

GOMIDAS: HIS LIFE AND MUSIC

AS PART OF THE *PERSEVERANCE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT* PROJECT

After the presentation, the audience will have a chance to visit the Alex and Marie Manoogian Museum, located on the church property, and enjoy light refreshments.

JANUARY 21 AT 4 PM | ST. JOHN ARMENIAN CHURCH

Rubik Mailian, Music Director of St. John Armenian Church, accompanied in piano by Arshaluys Gharibian, will present a lecture/recital about Gomidas* Vartabed (1869 - 1935), a celibate priest and musician who traveled the Armenian countryside recording and notating a myriad of folk songs that had been passed down orally for centuries. As a clergyman, he composed several versions of the Armenian Divine Liturgy songs which are used in Armenian churches around the world.

Tragically, on April 24, 1915, the beginning of the Armenian Genocide, Gomidas with 150 Armenian intellectuals and community leaders was arrested and deported by the Turkish authorities from Constantinople to holding centers in Angora (Ankara). While he escaped execution, Gomidas was afflicted with traumatic neurosis. He was able to move to Paris in 1919 and died in a psychiatric clinic in Paris in 1935.



RUBIK MAILIAN

An accomplished vocalist, Rubik Mailian has performed with numerous nationally recognized opera theaters and symphony orchestras and in many churches. His passion for music and theology led him to pursue graduate-level degrees from the University of Houston, St. Nersess Seminary and St. Vladimir's Seminary.

Mailian has contributed significantly as an educator, presenter and scholar in Armenian music. He has delivered numerous articles and lectures on the history, practice and performance of early Armenian Church music, notably publishing an article about Armenian Neumes (Xazer) in a periodical by The Center of Spirituality East-West of

Michael Lacko in Kosice, Slovakia. Additionally, he was interviewed on the Ave Maria Radio show, discussing Armenian sacred music and sharing selections from the Komitas Choir CD "Songs of Glory, Armenian Sacred Music" recorded under his direction at St. John.

Active in various esteemed organizations, Mailian is a valued member of the American Choral Directors Association. He has made significant contributions as part of Diocesan Liturgical committees, notably aiding in the publication of new books. Additionally, he served as the Chairman of the Sacred Music Council at the Eastern Diocese in New York for an extensive period. He is also the chairman of the Music Guild, organizing concerts at St. John.

As the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Detroit Armenian Chorale and the Komitas Choir at St. John Armenian Church, Mailian has showcased exceptional leadership. Under his guidance, these ensembles have performed captivating concerts in churches and cultural venues across the Detroit area and internationally, leaving an indelible mark on audiences with their mesmerizing performances.



ARSHALUYS GHARIBIAN

Arshaluys Gharibian, a graduate of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory in Armenia, earned her master's degree in musicology with a focus on contemporary classical music of Armenia during the 1960s. Expanding on her musical foundation, Gharibian continued her education at Wayne State University, immersing herself in electronic music, sound art, and creative digital composition from 2018 to 2021 under the guidance of Dr. Joo Won Park, refining her skills and broadening her musical perspective.

Beyond her academic achievements, Gharibian is a versatile performer, unveiling her talents as an instrumental accompanist. Alongside her performances, she serves as an educator and music director at Plymouth OLGC School, actively contributing to the growth of her students' musical talents and cultivating a love for music appreciation.

In addition to her roles in education, Gharibian has been the organ and piano accompanist at St. John Armenian Church since 2021, adding a harmonious touch to the Sunday worship services. Her musical journey illustrates her enduring concentration in exploring music during a phase of experimentalism, alongside her role as a dedicated music educator.

**also spelled Komitas*

THANK YOU TO OUR PROJECT FUNDERS:

