

Dilijan Music Society Arno Babadjanyan Program A Very Special Concert

By Charles Fierro

In art as in life, things rarely go perfectly, but when they do, we feel lucky indeed. Just such a fortunate occasion took place in Los Angeles at a concert presented by the Dilijan Music Society on January 24. A capacity audience gathered at the Herbert Zipper Hall for a program of chamber music by Arno Babadjanyan (1921-1983). The late composer enjoyed the status of a national hero in his native Armenia and in Soviet Russia, where he received numerous honors, awards and commissions. His compositions are well known in communities of the Armenian diaspora; outside these communities, however, he has yet to receive the recognition he deserves.

The quality of at least two of the selections on the program demonstrated conclusively that his is a major talent. The late Third String Quartet (1979) employs avant-garde idioms with telling effect. Within a tight structure, the music commands attention from beginning to end of its single-movement design.

Similarly, the virtuosic early Piano Trio (1952), displays mastery of all its musical elements in a striking way and, in the opinion of some musicologists, raised the art of Armenian chamber music to a new level.

It is important to remember that Babadjanyan's entire career took place during the Soviet era, when state sponsorship and state control imposed a Socialist Realist doctrine on all the arts. Creative minds responded to these

strictures in varying ways. We remember the bitter ironies and pseudo-conformities of Shostakovich and Prokofieff. Babadjanyan found his own way, sometimes sincerely producing music that would appeal to a mass public, at other times, as in the Third String quartet, asserting astonishing modernist independence.

Four Songs for soprano and piano, in a style somewhere between Rachmaninoff and Jerome Kern, illustrated the composer's successful attempt to achieve the warmth and immediacy of popular music. The Poem (1966) for solo piano showed the composer beginning to fuse serial techniques with traditional ethnic idioms. During an interview in lieu of intermission, the distinguished composer, Tigran Mansurian, shared reminiscences of his friendship with his senior colleague.

The performers, all well known to Southern California audiences, were superb. Violinists Roger Wilkie and Moses Pogossian, violist Kate Vincent, cellist Ronald Leonard and soprano Maria Abajan, projected their respective roles with consummate skill and sensitivity. The big find of the day was guest pianist Artur Avanesov. His formidable technical prowess, dramatic insight and engaging personality were important factors in making this a memorable event. I hope he will return often.

Charles Fierro is a concert pianist and Professor Emeritus of Music at California State University Northridge.

Pianist Vahan Mardirossian and cellist Alexander Chaushian in Concert at Fresno State

FRESNO -- Award winning pianist Vahan Mardirossian and cellist Alexander Chaushian will perform in a concert sponsored by the Armenian Studies Program and the Philip Lorenz Memorial Keyboard Concert Series at Fresno State. The concert will be held at 8:00 PM on Friday, February 26 in the Concert Hall on the Fresno State campus.

They will be playing duo works by Debussy, Shostakovich, Franck, and Armenian composers

Pianist Vahan Mardirossian returns to Fresno after his memorable recital during the 2005-2006 season. Since his debut as a pianist, Mardirossian has regularly been invited to appear with orchestras including the Yerevan Chamber Orchestra, the Armenian Philharmonic, and the Paris International Orchestra.

Mardirossian was born in Yerevan, Armenia and in 1993 he entered the Paris Conservatoire (CNSM) in Jacques Rouvier's piano class. Vahan Mardirossian has given recitals in many countries and his performances were broadcast in France and elsewhere. He recently made a recording of works by Schubert, Händel and Brahms for the Intrada label. He also made live recordings devoted to piano works by Eric Tanguy, and J.S. Bach Transcriptions recorded for TransArt Live label.

London-based Alexander

Chaushian has appeared in many of the world's finest venues including New York's Carnegie Hall and Boston's Symphony Hall. Now regarded as one of the finest cellists of the younger generation, Alexander Chaushian has performed extensively throughout the world. As a soloist with orchestra his appearances include the Vienna Chamber Orchestra at Vienna's Konzerthaus and at the Bruchnerhaus in Linz, as well as with the London Mozart Players and the Philharmonia Orchestra in London, and the Royal National Orchestra of Belgium.

Chaushian won First Prize in the Premio Mozart Competition in Verona, Italy and First Prize in the International Music Competition in Holland. Chaushian was awarded 3rd prize in the 12th International Tchaikovsky Competition in Moscow.

General tickets for the concert are available for \$18 per person, for seniors tickets are \$12, and tickets for students are \$5.00 per person. Ticket reservations for the concert may be made by calling 278-2337. Tickets are also available on-line at keyboardconcerts.com or at the Fresno State Music Department Box Office, between 11:00AM-1:00PM on weekdays.

For more information on the Concert please contact the Armenian Studies Program at 278-2669.

AMAA Orphan and Child Care Luncheon and Fashion Show Saturday, March 13



AMAA Orphan Care Committee

LOS ANGELES -- The AMAA Orphan and Child Care Luncheon and Fashion Show is almost here! It is going to be absolutely spectacular, with fashions from Nordstrom, modeled by our gorgeous young models, an amazing silent auction featuring priceless items – from handpainted works of art to magnificent jewelry to tickets to incredible events, all organized by our silent auction chair, Argine Jean Kelegian - and all at a legendary venue – the Beverly Hills Hotel! This is truly a luncheon not to be missed.

This year's luncheon theme "Children Helping Children" is so very appropriate with all that is happening in the world around us today. From our difficult economic conditions to the heart wrenching devastation in Haiti, we here in Southern California have so much to be thankful for... and our children here are thankful and want to extend a helping hand to their brethren in Armenia. Let us remember that children of Armenia are lacking the basic necessities of life and are afraid to be forgotten in the turmoil of our world.

Marilyn Bezdikian excitedly stated that "so many children have signed up so far to be models this year and we have some amazing fashions. With Nordstrom coordinating, I am looking forward to an absolutely fabulous show". She explained that the models are thrilled to be helping the orphans in their own way. Caroline Tufenkian, fashion show co-chair with Marilyn Bezdikian, and Ani Zakari both stated that they are still getting so many telephone calls to be able to model in the fashion show! "It is so much fun working with all these kids for such a good cause", exclaimed Ani. Arsine Phillips and Lori Muncherian, the West Coast co-chairs, echoed Grace Kurkjian's sentiments when she emotionally stated that "the children of Armenia are always in our prayers and when I see children here, in southern

California, reach out and touch a life in Armenia, it is such a fulfilling and rewarding emotion, both for us here and in Armenia..".

Our children here are asking you to sponsor their brothers and sisters in Armenia. For a donation of \$250.00, a sponsor can change the life of a child forever. What amounts to less than 70 cents a day is all it takes to provide a child with basic food staples such as sugar, rice, flour and macaroni. They will receive hygiene supplies and educational supplies. The children will also become a part of the AMAA's spiritual and wellness programs such as Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Summer Camps and Medical and Dental Care.

Maro Yacoubian informs us that child sponsorship donations are already being received, explaining that "although we are all living in harsh economic times, and are at times frightened by what may be around the corner, realizing that the children in Armenia are also frightened is encouraging donations to come in so that we can reassure them we are here for them and we will not forget them". Joyce Stein, the national chair, also added that "witnessing the severity of the devastation in Haiti – the number of orphaned and injured children – has also touched everyone so much that individuals are counting their blessings and sponsoring children in Armenia in whatever way they possibly can."

On March 13, 2010, the Beverly Hills Hotel is the place to be – amongst family and friends – to be part of an event that can change the lives of so many children in a land that is far away by distance, but so very close in our hearts... Let us be thankful for what God has blessed each one of us with and share our love.

For reservations or further information, please contact Arsine Phillips at (213) 509-4337.

The Nicene Creed Of the Christian Church

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cils of Nicea (325), Constantinople (381), and Ephesus (431). The Nicene Creed refuted all wrong doctrines, past and present, especially the sectarian teachings of the modern age. The Creed is faithfully recited as is during the administration of all Sacraments of the church.

The Creed of St. Gregory of Datev
In the opening pages of the Breviary of the Armenian Church there is

another version of the Creed compiled by St. Gregory of Datev in the 14th century. It is read by the celebrant priest the first thing in the morning prior to the Mid-night Service. It is essentially the same as the Nicene Creed, only with additional elaborations and explanations. Whereas the Creed of St. Gregory of Datev is compiled exclusively for the Armenian Church, the Nicene Creed, the official text of the Creed, belongs to the Christian Church at large.