

**Dimensions through Sound.** Music of Armenia.

**Komitas Vardapet** (1869-1935)     ***Dances for Piano***

1. *Yerangi*
2. *Unabi*
3. *Marali*
4. *Shushiki*
5. *Yet Araj*

**Komitas Vardapet** (1869-1935 )

***“Kaqavik”***

*arranged by Robert Andresyan*

**Stephan Elmas** (1862-1937)

***Piano Sonata no. 1 in h-moll***

1. *Allegro appassionato*
2. *Marche funèbre*
3. *Allegro*

----- Pause -----

**Aram Khachaturyan** (1903-1978)

***“Adagio”*** from ballet Spartakus

*arranged for solo piano by Matthew Cameron*

**Aram Khachaturyan** (1903-1978)

***“Lullaby”*** from ballet Gayane

*arranged for solo piano by Oscar Levant*

**Arno Babajanian** (1921-1983)

***Six Pictures***

*Improvisation*

*Folk*

*Toccatina*

*Intermezzo*

*Choral*

*Dance of Sasun*

**Arno Babajanian** (1921-1983)

***“Poem”***

I am making an interesting journey through time and history of the Armenian music.

*Dances of Komitas Vardapet* are based in Armenian old folk songs.

The composer, being a priest, was traveling from village to village and was collecting folk songs. These beautiful dances were written in Paris and are a beautiful balance between folk and religious traditions of Armenians.

Next, is a beautiful miniature: a song of *Komitas Vardapet* about *Kaqavik* (it is a bird, a partridge). The song is famous among children, my grandmother was singing it to me often. The 20th century pianist Robert Andreasian, created a wonderful collection of Komitas' songs, arranged for solo piano. My idea behind this piece is to present a part of the Armenian nature, which is very evident in this music.

*Stephan Elmas* is a big discovery in music literature. He was born in Smyrna and then lived in Europe. He was a student of Liszt and composed music in the European tradition of early 19th century. Listening to his compositions, one immediately thinks of Chopin, Liszt and Grieg. In the year 2002, I was the 1st price winner of Stephan Elmas international piano competition and since then have played his wonderful music often in my concerts.

*Elmas* wrote mostly for piano: mazurkas, polonaise, waltzes, ballads, sonatas, concertos etc, having a strong influence from Frederic Chopin.

The second part is dedicated to two great and well known Armenian composers: *Aram Khachaturyan* and *Arno Babajanian*.

I will be performing transcriptions from two remarkable ballets of Armenian music history, *Spartakus* and *Gayane*.

The *Spartakus* is lately performed often worldwide. I was very honoured to attend last year in Antwerpen, a wonderful performance of *Spartakus*, by Vlaanderen Ballet & Brussels Philharmonic Orchestra.

Then, it will be contemporary music:

*Six pictures of Arno Babajanian* are rich in imagination and colours.

The *Poem*, which give a dynamic and impressive ending to the recital.