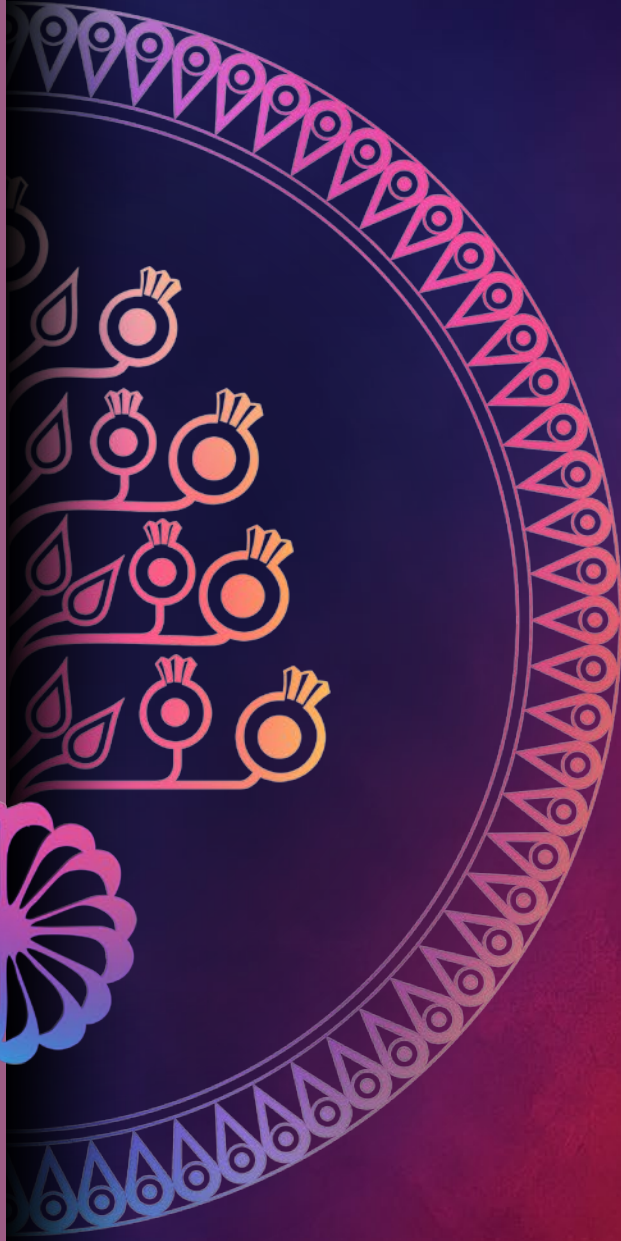


ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS?

HEROES AND SAINTS





PEOPLE OF AR

CULTURAL FOUNDATION

The People of Ar Cultural Foundation is built by cultural professionals for the purpose of safeguarding, celebrating, and evolving Armenian cultural heritage. We are here to make Armenian identity not just proud — but powerfully relevant.

Our mission is to reawaken our roots and inspire the future by creating bold, world-class cultural projects that reach across generations and borders.



PEOPLE OF AR
CULTURAL FOUNDATION

We aim to preserve and elevate Armenian arts through performance and education, reimagining tradition through innovation, and to inspire Armenian youth with pride in their ancestry.



SCAN THE QR CODE
TO LEARN MORE





ARMAN NSHANIAN

AUTHOR & CREATIVE DIRECTOR

CEO, PEOPLE OF AR CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Culture is everything. It is our food, our language, our dance, our music, our memory, our resilience, our knowledge. It is the bloodstream of a people and when neglected, it withers. We Armenians have carried extraordinary trauma in our collective body. The Genocides and wars throughout time robbed us of more than land and lives; it severed our thread to our ancestors. In our dislocation, we learned to survive by blending in. Like chameleons taking on the colors of other cultures, forgetting our own. We accepted that shallow materialism, ego-driven fame, and low-vibrational imitation music disguised as “Armenian” could fill the void and pass for our culture. And in doing so, we began to confuse noise for art, spectacle for substance, survival for identity. Culture is not a costume. It is not borrowed. It cannot be reduced to mimicry, nor diluted into fads. To abandon it, or to treat it lightly, is to create a false identity built on victimhood rather than resilience, on imitation rather than authenticity.

This is why Echoes of Our Ancestors exists. To remind us that we have a culture as old as time, as deep as the stones of Karahunj, as unshakable as Ararat itself. To remind us that our music, our dance, our words, our faith, our pain, and our victories are not only worthy — they are extraordinary. And they deserve to be presented with reverence, rigor, and truth. If culture is everything, then protecting it is our highest duty. For without culture, we are nothing but shadows of others. But with it — alive, honest, and unapologetically our own — we are eternal. I thank you for being here tonight.

Together let us echo the ancestors.



PEOPLE OF AR CULTURAL FOUNDATION **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

ASKO AKOPYAN

PRODUCER

CFO, PEOPLE OF AR CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Asko Akopyan, Co-Founder, Producer, and CFO of the People of AR Cultural Foundation, is widely recognized in the Armenian community of Los Angeles as a driving force in independent cinema. Beginning his career as a talent agent and founder of iTalent Group, he quickly earned respect among casting directors before channeling his passion for storytelling into film production.



Through his company, Oscar Gold Productions, Asko has produced numerous internationally distributed films, including *Vigilante Diaries* (HBO), *Oxenfree* (Screen Media), *Mind Blown* (SyFy/Lionsgate), *Doomsday Device* (Lionsgate), *Unorganized Crime* directed by Nick Vallelonga and starring Chazz Palminteri, *Songs of Solomon* directed by Arman Nshanian and co-produced by Vallelonga, the two-time Academy Award-winning writer and producer of *Green Book*, and most recently *Hollywood Heist*, starring Alec Baldwin and Nick Cannon.

*With **Echoes of Our Ancestors**, Asko brings his expertise and vision to ensure this historic production reaches both its artistic and global potential.*



SYLVIA KAVOUKJIAN

CREATIVE CONSULTANT

Sylvia Kavoukjian serves on the Board of Directors of the People of Ar Cultural Foundation, where she leads with both vision and heart. As a Creative Consultant, she plays a key role in building meaningful partnerships that bring its mission to life. With a deep passion for Armenian culture and community empowerment, Sylvia is a driving force behind the success and sustainability of the foundation's landmark projects.



GOHAR OHANIAN

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Gohar is deeply committed to preserving and celebrating Armenian culture through exceptional artistic experiences. She believes that productions like Echoes of Our Ancestors have the power to unite our community, strengthen our shared identity, and inspire future generations.



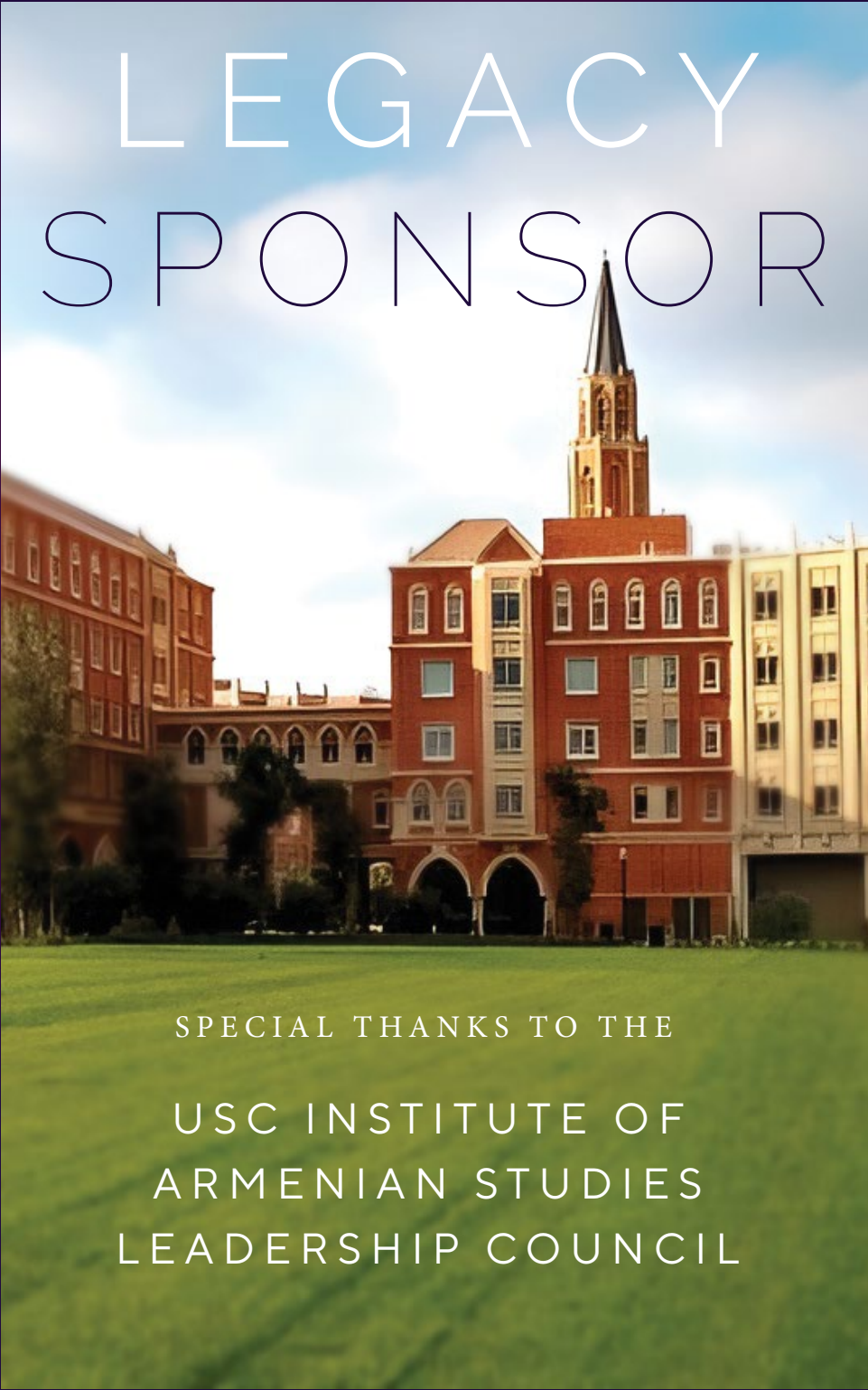
VARTUHI VARDANYAN

TREASURER

Growing up in Los Angeles, surrounded by diverse cultures, Vartuhi Vardanyan has always kept her Armenian heritage at the heart of her identity. Echoes reflects that spirit—bringing the richness of Armenian culture to the stage for a wider audience through music, dance, spoken word, and art. Vartuhi has built a career in the health care insurance industry, and in her free time she enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time by the sea.



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We are proud to announce USC Institute of Armenian Studies as a Legacy Sponsor of our foundation. Their pioneering work in academic preservation and community scholarship directly aligns with our mission. This partnership will:

- Support the long-term academic documentation of all foundation productions.
- Create multimedia archives that preserve and contextualize Armenian art and identity.
- Connect our large-scale public projects with rigorous cultural scholarship.

In return, our productions offer the USC Institute:

- A living, high-visibility platform to expand their cultural reach. New material and content for curriculum development.
- Public engagement and legacy-building through shared values and visibility.

Together, we bridge academia and art to protect and promote Armenian identity.





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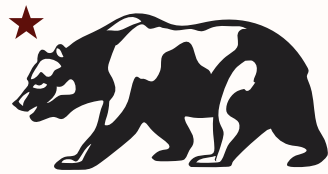
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M A E S T R O

SERGEY SMBATYAN

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World-renowned conductor Sergey Smbatyan leads the orchestra for this historic production. As Artistic Director of the Armenian State Symphony Orchestra, his presence brings unmatched precision, passion, and authenticity to the stage.

With a deep connection to Armenian heritage and global acclaim, Maestro Smbatyan will guide the musical journey through every single genre of armenian music ever written, uniting tradition and innovation in one powerful performance.



SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA

1st Violin

Concertmaster Eric Manukyan

Armen Mangasaryan
Ruzanna Sargsyan
Anna Kharazyan
Anzhela Amiryan
Sahak Karapetyan

2nd Violin

Stepan Khalatyan
Hripsime Yepremyan
Anna Yeghiazarova
Katerina Kolesnyk
Tatevik Yaghoobyan
Narine Nikoghosyan

Viola

Artashes Asatryan
Arsen Housepian
Hovhannes Fishyan
Shushan Danielyan

Cello

Haik Babayan
Garik Terzyan
Milena Mardanyan
Romina Zurabova

Contrabass

Hakim Haloway
Jay Rubottom
Nune Hayrapetyan

Harp

Jilian Risigari - Garcia

Flute

Gevorge Avetisyan

Oboe Francisco Castillo

*Clarinet/
Alto
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Bassoon Christin Webb

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Horn*

Armen Karagyan

Kristin Morrison

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Vahagn Elbakyan

Trombone Ronald Stephen Minor

*Trombone/
Basse
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Armenak Grigoryan

Edward Harutyunyan

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Levon Simonyan

Bass Guitar Vardan Arakelyan

Keyboard Arman Berberyan



SARO MANGASARIAN

FOUNDER OF INTL. SCHOOL OF MUSIC ORCHESTRA CONTRACTOR

Saro Mangasarian is the founder of the International School of Music in Glendale, California, and has devoted more than 34 years to nurturing the musical education of young artists. Since 1999, he has collaborated with Maestro Mikayel Avetisyan on distinguished concerts and cultural projects, working alongside internationally acclaimed artists and conductors including Konstantin Orbelian, Arus Ajemian, Vatche Mankerian, Sergey Khachatryan, Aram Gharabekian, and Loris Tjeknavorian. A steadfast advocate for artistic excellence and the preservation of Armenian cultural heritage, Saro is deeply honored to contribute to Echoes of Our Ancestors, Echoes of Our Ancestors 2, and in collaboration with visionary director Arman Nshanyan.

MIKAEL AVETISYAN

CONSULTING CONDUCTOR

Mikael Avetisyan (born 1966) is an Armenian conductor, professor, and Doctor of Music. Trained at the Yerevan Komitas and St. Petersburg Conservatories, he has led major Armenian orchestras and served as Artistic Director of the Armenian Philharmonic (1998–1999). Since 2002, he has conducted the New Valley Symphony and is currently Artistic Director and Principal Conductor of the Glendale Philharmonic Orchestra (USA). His honors include the Kirill Kondrashin Conductors Master Classes diploma (Netherlands) and the Glendale and Los Angeles County Artistic Achievement Diamond Award.



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FOR THEIR SUPPORT OF
ECHOES OF OUR ANCESTORS 2:
HEROES & SAINTS



HAIKIAN CHAMBER CHOIR



Founded in 2024, the Haikian Chamber Choir preserves Armenian choral heritage while embracing global traditions. Led by executive director and principal conductor *Gayane Baghdasaryan*, the ensemble unites talented voices through a shared passion for music, culture, and community.

Early milestones include the Ani Requiem World Premiere (2024, Alex Theatre, Glendale), debuting Khachatur Avetisyan's work in honor of Armenian memory; the Grand Meet & Greet Debut Concert (March 2025, Glendale), introducing Haikian's mission; and collaborations with leading artists and institutions that strengthen ties across Armenian and global circles.

With a repertoire of sacred hymns, folk songs, and classical works, Haikian seeks to honor centuries-old tradition while inspiring new generations through concerts, collaborations, and educational outreach.





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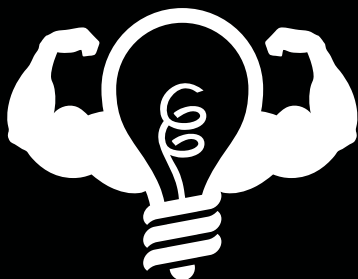
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SOUND OF CHILDREN

CULTURAL CENTER

Sirvart Kavoukjian is the Founder and Director of the Sound of Children Cultural Center and Summer Program, a pioneering initiative dedicated to nurturing Armenian youth through music, art, and cultural education. With over 40 years of experience working with children in the diaspora, she has devoted her life to inspiring young generations to embrace and celebrate their heritage. Through carefully designed programs, creative workshops, and engaging performances, Sirvart instills in children

a profound appreciation for Armenian culture, identity, and history. Her work goes beyond artistic training — it seeks to empower children to carry their traditions forward, ensuring that the Armenian diaspora not only survives but flourishes as a strong, proud, and vibrant community. Under her guidance, Sound of Children has become a cornerstone for cultural education, shaping the next generation of Armenians who are connected, confident, and committed to their roots.





ANDRANIK BERBERYAN

MUSIC PRODUCER

Andranik Berberyan (b. 1994, Yerevan) is a composer, music producer, and founder of *Berberyan Production Studios*, Armenia's leading music and sound production company. A graduate of the Yerevan State Conservatory, he has scored films such as *Songs of Solomon*, *Amerikatsi*, *The Reverse Side of the Medal*, *Yasha* and *Leonid Brezhnev* and so on. His studio has produced music for major international events including Expo 2020 Dubai, Junior Eurovision 2022, the 2024 EBRD Annual Meeting Gala, European Weightlifting championships 2023 opening ceremony etc .

Berberyan is a multiple award-winner, receiving Best Original Score at the Anahit National Film Awards (*Songs of Solomon*, 2022; *Amerikatsi*, 2024) and Composer of the Year at the 2025 Khazer Awards. In 2024, he became the first Armenian composer invited to join the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, cementing his role as a leading figure in contemporary Armenian music.





AREVIK

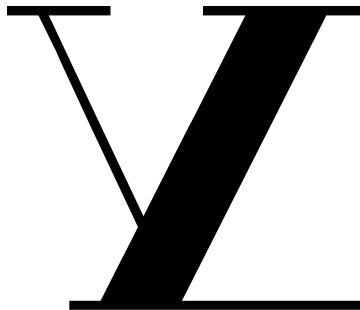
MUSIC CENTER

Arevik Music Centre is a Glendale-based music and performing arts school dedicated to nurturing young talent through vocal training, music education, and performance. Founded in 2019 by artistic director Lilit Badalyan, the center provides children with opportunities to develop their musical abilities, confidence, and stage experience while fostering a love for Armenian music and culture.



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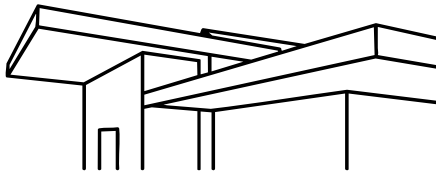
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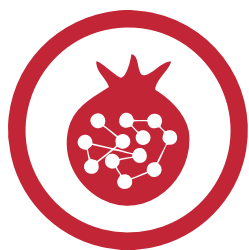


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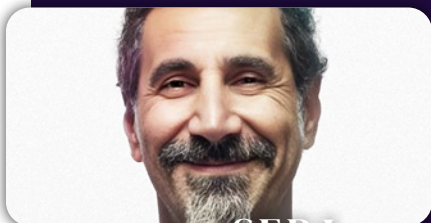
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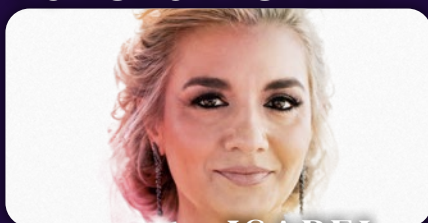
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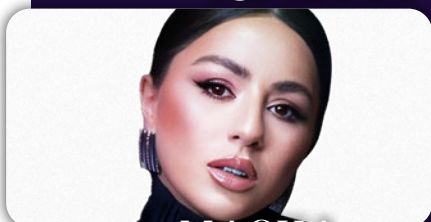
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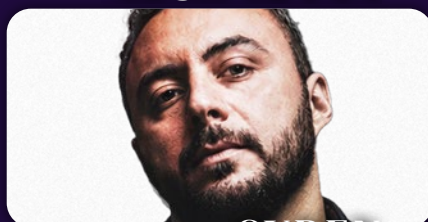
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KATIL BAND



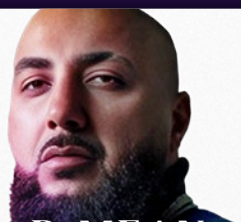
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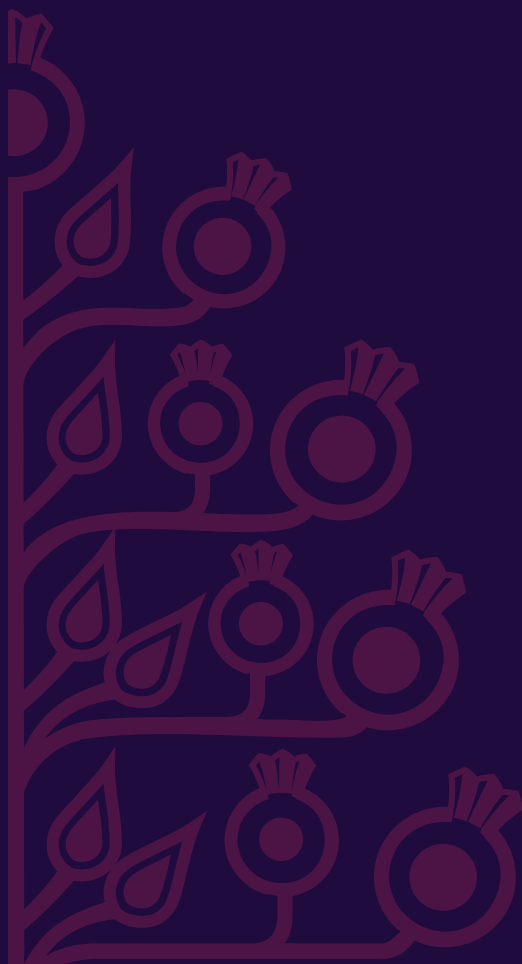
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ECHOES OF OUR
ANCESTORS²
•HEROES AND SAINTS•

LUDVIG ISPIRYAN



Ludvig Ispiryan is the Artistic Director of Grand Academy of Ballet and Grand Ballet of Los Angeles, as well as a professional ballet dancer and choreographer originally from Armenia Yerevan. He received his formal training at the Armenian

National Ballet School and went on to become a soloist with the Armenian National Ballet. After moving to Israel, Ludvig spent 17 years as a principal dancer and choreographer in Israel National Ballet.

T H E D A N C E R S

*Natalie Palmgren
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Michelle Eklund
Mackenzie Burt
Alexandra O'Neal
Brandon Binkly
Bryn Graham McRee
Isaiah Sedano*

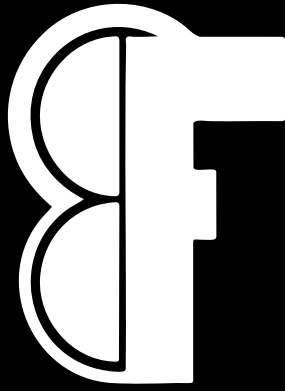
*Kirari Yamaguchi
Lydia Marie McDonald
Marii Kawabata
Sarah Chan
Zooey Kraemer
Edmond Baghdasaryan
Rafael Kalashyan*



ZVARTNOTS DANCE ENSEMBLE

Zvartnots Dance Ensemble was founded by Vartan Aghajanyan on December 9, 1989, with the mission of preserving and presenting authentic Armenian dance, music, and folk attire. For over three decades, its performances have showcased the resilience and spirit of the Armenian people through professional choreography rooted in tradition. The Ensemble has staged numerous acclaimed productions in Los Angeles, including Mother Armenia (1993), Christian Armenia (2001), Armenian Cross Stones (2005), Sun Worshipers (2012), Armenian Eagles (2017), Lernahayastan (2022), and celebrated its 35th anniversary in both Los Angeles and Armenia in 2024. Zvartnots has also performed across the United States,

including Fresno, Phoenix, and Boston, as well as internationally in Armenia, Artsakh, Malta, Montreal, Sydney, and aboard the Carnival Cruise Line. Notable highlights include winning first place at the 2004 International Dance Festival in Malta, sold-out performances in Sydney in 2012, and a 2023 South American tour with concerts in Uruguay, Argentina, and Brazil. In July 2024, the Ensemble returned to Armenia for anniversary performances in Gyumri and at the Yerevan Opera House. Created to safeguard Armenian cultural traditions, Zvartnots continues to inspire new generations of dancers through the Armenian Dance Center, bringing Armenian heritage to audiences worldwide.



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PEOPLE OF AR CULTURAL FOUNDATION

THE BIGGER *Purpose*

Our goal is not simply to preserve the past. We aim to activate culture — to make Armenian identity exciting, stylish, profound, and powerful. Through music, dance, song, and visual storytelling, we offer a counter-narrative to cultural erasure.

We want our youth to look inward and upward — not outward — for validation.

We are here to make being Armenian lasting. Culture is the path to our roots, and rooted we will stand strong, tall and connected to one another through the earth of our homeland.



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Let us echo the greatness of our ancestors — and pass that echo forward.

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