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MEDIA ADVISORY
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ANOUSHEH ANSARI TO ACT AS HONORARY CHAIR OF TIRGAN 2013

First self-funded female space tourist, fourth private explorer to visit space, and the first astronaut of Iranian descent will chair the world's largest Iranian festival.

Festival Dates: Thursday July 18, 2013 to Sunday July 21, 2013

Location: Various venues in Harbourfront Centre, Toronto

Toronto, November 21, 2012 – Tirgan Festival is thrilled to announce that the first self-funded female space tourist, Anousheh Ansari, has accepted the role of festival's 2013 Honorary Chair.

"Anousheh Ansari is an international figure and a symbol of women's strength worldwide. It is an absolute honour for us to have her as Tirgan's 2013 Honorary Chair," commented Behrouz Amouzgar, festival's Public Relations Director. *"Ms. Ansari's presence and her support of the festival are reflective of the magnitude of Tirgan, which over the past few years, has evolved to become the largest Iranian festival in the world."*

About Anousheh Ansari:

A successful engineer by profession and an accomplished businesswoman, on September 18, 2006 Anousheh Ansari captured headlines around the world as the first female private space explorer. Anousheh earned a place in history as the fourth private explorer to visit space and the first astronaut of Iranian descent.

About Tirgan:

Tirgan is the world's largest festival celebrating Iranian art and culture and will be returning to the Harbourfront Centre of Toronto, Canada from July 18 – 21, 2013. In 2011, Tirgan attracted over 120,000 visitors and more than 150,000 individuals are expected to visit Tirgan this year. Tirgan will offer a selection of over 70 features showcasing renowned performers in an array of artistic disciplines including: music, dance, theatre, cinema, literature and the visual arts in addition to workshops, organized activities, galleries, delicious food, and a traditional bazaar, all of which will capture the heart and imagination of both young and old alike. To find out more about Tirgan, please visit www.tirgan.ca

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