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Armenian Institute

Presents

KOMITAS

AN ODYSSEY OF ARMENIAN MUSIC
IN THE LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Levon Chilingirian

Violinist, The Chilingirian Quartet

Michael Fahres

*Composer, music broadcast producer,
The Netherlands*

Virginia Kerovpyan

Kotchnak Ensemble de Musique Armenienne, France

Monday, 15 April 2002; 7:30 PM

St Peter's Church

(between 90-92) Kensington Park Road
London W11 (nearest tube Notting Hill Gate)

This programme is a tribute and celebration of the life and works of Komitas Vardabet Soghomonian (1869-1935), a priest, and one of the most influential musicologists and composers in Armenian history. Komitas's musical and artistic legacy is of vital importance to Armenian music today.

Renowned violinist Levon Chilingirian will speak about Komitas and his influence on Armenian music. Vocalist Virginia Kerovpyan will perform several of Komitas's best known songs. Composer Michael Fahres will present his 'Komitas Collages' for the first time to a live audience, highlighting Komitas and his influence on music in Armenia and the Diaspora.

Tickets: £8; AI Friends: £7
(refreshments following the programme)

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AN ODYSSEY OF ARMENIAN MUSIC IN THE LAST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

'Komitas Collages' by Michael Fahres are an evocative tribute to the genius of Komitas and the multiple interpretations of his music by groups and artists over the course of the twentieth century. The voice of Komitas himself is woven throughout giving the impression that he is ever-present.

COLLAGE I - The original voice of Komitas, his songs and their new versions form a unity in this piece; it creates a bridge between the past and the present.

COLLAGE II - This piece connects the triumphalist musical expressions of the Soviet era in Armenia with Horovels, the songs of the workers. The relationship between the 'ruler' and the Armenian people generates silence, quietness and dimness.

COLLAGE III - There is sadness and pain before the sun of the new free Armenia arises; there is a growing self-consciousness, we look to the future.

Levon Chilingirian, OBE, is leader of the Chilingirian Quartet, one of the most active and celebrated string quartets on the international scene. The Quartet's extensive discography includes a MEG recording of Komitas/Aslamazian pieces. He is an acclaimed soloist and also musical director of a Swedish string ensemble, The Camerata Roman. Chilingirian was introduced to music through his pianist mother and violinist great uncle. The story of great uncle Vahan Bedelian's brief meeting with Komitas left a strong impression on the young musician.

Michael Fahres is composer and producer of music programmes for broadcasting agencies in the Netherlands. Fahres was, for over two decades, the Director of the CEM studio, where he conducted research on electronic

music and has greatly contributed to its development in Europe. He has lectured extensively on the subject and has performed many of his compositions at concerts around the world. Fahres has been the art director for the "European Minimal Music Project", and several other musical festivals in Germany and the Netherlands and has received numerous awards for his compositions and radio programmes.

Virginia Pattie Kerovpyan is soloist and co-founder of the Armenian folk ensemble *Kotchnak* (Paris), originally known as Ensemble de Musique Armenienne. She is also a soloist with *Akn*, a group specializing in Armenian sacred music and has performed and recorded with early music ensembles such as Les Arts Florissants and Per Cantar et Sonar. Kotchnak's CD *Chants Populaires Armeniens* won the "Prix Choc" in Paris. Kerovpyan teaches singing and works in theatre.

Event producer: Helin Avedissian



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HOW TO BOOK

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