

ARARAT

H Y E L I G H T S

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Winter 2017

YOURI KAZARIAN: — *A Life of Music* —

Born in 1933 in Tbilisi, Georgia, Youri Kazarian discovered his love for music early in childhood. While his father was an officer in the Soviet army, his mother was a stage opera singer. She encouraged him to learn to play the piano at a young age and was supportive of the steps he later took to advance his musical career. Youri realized early on that his interest was less in playing beautiful pieces on the piano and more in creating pieces that others would play.

Upon completing his studies at the musical college in Tbilisi, Youri served in the Soviet army for several years, eventually rising to the rank of an officer. He was assigned to the army's engineering corps, particularly to the unit tasked with clearing land mines left in battlefields from the Second World War. After sustaining an injury during his service, Youri left the army and spent the next few years furthering his musical education in Moscow and then in Yerevan.

In Yerevan, he studied at the conservatory under the accomplished composer Grigor Yeghiazarian. He also met and married his wife, Knarik Maluntsian, the daughter of distinguished conductor Michael Maluntsian and granddaughter of renowned singer Shara Talian. As his career launched, Youri joined the Armenian Composers' Union and served as Secretary for several years. While he taught at the musical college and provided one-on-one instruction to his private students, his passion was always composing his own musical pieces.

Youri's focus was on writing music for a global audience, rather than the Armenian audience. He humbly says that others more talented than him had already created or were creating Armenian pieces; he wanted his music to appeal to the world. And so, throughout his long career, Youri was commissioned to compose music for children's songs, several pieces for chamber orchestras, multiple melodies for well-known international singers, including a series called *The Lives of Hollywood Stars*, a children's musical titled *How the Cat Learned the Craft*, and three ballets called *Adam and Eve*, *The Pink Town*, and *The World of Picasso*.

His masterpiece, however, was the two-act opera, *Ernest Hemingway*. In the 1980s, Youri traveled to Cuba and met with leader Fidel Castro. The opera, which was based on Hemingway's life, particularly the years he spent in Cuba, was subsequently translated into Spanish. It had its world premiere in 1987, when it was presented at the Gran Teatro de La Habana during Cuba's first opera festival. The opera was later staged in other countries and had its



American premiere in 2000 in Southern California.

In 1993, Youri moved to California, where he continued to write music and provide private instruction. He joined the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and was awarded a Doctor of Arts degree by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization). Although he never managed to write down all of the melodies he created in his mind and some of his written works remain unpublished, Youri says that he has had a fulfilling career with a life dedicated to music and creativity.

Youri has been an Ararat Nursing Facility resident for the past nine months. Occasionally, he sits at the piano in the dining room to entertain his fellow residents as well as the staff members. And when he does, he plays with great joy, an easy smile and a twinkle in his eyes.

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RIBBON-CUTTING CER

On October 26, Ararat Home welcomed His Holiness Karekin II, Catholicos of All Armenians, to preside over the blessing and dedication of the new wing of the Assisted Living Facility. His Holiness met with residents, staff and supporters, and blessed the continuation of the Home's mission.

Construction of the new wing is expected to be completed in February 2018.



Residents Marie Seraydarian and Joseph Iskikian greet His Holiness



Guests at special luncheon organized for the occasion



Exchange of gifts between His Holiness and Board Chair Michael Surmeian, Trustee Joseph Kanimian



Resident Gousina Simitian receives blessings from His Holiness



His Holiness blesses residents



His Holiness prays with resident Zartar Hacatoryan

CELEBRATION OF NEW WING



His Holiness greets residents



His Holiness chats with residents



Ararat Home administration and staff



Ararat Home Board of Trustees



Chief Operating Officer Derik Ghookasian and Assisted Living Facility Administrator Rita Noravian show a room in the new wing



Ararat-Eskijian Museum Trustee Martin and Effie Eskijian and Director Maggie Mangassarian-Goschin provide a brief introduction to Sheen Memorial Chapel



Staff and residents welcome His Holiness at the Nursing Facility

ARARAT ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY NEW WING

— *Opening Gala* —

Saturday, April 14, 2018

DEUKMEJIAN GRAND BALLROOM

TIDBIT FROM ARARAT-ESKIJIAN MUSEUM: COIN POUCHES

Today's leather wallets and purses have their origins in coin pouches similar to the ones shown here. These are just two examples of several that are in Ararat-Eskijian Museum's collection.

Coin pouches were made in several styles and used by both men and women. While most pouches had a similar shape, they differed in design: some had tassels or cords, some used silver thread, and others were crocheted. The intricate work on each pouch showed the craftsman's passion for detail and the hours of loving toil she dedicated to it.

The pouches shown here are exquisite examples of Armenian embroidery, which forms an important part of overall Armenian artistic heritage. Armenian provinces isolated from each other for generations developed their own traditions of embroidery, thus creating a variety of distinct patterns and styles.

These two coin pouches are representative of the style of the Ottoman court in the mid to late 19th century. They were embroidered by Armenian women commissioned by the court and given as gifts by the sultan to the wives of European dignitaries and visitors. The designs include the tughra at the center, which is the calligraphic monogram of the reigning sultan that was affixed to all official documents.

We invite you to visit the museum to see the entire collection of beautiful coin pouches and to discover other treasures.



1. Dark grey lady's coin pouch; embroidered with gold and polychrome silk threads; tughra at center is surrounded by flowers and leaves; both sides of pouch are identical; interior lining is garnet color cotton; style is "Imperial Tughra", Ottoman period; Constantinople, circa 1880; size 23x17cm

2. Pink lady's coin pouch; embroidered with gold, silver and polychrome silk threads; tughra at center is in a poly-lobed star surrounded by a crescent with epigraphic script and flowers; interior lining is pale blue satin; style is "D'Apparat", Ottoman period; Constantinople, circa 1850; size 25x20 cm



Our fall fundraisers brought the Ararat Home community together again in good company and for a wonderful cause! Thanks to the generosity of our volunteers, sponsors and supporters, the Home raised funds that will help in continuing to provide quality care to our residents.

The campus was filled with good friends, great music and dancing, delicious food and pastries, and fun games for the kids at the Annual Picnic on September 24. And, on October 21, Deukmejian Grand Ballroom hosted an enjoyable evening of casino games and prizes.

We are grateful to all those who support our efforts!



MUSEUM HOURS:

Sat. & Sun. 1:00-5:00 p.m.

1st Tues. of month 1:00-3:00 p.m.

or by appointment

Open to the public; free admission

Ararat-eskijian-museum.com

(747) 500-1585

ARARAT HYLIGHTS

CO-EDITORS

DEBBIE AVEDIAN

ANI DIKRANIAN

PHOTOGRAPHY

ANI DIKRANIAN

DERIK GHOOKASIAN

STEPHAN PZDIKYAN

VAHE SARGSYAN

DESIGN/PRINTING

DOCTORIAN PRODUCTIONS



ARARAT HOME OF LOS ANGELES, INC.

15105 Mission Hills Road
Mission Hills, CA 91345

(818) 365-3000

info@ararathome.org
ararathome.org

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