

SCO MUSICAL EVENING

SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR

(14 May 2018)

Your Excellency Secretary General of the SCO Rashid Alimov,
Your Excellencies Ambassadors of SCO Member States, Observers
and Dialogue Partners,
Ladies and Gentlemen!

I welcome you all to this evening's performance. I would like to start by thanking Secretary General Alimov for the initiative of bringing together talented Pianists from all the 8 SCO Member countries as part of the series of SCO musical evenings titled "Nine Magical Notes".

2. Today is truly a historic occasion as an Indian musician will be performing for the first time ever at the SCO Secretariat in Beijing. As a recent Full Member of SCO, India has been actively taking part in all SCO mechanisms including in the cultural and humanitarian fields. On the basis of India's rich and diverse cultural heritage, we stand ready to further deepen the longstanding civilizational and people-to-people ties among the members of the "SCO Family".

3. Music is an expression of art that cuts across language and cultural barriers. So far, 7 gifted Pianists from the SCO Members have performed here and each one of them has enthralled the audience with their gift of music. Today, the 8th Magical Note will be sounded by Nikhil Sardana, a gifted Indian Pianist who comes from Dehradun in northern India.

4. He has completed all grades of Piano offered by Trinity College in London and holds a Master's Degree in Music Business Management from the University of Westminster in UK. He is well-versed in both the Classical and Contemporary styles of music and today he will play a mix of some semi-Classical pieces as well as a few popular Bollywood film tunes.

5. I wish all of you a wonderful evening.
