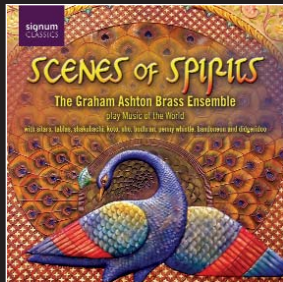


ALSO AVAILABLE ON  
SIGNUMCLASSICS



**Scenes of Spirits**

The Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble play music of the world

SIGCD099

The Graham Ashton Brass Ensemble boldly explores new repertoire for brass from different cultures around the globe, with an incredible line up of composers and instrumentalists from different disciplines and musical spheres. A melting pot of Indian ragas, Japanese Gagaku, Argentinian tangos and ancient Celtic tradition, via American improvised and classical music, gives rise to a release of sparkling originality, where daring instrumentations are perfectly matched with sublime performances from this true 'world' ensemble.



**Expressia: Tangos and Fantasies**

Cadence Ensemble

SIGCD140

The Cadence Ensemble perform the music from the composer who influenced the founding of the group - the Argentine Astor Piazzolla - in an uplifting and exquisitely performed collection of tangos and fantasies with works from other composers, arranged by the group's leader, Armen Babakhanian.

signum  
CLASSICS

CADENCE ENSEMBLE

EXPRESSIA  
ԱՐՄԵՆԻԱՆ ՄԵՏԱՄՈՐՓՈՅԵՍ

# EXPRESSIA

## ARMENIAN METAMORPHOSES

Folk Metamorphoses (based on themes of Komitas Vardapet, Sayat-Nova and Shirin)

- |                          |                              |  |         |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------|
| 1.                       | Krunk                        | Komitas Vardapet                       | [3.46]  |
| 2.                       | Kujn Ara Yev Gna-Gna         | Komitas Vardapet                       | [2.58]  |
| 3.                       | Khani Vur Jan Im             | Sayat-Nova                             | [4.25]  |
| 4.                       | Inch Khonim Hekimm           | Sayat-Nova                             | [1.56]  |
| 5.                       | Dance                        | Shirin                                 | [2.30]  |
|                          |                              |  |         |
| 6.                       | Armenian Rhapsody            | Alexander Arutunian / Arno Babadjanian | [6.03]  |
|                          |                              |  |         |
| 7.                       | Folk Reflections             | Karen Ananyan                          | [12.50] |
|                          |                              |  |         |
| 8.                       | Adagio From <i>Spartacus</i> | Aram Khachaturian                      | [8.56]  |
|                          |                              |  |         |
| Suite From <i>Gayane</i> |                              |  |         |
| 9.                       | Dance Of Girls In Pink       | Aram Khachaturian                      | [2.34]  |
| 10.                      | Lullaby                      | Aram Khachaturian                      | [4.50]  |
| 11.                      | Sabre Dance                  | Aram Khachaturian                      | [2.01]  |

Total time [52.55]  
All arrangements by Armen Babakhanian

CADENCE ENSEMBLE  
ARMEN BABAKHANIAN PIANO · HAKOB JAGATSPANYAN GUITAR  
ASHOT KHOYETSYAN VIOLIN · GEVORG GASPARYAN ACCORDION, BANDONEON  
LUSINE HAIRAPETYAN CONTRABASS

[www.signumrecords.com](http://www.signumrecords.com)

### Komitas Vardapet (1869-1935)

Komitas Vardapet was one of the most renowned Armenian priests and a composer, choir leader, singer, music ethnologist, music pedagogue and musicologist. Many regard him as the founder of modern Armenian classical music. Komitas learned a great deal of music from the monks at the Echmiadzin Seminary and studied music with the famous composer Kara-Mourza, which eventually led him into both secular and religious composition. In 1896 he was awarded a doctorate degree in musicology and later returned to Echmiadzin as Choir Director and Instructor of Music.

Komitas wrote over three thousand songs in Armenian, Arabic, Kurdish, and Persian, and also contributed significantly to the modern Armenian Patarag (Armenian Church liturgy or mass). His enduring contribution to the musical world was to rediscover Armenian medieval sacred as well as folk music, and he was the first non-European to be a member of the International Music Society. As a composer, singer and conductor Komitas performed in Paris, Geneva, Berne, Constantinople, Venice, and Alexandria.

### Sayat-Nova (1712-1795)

Sayat-Nova, or 'King of Songs', is the name given to Harutyun Sayatyan: a poet, singer and kamancheh player, who performed in the court of Heraclius II of Georgia. About 220 songs can be attributed to Sayat-Nova - although he may have written thousands more - and these songs are still sung today. Most of his existing songs are in Armenian; the remainder are in Azeri Turkish and Georgian. Sayat-Nova is officially recognized as Armenia's greatest *gusan*, or folk singer-songwriter.

### Shirin (1827-1857)

Shirin, or 'Sweet Voice', is the name given to Hovhannes Karapetian, known for his thrilling voice and multi-instrumental talents. As *ashugh*, or troubadour, he performed in many regions from Yerevan and Tiflis to New Bayazet and Constantinople. Most of his extensive collections of songs are in Armenian, the remainder in Turkish.

### Alexander Harutyunyan (b. 1920)

Alexander Harutyunyan, a famous Armenian composer, graduated from the Yerevan Conservatory's piano and composition department. Since 1962,

he has held a professorship at the Yerevan State Conservatory. He has been honoured several times as one of Soviet prominent composers and is the recipient of the National Academy's superior award-golden medal.

Many share the opinion that Harutyunyan is the successor to the tradition laid down by Komitas Vardapet to present Armenian music to a wider international audience, and he has become hugely popular in his homeland with works such as his *Great Symphony*, the opera *Sajat-Nova* and many instrumental concertos.

### **Arno Babajanian (1921-1983)**

Arno Babajanian was born in Yerevan, Armenia. By the age of 5 his extraordinary musical talent was clearly apparent, and at the suggestion of the composer Aram Khachaturian he was enrolled two years later at the Yerevan Conservatory. In 1938, he continued his studies in Moscow with Vissarion Shebalin. He later returned to Yerevan, where, from 1950-1956, he taught at the conservatory. It was during this period (1952) that he wrote the Piano Trio in F sharp minor. It received immediate acclaim and was regarded as a masterpiece from the time of its premiere.

Subsequently, he undertook concert tours throughout the USSR and Europe and in 1971 he was named a People's Artist of the Soviet Union. As a composer Babajanian was active in most genres, even writing many popular songs. Much of Babajanian's composition is rooted in Armenian folk music and folklore, combined with the virtuosic style of Rachmaninov and Khachaturian, with his later works influenced by Prokofiev and Bartók.

### **Karen Ananyan (b.1976)**

Karen Ananyan studied piano and composition at the Yerevan State Conservatory where today he is a piano professor. He has created numerous solo piano, symphonic and chamber music works, as well as songs and romances. His piano works and jazz compositions have been published and recorded, and as a pianist and composer he has performed in France and Russia.

### **Aram Khachaturian (1903-1978)**

Aram Khachaturian was born in Tbilisi, Georgia, to a poor Armenian family. In his youth he was fascinated by the music he heard around him but it was not until 1921 that he travelled to Moscow and was admitted to the Gnessin Institute where

he studied cello under Mikhail Gnessin and entered composition class in 1925. It was here that the young Armenian developed a love for Orientalism reinforced by a passion for the music of his homeland.

He held important posts at the Composers' Union, which would later severely denounce some of his works as being "formalist" music, along with those of Sergey Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich. These three composers became the so called "titans" of Soviet music, enjoying world-wide reputation as leading composers of the 20th century.

Khachaturian's works include concertos and concerto-rhapsodies for violin, cello, and piano, three symphonies, the Trio for clarinet, violin and piano, and the ballets *Spartacus* and *Gayane*, which was used in Stanley Kubrick's film *2001: A Space Odyssey*. *Gayane* features in its final act what is probably his most famous piece, the 'Sabre Dance'.

© Nika Babayan

---

## BIOGRAPHIES

---

### CADENCE ENSEMBLE

The Cadence Ensemble was formed in February 2004 by five outstanding Armenian instrumentalists under the leadership of pianist Armen Babakhanian, initially to perform the works of Argentine composer Astor Piazzolla (1921-1992).

The ensemble's premiere concert took place in April 2004, and it soon became one of the leading and most popular music groups of Armenia, as it expanded its musical vision to include masterpieces of classical and contemporary European, American, Russian and Armenian composers, while maintaining an affinity for Piazzolla. Arrangements of many famous works, from classical, world music and pop are now included in its repertoire, alongside specially composed pieces dedicated to the ensemble and its members.

Cadence has enjoyed international exposure through live broadcasts of its concerts, and the release of three CDs and DVDs, and has received numerous invitations to perform in Russia alongside European, Asian, Gulf and Middle East countries. The group's first international tour

took place in April 2005, the highlights being performances in the Teatro Colon and Teatro Servantes, Buenos Aires.

In July 2005 the ensemble and its soloists performed concerts and gave master-classes at the Pazaislis Festival in Kaunas and Vilnius, Lithuania, and in December 2005 participated in international music festivals in Tehran and Tbilisi, Georgia. In May 2006 the Ensemble gave concerts in Abu Dhabi, Sharjah and Dubai, UAE and in September 2006 performed in the Cairo and Alexandria Opera Houses in Egypt. 2007 saw further concerts in Beirut and Byblos, Lebanon, Paris, London, Brussels, Shenyang and Beijing.



### ARMEN BABAKHANIAN PIANO

A prize-winner at several of the world's most prestigious international piano competitions including the Leeds, Van Cliburn, Guardian Dublin, William Kappell, Gina Bachauer, and World Piano Competition, Armen Babakhanian has captured the imagination of audiences and critics alike through the intensity and honesty of his performances.

Armen has given recitals in the USA, Canada, Japan, UK, Germany, Austria, Italy, France and Spain. He has appeared as soloist with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Sir Simon Rattle, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Irish National Symphony, National Symphony Orchestra (USA), Dallas Symphony, Saint Petersburg Philharmonic under Yuri Temirkanov, Moscow Philharmonic under Valery Gergiev, and the Israel Philharmonic. Festival appearances include the Aspen, Interlochen, Santander and Baalbec music festivals.

Babakhanian's performance of the Shostakovich Piano Quintet with the Takács Quartet at the Santander Festival in Spain was named the best chamber music performance of the festival. He



has recorded for the ASV and Real Sound labels and his performances have been broadcasted on BBC, PBS (USA), ORF (Austria) and RAI (Italy) television networks. His recent recording of the Tchaikovsky piano sonatas received rave reviews in the European press.

In addition to his performing career, Armen has served as jury member for several international piano competitions, including the Gina Bachauer, Prokofiev and Rachmaninoff piano competitions. In 1999 he founded and served as Artistic Director for the Armenian Legacy International Piano

Competition in Yerevan, Armenia. He has taught numerous master-classes in Russia, UK, Spain, Japan and the USA. He is currently an Artist-in-residence at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, where he also received his musical education.

During the 2001/2002 season, Armen Babakhanian appeared in concerts in 17 cities in Japan, USA, Canada, Australia and Finland. He also took part in a concert tour of France which included a recital in Lyon's famed Salle Molière.

During recent seasons Mr. Babakhanian has performed in Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Russia, USA, China, Lebanon, Syria, Japan, Israel, Lithuania, Switzerland, Slovenia, Argentina and Iceland.

### **HAKOB JAGATSPANYAN** GUITAR

Born in Yerevan, Armenia, Hakob took up guitar at age of seven, and was taught at the Yerevan Music Salon-School. From 1978-1982 he studied in the Romanos Melikian Music College under Professor Edouard Badalian, and from 1990-1994 at the Yerevan State Conservatory.

From 1985-1991 Hakob was a soloist in the Armenian State Philharmonic Society and since

1995 has been Professor of the Yerevan State Conservatory. He was named Laureate of the Third All-Union Festival of Guitarists (1982, Dnepropetrovsk, Ukraine), the most prestigious professional guitarists festival in the former Soviet Union.

Hakob has given concerts and master-classes in Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Estonia, Belarus, Germany, Syria, Poland, Czech Republic, Belgium, France, Italy, Lebanon, USA and Lithuania.

His repertoire includes Vivaldi, Bach, Paganini, Ponce, Albeniz, Granados, Moreno-Toroba, Rodrigo, Mikrotikos, Spanish flamenco, Latin American music, and arrangements of modern composers.



### **ASHOT KHOYETSYAN** VIOLIN

Ashot was born in 1980 in Yerevan, Armenia. Graduating from The Tchaikovski Music School he received his higher music education as a violinist and composer at the Yerevan State Conservatory (1997-2002, classes of professors Genrikh Smbatian and Edvard Mirzoyan) and has won prizes in three national music competitions.



While studying in the conservatory in 2002 he was invited by the Virtuosi of Armenia Chamber Orchestra to tour Iran, and the same year joined the Yerevan Radio Symphony Orchestra. Since 2003 he has been a member of the Symphony Orchestra of Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre and in 2005 was invited by Maestro Valeri Gergiev to join the International Symphony Orchestra to perform the jubilee concert in Moscow, celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Victory in WWII. He has taken part in the tours with the Symphony Orchestra of the Armenian National Opera and Ballet Theatre in Russia, Turkey and Greece, and joined the Cadence Ensemble in March 2006.

### **GEVORG GASPARYAN** ACCORDION, BANDONEON

Gevorg is the leading accordionist and the only bandoneon player in Armenia. He received his higher music education at the Culture Department of the Yerevan State Pedagogical University studying accordion and brass instruments and after membership of several well known pop groups was appointed Director of the "Akunk" State Radio Ensemble in 1987.

Gevorg spent ten years accompanying the State Dance Ensemble of Armenia and as a virtuoso accordionist took part in international music festivals in the UK and France. With different ensembles he toured the UK, South Korea, Russia, Lebanon, Turkey, Jordan, Canada, and the UAE, and is involved in numerous recording projects, appearing also in video clips of well-known Armenian instrumentalists and pop singers.

Since 2004 he has been a member of the international orchestra accompanying the great



Lebanese singer Fairuz and is a founder member of the Cadence Ensemble.

## LUSINE HAIRAPETYAN CONTRABASS

Lusine was born in 1984 in Yerevan, Armenia and is a graduate of Arno Babajanyan Music College. In 2003 she entered the Yerevan State Conservatory and has worked in the Armen Hakob Symphony Orchestra under the conductor K. Durgaryan. Lusine is a member of the Youth Symphony Orchestra under the conductor S. Smbatyan which recently performed in Moscow, Paris and Berlin. Lusine joined the Cadence Ensemble in 2007.



This recording project was sponsored by DAR Foundation, Armenia



## DAR Foundation

Recorded at Abbey Road Studios, London, 14-18 October 2007  
Executive Producer - Nika Babayan  
Producer & Editor - Tim Handley  
Recording Engineer - Toby Alington  
Mastering: Richmond Studios, UK  
Cover Image - detail from painting by Svetlana Hakobyan  
Design and Artwork - Woven Design [www.wovendesign.co.uk](http://www.wovendesign.co.uk)  
All photos: © Armen

© 2008 The copyright in this recording is owned by Signum Records Ltd.  
© 2008 The copyright in this CD booklet, notes and design is owned by Signum Records Ltd.  
Any unauthorised broadcasting, public performance, copying or re-recording of Signum Compact Discs constitutes an infringement of copyright and will render the infringer liable to an action by law. Licences for public performances or broadcasting may be obtained from Phonographic Performance Ltd. All rights reserved. No part of this booklet may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission from Signum Records Ltd.

SignumClassics, Signum Records Ltd., Suite 14, 21 Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middx UB6 7JD, UK  
+44 (0) 20 8997 4000 E-mail: [info@signumrecords.com](mailto:info@signumrecords.com)

[www.signumrecords.com](http://www.signumrecords.com)