

AFFIDAVIT OF BIJAN MORTAZAVI

I, Bijan Mortazavi, 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 Bijan Mortazavi, musician, singer, and songwriter. I am a native of Iran and a citizen of the United States of America, currently residing at 3310 Aspen Grove, Irvine, CA 92618. During my career, I have released twelve international bestselling records, including "Music and I" which was released in November 2010. I have performed at many prestigious and popular international music venues around the globe, such as the Shrine Auditorium and Kodak Theater in Los Angeles, California; the Gibson Amphitheater in Universal City, California; the Civic Center in Atlanta, Georgia; the Lincoln Theater in Washington, DC; the Royal Albert Hall in London, England; the Ford Center of Performing Art and the Hummingbird Center in Toronto, Ontario; the Queen Elizabeth Theater in Vancouver, British Columbia; the Albert Hall in Copenhagen, Denmark; and the Stockholm Concert Hall where the Nobel Prize ceremony takes place in Stockholm, Sweden.. My concerts and performances are often very popular. For instance, in 1994, my performance at The Greek Theater in Los Angeles, California, which included a 53-piece orchestra, sold out 6400 tickets. My music has made the memories of many generations of Iranians both in and outside of Iran. In addition to gaining success at the box office for many years, I have also pursued an academic career in music. In November 2009, I obtained a PhD in music from Southampton Solent University in Great Britain and had the joy and honor of teaching a new generation of young composers and musicians and introducing them to the world of music.
2. Initially, I knew Mr. Ali Birang by reputation. I have not resided in Iran for more than four decades, but still I had heard of him as a well-known musician, and I also knew of his father, who is a remarkable director. In 2014, Mr. Barbad Bayat, a common friend of Mr. Birang and mine, introduced me to Mr. Birang's music and I was truly impressed by his works. I found his musical skills quite advanced and well ahead of his time. Mr. Birang has extensive knowledge and skill in music, in addition to impeccable stylistic judgment, which makes him an excellent choice for any producer. Knowing of his talent, I worked with him on a number of projects, such as "Sezavar," "To Ki Hasti," and "Talkho Shirin," for which Mr. Birang performed the mixing and mastering. I am very cautious and selective about the works I release; thus, I have the habit of closely supervising the musicians who cooperate with me on my projects. Mr. Birang, however, had demonstrated such strong skills and overwhelming talent that for the first time I felt comfortable allowing my work to be done by him independently and without any supervision. His sound engineering is such that I can identify his work merely

by listening, because it has a certain kind of clarity that is specific to Mr. Birang's works.

3. I am also familiar with Mr. Birang's film compositions. The first work by him that I heard was his compositions for a TV series, "Hamcho Sarv." I was quite astonished by what I had heard. The pieces were fantastic, beautiful and mesmerizing, and they gave me a very high professional opinion of him. When one hears his film compositions, they would not think that a youth at his age has composed them, because they have the sophistication of someone like Hans Zimmer, the legendary composer of Hollywood. Mr. Birang's knowledge and advanced skills in various branches of music enable him to mix and combine different branches in one piece, which gives his works a certain colorfulness that is specific to him.
4. I consider Mr. Birang a gifted musician whose rare combination of knowledge, good taste, and diligence renders his future quite bright, and for whom I would comfortably put my own professional reputation on the line, because I know he would not disappoint me. I believe he will be a great musician in the United States, where he can exercise his talents without the restrictions he faces in Iran.

Sincerely,

Bijan Mortazavi

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Feb 23, 2017