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# Armenian World Orchestra & the Gulbenkian choir

*Echoing the past & embracing the future*

April 21, 2015

One-off concert

At the Théâtre du Châtelet

# Ephemeral and eternal

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In the context of the 100th anniversary of the Armenian genocide, the Armenian General Benevolent Union organizes **a unique one-off concert**, at the Théâtre du Châtelet in Paris, on April 21, 2015.

To pay tribute to the victims and to honor their memory, musicians with Armenian origins, from the best international orchestras, will form an ephemeral orchestra named, for the occasion, **Armenian World Orchestra**, and directed by the internationally renowned conductor Alain Altinoglu.

Together, they will perform, among others, an original work commissioned to the composer Michel Petrossian, and the Mozart's *Requiem*, accompanied by **the choir of the Gulbenkian Foundation**.

Together, they will bring **a message of sharing, brotherhood and hope**, drifted along by the music which has always had such a special place in the Armenian culture.

Approved by the **2015 Mission** of the Co-ordination Council of Armenian Organizations of France, this unique event will mark one of the highlights of the commemorations organized in Armenia, in France and in the world.

Today, we are happy to give the opportunity to partners to support us in this initiative both artistic and bearing of symbols for Humanity.



Philippe Panossian  
President of UGAB France

# Memory and hope as legacy

Since 1991, Armenia is a sovereign democratic republic. This victory occurred after an abominable crime, **the first 20th century crime against humanity**: the 1915 Armenian genocide committed by the Young Turks government of the Ottoman Empire.



Commemorated in France, land of the human rights, the centennial of this crime is first **a duty of remembrance** and a vibrant tribute of the Armenian diaspora descendant from the genocide survivors.

Since the official recognition by France of the genocide in 2001, French presidents Jacques Chirac, Nicolas Sarkozy and François Hollande have consistently demonstrated their support to Armenia during their previous trips – a support that will be reinforced with the participation of François Hollande to the commemorations of 100th anniversary of the genocide on April 21 2015, in Yerevan.

This remembrance concert at the Théâtre du Châtelet on April 21 is also **a universalist gesture of hope**: the will to include these acts of genocide in the mankind collective memory is made to promote its prevention and ensure its eradication of the human community. So that, never again, such crimes occur. They shall be named and recognized.



Photo : <http://ugabfrance.org>

This concert is intended to be the sign of the French, European and worldwide mobilization to fight against the Holocaust denial that still surrounds the Armenian genocide and allow **the foundations of a reconciliation** which is increasingly desired by today's **younger generations**.

# Leading artists

## Alain Altinoglu, Conductor

Alain Altinoglu is now one of the most popular conductors of his generation. He quickly established himself at the head of major international orchestras and in the most prestigious opera houses.

He led for instance the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Philadelphia Orchestra, the French National Orchestra, the Gulbenkian Orchestra, the Paris Orchestra, the Fenice Orchestra, the Wiener Philharmoniker, the Orchestre de la Monnaie in Brussels,...

His lyrical projects bring him in major opera houses: Metropolitan Opera, Wiener Oper, Royal Opera House, National Opera of Paris, Deutsche Oper, Chorégies d'Orange, Aix-en-Provence's Festival...

Among his discs: *Folk Songs Ravel Melodie, Henri Duparc – Mélodies* with Nora Gubisch, *Wuthering Heights* with the National Orchestra of Montpellier, *Fiesque* with Roberto Alagna...



Photo Jean Radel



Photo : [www.michelpetrossian.com/](http://www.michelpetrossian.com/)

## Michel Petrossian, Composer

After studying cello and guitar, Michel Petrossian studied harmony, counterpoint, analysis, orchestration and composition at the Paris Conservatoire of Music and Dance. In 1998, he founded with the composer Jérôme Combier, the ensemble Cairn, consisting of students from the Paris Conservatoire and which promotes modern music. As early as his first year of studies, he received requests and orders. He was invited to various festivals (Prague, Gothenburg, London...) and created works for prestigious musical institutions such as the Cité de la Musique in Paris, the Nouvel Ensemble Moderne in Montreal,

the Royaumont Foundation, the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra... The Academy of Fine Arts of the Institut de France awarded him the Prize Veuve Buchère. His works are broadcasted on the radio channels France Musique, France Culture and Fréquence Protestante. After this journey, he devoted himself to the in-depth study of ancient civilisations and languages such as Hebrew, Greek, Ugaritic, Aramaic, Babylonian, Old Slavonic and Armenian at the School of Ancient Middle Eastern Languages and Civilisations (ELCOA). He is particularly interested in the ancient Near East music which is one of his sources of inspiration. He there began a synthesis of his dual musical and philological skills in order to create a new vocal writing. In 2012, he won the Composition Grand Prize during the International Queen Elisabeth Competition with his concerto for piano and orchestra «In the Wake of Ea».

# Leading artists

## Vahan Mardirossian, piano

He began playing piano at 7. At 16, he founded and directed for two years the Chamber Orchestra of Armenia Youth Cultural Centre. He moved to Paris in 1993 and joined the Paris Conservatoire of Music and Dance (CNSMDP) in Jacques Rouvier's piano class, and in Jean Mouillère's chamber music class. In 1996, he won the First Prize for piano, the music chamber prize and the Conservatoire's graduate degree. He then followed the master program. He appears today on all the major stages in the world. In 2001, his first album, dedicated to Schubert's works, was unanimously acclaimed by critics and obtained the Diapason d'Or. Since September 2010, he is directing the Caen Orchestra as main conductor.



Photo Raffi Mardirossian

## Jean-Marc Phillips-Varjabédian, violin



Photo  
[www.triowanderer.fr](http://www.triowanderer.fr)

He started playing violin at 5. He won the First Prize for chamber music at the Paris Conservatoire of Music in 1984 and the following year, the First Prize for violin. He studied two master programs and went to Cremona in Italy and then to the Julliard School of Music in New York. He won numerous prizes in international violin competitions. In 1987, he founded with Raphaël Pidoux and Vincent Coq the Trio Wanderer, celebrated for over 25 years for its work of remarkable sensitivity, an almost telepathic bond and a perfect instrumental mastery.

The Trio Wanderer is one of the best chamber music band of the world.

He also performs as soloist in different orchestras. He teaches at the Lyon Conservatoire of Music. He plays with a Petrus Guarnerius's violin (Venice 1748).

## Xavier Philipps, cello

He began cello at 6. He entered the Paris Conservatoire in 1986 and was trained by Philippe Muller. He obtained the First Prize of the Conservatoire in 1989. After a Third Prize at the Rostropovitch Competition in 1989, he studied with Mstislav Rostropovitch who noticed him. They worked together for about 12 years. The master regularly invited him as soloist in the orchestras he directed. Xavier Phillips plays with a Matteo Goffriller's cello from 1710.



Photo Céline Nieszawer

Selected discography: *Sonatas for cello and piano*, sonata by Alfred Schnittke; *sonata op. 40 in D minor* by Chostakovitch; *sonata op. 119 in C major* by Prokofiev with Hüseyin Sermet at the piano, Harmonia mundi, HMN 911628.

# Leading artists

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## Nora Gubisch, mezzo-soprano

She began her musical studies in the Young Choir of Radio France and studied piano with Catherine Collard, then studied singing at the Conservatory of Paris with Christiane Eda-Pierre where she won a first prize. Later she met Vera Rozsa who becomes her master. She is now one of the most requested mezzos of her generation. At the opera, she sings the title role of *Carmen* in Berlin, Paris, Zurich and many productions worldwide, *Juditha triumphans* (Vivaldi), *Salammbô* (Fenelon) at the Paris Opera. She appears on major international stages under the direction of Sir Colin Davis, Georges Prêtre, Lorin Dmaazel, and with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, the Vienna Philharmonic, the London Symphony Orchestra. She also sings oratorio and chamber music and gives since several years recitals with the pianist Alain Altinoglu with whom she already recorded two discs of French melodies acclaimed by the critics. Nora Gubisch was appointed Knight of Arts and Letters in France.



## Hasmik Papian, soprano



She graduated from the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory first as a violinist, then as a singer. After her debut at the Armenian National Opera, Hasmik Papian soon started an international career and was invited since to numerous theatres, including the most prestigious operatic stages in the world: Vienna State Opera, Bastille Opera in Paris, La Scala in Milan. A central part of her repertoire is Bellini's *NORMA* which she has sung worldwide. Her vast and versatile repertoire contains twelve Verdi-parts. Hasmik Papian is very successful also as a concert singer, and in the course of her unparalleled career, she has sung with such notable conductors as Riccardo Muti, Marcello Viotti, Daniele Gatti and she has appeared together with Nikolai Ghiaurov, Sherill Milnes, Ruggero Raimondi.

# Leading artists

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## Liparit Avetisyan, tenor

Born in 1990 in Yerevan, Republic of Armenia, he graduated in 2008 from the Musical School in Feodosia, Crimea in the specialization of vocal. In 2008, he joined the Tchaikovsky State Moscow Conservatory, and followed the class of Professor Boris Kudravytsev. In 2010, he won the second prize in the “Muse of the World” International Vocal contest in Moscow. In 2011, he was transferred to Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, in the class of professor Rafael Hakobyants. He had numerous solo recitals in Armenia and worldwide. In 2013, he won the second prize and the Audience Prize at the Maria Biesu II International Competition for opera singers. Since 2013, he is a soloist of the Yerevan State Opera and Ballet Theatre - named after A. Spendiaryan. He sings leading roles in operas of Armenian and foreign composers such as Verdi. His repertoire list also includes chamber music. In 2014, he participated in the VII Mirjam Helin International Singing Competition for which he obtained a diploma. The same year, he won the second prize and special prizes in the III Muslim Magomaev International Singing Competition.



## Tigran Martirossian, bass



He was discovered by both, the New Opera Moscow and the Bolshoy Theater, during his vocal studies at the Gnesin Music Institute and hired as a soloist at both theatres. As a winner of eight international vocal competitions, he quickly made it to the major theatres in Europe and the USA. Since 1998, he has been living as freelance artist in Austria and Germany and the San Francisco Opera, Vienna State Opera, Opéra Bastille in Paris, are among the leading theatres where the basso cantante has performed. Since 2005, Tigran Martirossian has been a cast member at the Hamburg State Opera. He worked with famous conductors such as S. Cambreling, Sir Colin Davis, V. Gergiev

# Musicians from all over the world

## Coro Gulbenkian, Choir of the Gulbenkian Foundation

The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation is a Portuguese private institution established in 1956 in Lisbon by testamentary will of its founder, Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian. The Lisbon headquarter and its two subsidiaries in Paris and London are active in the arts, education, science and philanthropy areas.



Photo : [www.gulbenkian-paris.org/](http://www.gulbenkian-paris.org/)

Its choir, which regularly performs in Portugal and around the world, has become one of its most artistically recognized activities. 40 singers will be present to accompany the Armenian World Orchestra.

## Armenian World Orchestra

50 instrumentalists coming from the most prestigious international orchestras will be in Paris on April 21, 2015, to create the Armenian World Orchestra.



Photo : <http://ugabfrance.org>

Descendants of the genocide survivors, they will gather to commemorate the 1915 victims and **to celebrate life and the Armenian presence** around the world.

Like the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, they will embody through music **the universal message of dialogue and peace.**

Among the orchestras rallied: Philharmonic Orchestra of Radio-France, National Symphonic Orchestra of Portugal, Théâtre de la Monnaie in Brussels, NDR-Hamburg Orchestra, Gulbenkian Foundation Orchestra, Orchestra of the Stuttgart Opera, Opera of Zürich, Zürcherkammerorchester, West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, National Orchestra of Lebanon...



# The Théâtre du Châtelet, a sumptuous frame

Historical place of the Parisian cultural life, the Théâtre du Châtelet has hosted the greatest artists as well as lyrical and musical performances of the world **for more than 150 years**.

Thanks to a mix of operas, operettas, musicals, ballets, concerts, and recitals, the musical theater of Paris is **one of the most vibrant music venues of the French capital**, and attracts an amateur and varied audience.

While maintaining its tradition of excellence in the lyrical and choreographic creation, it pays particular attention to **the transmission to younger generations** of music practice but also listening, through original educational initiatives and practical workshops.

Besides its **main room of 2,000 seats**, the theater has many lobbies and foyers both beautiful and warm, that will allow us to organize a cocktail for 350 guests at the end of the performance.

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The Théâtre du Châtelet is the perfect place to welcome the **Armenian World Orchestra** on April 21, 2015.

Photo : [www. http://chatelet-theatre.com](http://chatelet-theatre.com)

# Evening's program

7:30 pm Doors opening and welcome

8:00 pm Concert, Part I

**Beethoven's opening**

**Triple Concerto for violin, cello and piano  
by Michel Petrossian (world premiere)**

9:00 pm Interlude

9:20 pm Concert, Part II

**Miniatures by Komitas**

**Requiem by Mozart**

10:20 pm Cocktail reception in the Grand Foyer



Photo : [www. http://chatelet-theatre.com](http://chatelet-theatre.com)



Photo : [www. http://chatelet-theatre.com](http://chatelet-theatre.com)

Apart from this evening on April 21, 2015, **the sponsors and partners of the concert will be involved and invited to other significant events:** rehearsal and dinner with the artists... So many special moments to fully live in the heart of creation.

# Implementation of an extraordinary plan

To carry out this evening dedicated to remembrance and hope, UGAB France implements **a comprehensive system** involving both its operational teams and its Board of Directors as well as volunteers who help for the general organisation.



Photo : <http://ugabfrance.org>

In addition to this organisation, **the role of sponsors and donors is essential** to achieve the financial objectives needed for the concert preparation and organisation.

That's why UGAB France wanted to give to sponsors and donors the rank which is theirs by reuniting the most involved of them into a Committee of Ambassadors. These sponsors and donors will be **fully involved in the event** and will benefit from compensations to their donations.

## **A communication plan up to the event, international and invariable**

In September 2014, **a website and a dedicated Facebook page** will be created as well as on other major social networks in Russia & CIS. These online materials will be available in several languages: French, English, Russian and Armenian.

The **main Armenian media** (Presse & TV) as well as Armenian radio channels **in France** (AYP FM, radio Valencia and Lyon) and Ararat TV in Marseille will promote the event.

A monthly ad will be published in **Nouvelles d'Arménie Magazine** and other Armenian written press media in France between September 2014 and May 2015 (8 issues).

**Original content** (video and text) will be developed for all these media: musicians interviews, presentation of major Armenian music schools, presentation of young virtuosos, Armenian musicians and composers of the 20th century...

Finally, **flyers, posters and programs** (more than 20 000) will be distributed in conservatoires, associations, shops and at the end of concerts.

# Budget: €215,000 as donation

<b>Budget of the event – Expenditures</b>	<b>€335,000</b>
Artists' wages	€0*
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Musical Director</li> <li>• Conductor</li> <li>• 7 soloists</li> <li>• 50 musicians</li> <li>• 40 choristers</li> </ul>	<i>* Thanks to the kind participation of the artists and the help of the Gulbenkian Foundation for the choir's remuneration.</i>
Original musical creation	€30,000
Artists' welcome	€130,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transportation</li> <li>• Accomodation</li> <li>• Instruments' rental</li> </ul>	
Rooms' rental and technical expenses	€35,000
Cocktail	€35,000
Communication (agency, leaflets, media purchasing...)	€36,000
Sponsorship (agency, leaflets)	€24,000
General fees and administration	€45,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SACEM rights, photographer, scores,...</li> <li>• Insurance, accountability, bank fees,...</li> </ul>	

<b>Budget of the event – Revenue</b>	<b>€335,000</b>
Tickets' office	€70,000
International contribution	€50,000
<b>Donations and Sponsorship</b>	<b>€215,000</b>

UGAB France and volunteers will take care of the preparation, coordination and organisation of this event.



Photo : <http://ugabfrance.org>

# Armenian World Orchestra: become a partner!

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## « Major » sponsor: starting at €60,000 \*

- 30 invitations in « Carré Or » seats for the concert on April 21
- 30 invitations for the cocktail following the concert in the Grand foyer
- Your name or your company's name on some communication elements related to the concert (website, Facebook page, media publishing, prints, flyers, posters, brochure...)
- The opportunity of a speech during the cocktail and an interview in Nouvelles d'Arménie Magazine (Armenia News Magazine)
- Your participation for 4 people to a meal with the artistic team (conductor, composer, artistic director, and other team members)
- The partition of the original score by Michel Petrossian autographed by the composer
- 2 calligraphed and autographed pages by Michel Petrossian, 1 baton autographed by Alain Altinoglu

## « Benefactor » sponsor: starting at €20,000 \*

- 10 invitations in « Carré Or » seats for the concert on April 21
- 10 invitations for the cocktail following the concert in the Grand foyer
- Your name or your company's name on some communication elements related to the concert (website, Facebook page, media publishing, prints, flyers, posters, brochure,...)
- An interview opportunity in Nouvelles d'Arménie Magazine (Armenia News Magazine)
- Your participation for 2 people to a meal with the artistic team
- The partition of the original score by Michel Petrossian autographed by the composer
- 1 calligraphed and autographed page by Michel Petrossian, 1 baton autographed by Alain Altinoglu

## « Support » sponsor: starting at €5,000 \*

- 6 invitations in « Carré Or » seats for the concert on April 21
- 6 invitations for the cocktail following the concert in the Grand foyer
- Your name or your company's name on some communication elements related to the concert (website, brochure...)
- The partition of the original score by Michel Petrossian autographed by the composer

# The Armenian General Benevolent Union

The Armenian General Benevolent Union (AGBU or UGAB in French) was founded in Cairo, Egypt, in 1906. Operating today in more than 30 countries around the world, its mission is the **preservation and promotion of the Armenian heritage and identity** through cultural, educational and social programs, both in Armenia and in the diaspora.



When the first genocide of the 20th century stroke Armenians in the Ottoman Empire in 1915, the Union was just nine years old. Therefore, the main work of the organization was devoted to the socio-economic rehabilitation of thousands of survivors and orphans of the genocide, especially in the Middle East. After the war, the AGBU reorganized and redeployed itself in the new countries of asylum in the Middle East, in Greece, in France and in America.

The 1988 earthquake and the independence of the Republic of Armenia in 1991 were the two factors which **amplified the AGBU's action**. Since then, millions of dollars have been invested in facilities, hospitals, medical centers, schools, universities as well as in cultural and social projects (the American University, a reconstructive surgery clinic, an ultrasound center, Soup Kitchens, children centers, sponsorship of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra and the Yerevan Choir Orchestra, Sevan theological seminary, etc.).

**In the diaspora**, the AGBU counts many schools (16 daily schools in the world and 9 weekly schools), 13 summer camps, hundreds of scholarships awarded to students around the world as well as 4 internship programs (New York, Yerevan, Moscow and Paris).

**In France**, the AGBU's cultural action takes place through the efforts of the Paris, Lyon, Marseille and Valence cultural centers: exhibitions, concerts, theater, dance, educational action by the Nubar library in Paris and its publications, the House of Armenian Students in the Cité Internationale Universitaire in Paris, scholarships and two schools in Paris and Vienne.



The AGBU Young Professionals movement is present in Paris, Lyon and Marseille and unites the energies of young professionals who share the same values and professional ambition. The "Armenie Terre de Vie" **humanitarian program**, organized since 2011 by AGBU France Youth committee (members between 18 and 26 years old), is a unique experience of solidarity and sharing in Armenia. Finally, regarding emergency humanitarian aid brought to Armenians from Syria – country in war - UGAB France has been contributing to the substantial aid supplied by AGBU since 2012.

# Contacts

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## UGAB France

Zarouhi Odabashian General coordination	zodabashian@agbueurope.org	+336.03.69.31.37	+331.45.24.72.75
Christian Erbslöh-Papazian Artistic coordination	christianerbsloh@gmail.com	+336.37.18.06.66	

## Sponsorship Committee

Nadia Gortzounian      nadia.gortzounian@orange.fr

## Sponsorship Team

Augustin Debiesse      ad@equanuity.com      +336.70.02.07.97

You can send your gifts by checks filled in to UGAB France, to the following address :

UGAB France  
Armenian World Orchestra  
11, Square Alboni  
75016 Paris