



ARTS & LIVING

Healing Music: World Doctors Orchestra to Perform in Armenia

By Siranuysh Gevorgyan

YEREVAN (ArmeniaNow) – An orchestra made up of medical professionals will perform a charity concert in Yerevan Sunday (January 17).

A group of 80 musicians-physicians, representing the World Doctors Orchestra arrived this week, most coming to Armenia for the first time.

Founded in 2007 by Stefan Wilich, professor of medicine at the Charite University Medical Center in Berlin, Germany, the orchestra exists “to make medical care more accessible and develop medical policy throughout the world through music,” according to its founder.

Wilich created the orchestra by placing announcements in medical journals and on the Internet (www.world-doctors-orchestra.org). Currently the orchestra has some 400 members in 20 countries.

All 1,300 tickets for Sunday’s concert at the Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall sold out, with proceeds from the performance going to benefit Prkutyun center for disabled children NGO. The 80 musicians from 12 countries



The World Doctors Orchestra performing

travel at their own expense. Among the group are six Armenians, including three from Armenia.

A special concert has been added for Saturday, 4 p.m. which will be free.

World Doctors Orchestra Armenia representative Armine Mazhinyan, through whose efforts the organization of the concert has

become possible in Armenia, is a dentist and violinist and will have her second performance as part of the group. And the soloist at the concert will be German-based violinist and the winner of several prestigious prizes, Sergey Khachatrian. The 25-year-old plays a 1708 Stradivarius. According to Mazhinyan, Khachatrian will come to Armenia after his

concert in Paris and join the orchestra’s rehearsals in the Armenian capital.

Compositions by Alexander Harutyunyan, Tchaikovsky and Beethoven will be performed by the orchestra at the Yerevan concert.

“We chose not to perform Aram Khachaturyan, because Armenians know his music pretty well,” Wilich said.

‘Ultimate Cake Off’ Returns to TLC with George Duran as Host

LOS ANGELES – The cable channel TLC announced this week that “Ultimate Cake Off” will return to the schedule for its second season, starting February 1, at 10 p.m. ET/PT. Joining the series as host is chef, TV personality and author George Duran, bringing expertise and energy to the hit culinary competition series.

Margaret Braun, an acclaimed sugar artist based in New York, and Leigh Grode, owner of Los Angeles’ Cake Divas bakery, return as judges.

“George is a great addition to the ‘Ultimate Cake Off’ team, and one of the ‘secret ingredients’ we’ve added to make the second season even better than the first,” explained Nancy Daniels, SVP of Production & Development, TLC.

“As a chef, I think cooking should always be fun – and I can think of no better way to express that than through the creations the ‘Ultimate Cake Off’ contestants cook up each week,” said Duran, born George Kevork Guldalian in Venezuela. “I hope to help the bakers navigate each crazy challenge, and let the viewers at home share in all the fun we’re having. It’s going to be sweet!”

Each of “Ultimate Cake Off’s” eight hour-long episodes pits three different cake artists against each other as they create edible masterpieces in hopes of winning \$10,000 and having their cakes featured at a marquee event. With only nine hours, these competitors must make cakes that are at least five feet tall and are creative enough to win the taste of the client and take the prize. To add to the pressure, the contestants also face two mini-challenges – a skills test and a taste test – that could give one team the ultimate advantage: being able to sit out another team for 30 minutes.

This season, cakes will be created for events ranging from the 75th anniversary of the Griffith Observatory to a sweet-16 birthday party.

Duran is a New York City-based chef and entertainer. Author of *Take This Dish and Twist It*, released in 2008, he previously hosted “Ham on the Street” and “The Secret Life of...” on the Food Network. Since the fall, Duran has served as the spokesperson for Hunt’s tomato sauce.

“Ultimate Cake Off” is currently in production in the Los Angeles area. The series fan site is <http://tlc.com/tv/ultimate-cake-off/ultimate-cake-off.html>.

Talk on Cultural Identity at Ararat-Eskijian Museum

MISSION HILLS, Calif. – Verzhine Nikoghosyan will give an illustrated lecture on Sunday, January 31, at 4 p.m. at the Ararat-Eskijian Museum here.

For a long time Armenians are part of the American society adding to its diversity with their culture, religion and customs. This talk will bring forth some insights about Armenian identity, their past and present and how these factors affect the Armenian Diaspora today within the circles of religion and its connection to their identity.

The talk will also address the current scholarly discussions on religion and migration to understand how the Armenian case fits within the understanding of religious identity and transnationalism.

Nikoghosyan is a graduate of the State Linguistic University in the Republic of Armenia with a master’s degree in English and political science. In 2007, she earned her second master’s degree in religious studies at Arizona State University.

The Ararat-Eskijian Museum was found-

ed in 1993 by Armenian Genocide survivor, philanthropist and art collector, Luther Eskijian, to preserve Armenian history and heritage for future generations. It is located on the grounds of the Ararat Home of Los Angeles at 15105 Mission Hills Road.

For more information about the event please write to ararat-eskijian-museum@netzero.net

The 2010 lecture series are dedicated in honor of Hasmik Mgrdichian.

ARCA Co-Sponsors ALMA Exhibit on Heroic Armenian Legion



Capt. Jim Chankalian

ALTADENA, Calif. – The Armenian Rights Council of America (ARCA), is proudly co-sponsoring a program titled “Légion Arménienne: The Armenian Legion and Its Heroism in the Middle East” in Pasadena. On Sunday, January 3, a public reception was held in Wright Auditorium of Pasadena Central Library dedicated to the heroic efforts of the Armenian Legion during World War I. Among those serving in the 4,000-member Armenian Legion were 1,200 volunteers from the United States. The Armenian Legion is often remembered for having successfully defeated the Turkish and German forces at the Battle of Arara in Palestine in September 1918.

Capt. Jim Chankalian of New Jersey, Rupen Herrian of New York and Caspar Menag of Massachusetts are among numerous Armenian Legionnaires from the United States featured in the exhibit. Chankalian, Herrian and Menag were also prominent leaders of the Armenian Democratic Liberal party (ADL). Mihran Damadian, another renowned ADL leader, was entrusted with the task of

forming a plan and negotiating with the French to establish an autonomous or independent Cilicia.

The traveling exhibit, organized by the Watertown, Mass.-based Armenian Library and Museum of American (ALMA), is open to the public at Pasadena Central Library, through January 17.

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Eurdolian Family

Iranian Comic to Star in ABC Family Sitcom

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) – Iranian-born comic Maz Jobrani will star in the ABC family sitcom pilot “Funny in Farsi.”

Another Iran native, Marjan Nehsat, will co-star in the project based on the memoir by Iranian-born author Firoozeh Dumas about growing up in Newport Beach, Calif., during the 1970s.

Jobrani will play the dad, Mohammed Sayed Kazem Jazeyeri (aka Kaz), an engineer for an oil company who emigrated with his family from Iran to Newport Beach.

Neshat will play the mother Nazireh (aka

Nancy), who finds it hard to assimilate in her new environment. Armenian-American Hrach Titizian will play Uncle Mansoor, Kaz’s jovial younger brother.

Jobrani co-starred on ABC’s “Knights of Prosperity” and has a recurring role on the network’s sophomore comedy, “Better Off Ted.” A TV special based on his stand-up tour, “Maz Jobrani: Brown & Friendly,” airs on Showtime.

Titizian has a recurring role on the upcoming season of Fox’s “24” as Nabeel, the second-in-command to President Hassan (Anil Kapoor).

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