

# THE IMPOSSIBLE MUSIC SESSIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8 February 2011

contact Austin Dacey

+1 (276) 614-7100

[austin@impossiblemusic.org](mailto:austin@impossiblemusic.org)

## **Ladies and Gentlemen, Please Welcome [Name Withheld by Request]**

*Rock musicians fleeing Iran to play showcase marking Music Freedom Day at NYU Polytechnic*

**New York** (8 February 2011) – Having endured censorship, imprisonment, and a public show trial at the hands of the Iranian government, two young electronic rock musicians are attempting to come the United States to tell their stories and to perform at a Music Freedom Day event in downtown Brooklyn.

The educational seminar and concert, presented by The Impossible Music Sessions in partnership with Freemuse: The World Forum on Music and Censorship, and the Brooklyn Experimental Media Center, will highlight the worldwide struggle for the human right to musical expression.

The musicians hope to appear to perform music they are not free to make in Iran, where the Islamist regime tightly restricts “Western” genres. Music publication and performance are subject to approval by the Ershad, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance, and women are banned from giving solo vocal performances in the presence of men.

The Tehran duo trying to escape to New York City are not going public with their identities until after they have successfully completed the daunting and uncertain process of securing travel visas to leave the country. If they are prevented from leaving the country, they will appear via Skype. “Playing music is the only way we can live life,” says one. “So, we will find a way to make it happen.”

Austin Dacey, creator of The Impossible Music Sessions, commented, “Some of the most exciting sounds out there are coming from bands who officially do not exist. And yet, to the consternation of the governments who would silence them, they keep playing.”

Music Freedom Day is an opportunity to learn about the realities of making music under oppressive regimes and to celebrate the resilience of the human spirit that enables these artists to keep fighting. Since 2007, Music Freedom Day has been celebrated in Amsterdam, Mumbai, Cairo, Amman, Sierra Leone, and elsewhere. More information at <http://musicfreedomday.org/>. The Brooklyn event will also feature a phone conversation with Deeyah, the singer dubbed the “Muslim Madonna” for her outspoken defense of creative freedom.

The Impossible Music Sessions connect censored and persecuted artists from around the world with artists in New York who collaborate with them to interpret and perform their music live on stage in tribute as their counterparts participate remotely. See <http://impossiblemusic.org>.

The event takes place Thursday March 3, at 8 p.m. in the Pfizer Auditorium, located at 5 Metrotech Center on the campus of NYU Polytechnic Institute in downtown Brooklyn. Admission is free and open to the public. Doors open at 7:30 p.m.

###



The custom-made midi controller of a Tehran musical duo bound for New York City.