I was appointed as the conductor and director of Tehran Symphony Orchestra by the Iranian Ministry of Culture in March 2014. During the course of my career, I have introduced many young musicians to the world. I had not been in Iran for many years, and upon seeing the young musicians and composers of Iran, I decided to select a number of contemporary Iranians' compositions to be released by Naxos, a very prestigious music company based in Europe. That was where I first heard Mr. Birang's music. I found his works to be technically strong and overwhelmingly creative. He was a great candidate to be recorded as one of the pieces to introduce Iranian contemporary music to the world. Thus, his works was selected for the second phase and was to be performed as one of the first pieces by Tehran Symphony Orchestra. We recorded the works of 11 Composers with Tehran Symphony Orchestra in October 2014. However, phase two was unfortunately never started due to professional disagreements between myself and the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance. I resigned in March 2015 in protest

to the unfair treatment of musicians and the unprofessional management of Tehran Symphony Orchestra by the said ministry.

3. The project I started in Iran was highly selective, and I saw Mr. Birang's composition skills were at such a high level that his work deserved to be released by a world-class company like Naxos. He was one of the very few Iranian composers whose work had the merits to be introduced to the world. I believe Mr. Birang is a talented and skillful composer and musician, and he will have a great future in music wherever he goes that he can actually work without restraint.

Sincerely,



Alexander Rahbari

27.11.2016