



THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPARTMENT OF ROMANCE, GERMAN,
AND SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

October 9, 2007

Roya Bahrami
2908 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20009

Dear Ms. Bahrami:

Please accept my heartfelt thanks on behalf of the students in my Dean's Seminar course, Spanish 801-11, *The Literature and Music of Al-Andalus*, and the George Washington University community who attended your lecture and recital on September 26, 2007. The Program you presented was most extraordinary. Your lecture on "The Music of Zaryab: Traces of Ancient Persian Melodies in the Music of Andalusia" supplemented and perfectly complemented the work that we had been doing in the course, but it also went far beyond the parameters of the classroom in its scope to appeal to a diverse audience made up of students and scholars from such areas as Music, International Affairs, History, Literature and Anthropology.

The recital segment of the presentation was exquisite. The audience was mesmerized by the intricacy of the Persian santur, the music that it emitted and your astonishing expertise at playing it. Almost no one in the audience had ever seen an instrument of 72 strings and people marveled at the fact that it had been around for more than a millennium. As one of my students commented, "it sounded like a thousand instruments that played together in perfect harmony."

The Program that you presented greatly enhanced the educational experience of everyone who attended. My students remarked that they wanted to know more about the legacy Zaryab in contemporary music, about the history of Persia and the Middle East and how these influenced the culture and learning of Europe and the West. All in all, we could have not wished for a more enriching Program, one that opened up new avenues of awareness and appreciation in our journey of coming to a better understanding of our world.

Sincerely,

Ellen. W. Echeverría
Associate Professor of Spanish