

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.