

**RIYAD NICOLAS** Syrian-British pianist, born in Aleppo in 1989, he is established as a leading figure on the international performing circuit, complimented by such musicians as Vladimir Ashkenazy.

Riyad has given solo recitals in London, including the Royal Albert Hall, Cadogan Hall and Wigmore Hall, at the Kennedy Center Washington, Yehudi Menuhin Forum Switzerland and concerts in France, Spain, Germany, the Gulf, Lebanon and Syria.

He made his first appearance as a soloist at the age of ten in Aleppo. Since then, he has performed with the London Chamber Orchestra, Emirate Symphony Orchestra and Gomidas Chamber Orchestra.

Riyad has won numerous international prizes including First Prize at the Norah Sande Award in the UK, Christopher Duke Recital Prize in the UK and Ciutat de Carlet International Piano Competition in Spain.

In June 2015, he graduated with distinction in a Master of Performance course at the Royal College of Music, winning Gold Medal at the Chapell Piano Competition. Riyad also teaches piano at Guildhall School of Music and Finchley Music School.

A keen chamber music player, performing in duos with violin and flute, Riyad Nicolas is one of the most exciting young artists to emerge from the Middle East.

**SOURP ASDVADZADZIN CHURCH CHOIR** is the oldest choir that continues to perform in Cyprus, established by Vahan Bedelian in 1921 at the behest of Archbishop Bedros Saradjian.

Fr. Vazken Sandrouni extended the choir's mission to include students and participated in Sunday School, while the choir also performed hymns on special holidays.

In 1977, Bishop Zareh Aznavorian sought to re-establish the choir's importance in Cypriot society and handed the leadership to musician and teacher Hayrabet Torossian.

In the years that followed, from 1997 to 2000, the choir enjoyed a new era of musical success, this time under the direction of Sebouh Apkarian, culminating in the events to mark the 1700 years of the Armenian nation embracing Christianity as the official religion.

Since 2010, the choir has been under the competent direction of Nara Sardarian, performing Sunday mass regularly, as well as appearances at various musical events and an annual concert.



## Concert in memory of MAESTRO SEBOUH APKARIAN

Levon Chilingirian - violin

Riyad Nicolas - piano

Sourp Asdvadzadzin Church Choir

Organised by

the Office of the Armenian Representative

and

Cyprus Melkonian Friends

Friday 3 November 2017 at 7.30pm

Pallas Theatre, Paphos Gate Nicosia



SPONSORS



Ο ΦΙΛΕΛΕΥΘΕΡΟΣ ΦΙΛgood\*

# PROGRAMME



## Welcome address

**Levon Chilingirian**

## Levon Chilingirian - Violin

**Riyad Nicolas - Piano**

1. Beethoven Spring Sonata Op 24
2. Apkarian Violin Sonata

## Sourp Asdvadzadzin Church Choir

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| 1. Ասացուածք<br>Asatsvatsk                   | Երաժշտ. Սեպուհ Աբգարեան<br>Music Sebouh Apkarian   |
| 2. Ծնունդի Գիշեր<br>Dzenounti Kisher         | Երաժշտ. Սեպուհ Աբգարեան<br>Music Sebouh Apkarian   |
| 3. Եկեղեցին Հայկական<br>Yegeghetsin Haygagan | Երաժշտ. Վահան Պետելեան<br>Music Vahan Bedelian     |
| 4. Շուշո<br>Shousho                          | Երաժշտ. Բարսեղ Կանաչեան<br>Music Parsegh Ganachian |
| 5. Հոյ Նազան իմ եարը<br>Hoy Nazan Im Yare    | Ժողովրդական<br>Folk Song                           |

**SEBOUH APKARIAN**, a prominent member of the island's Armenian community and a leading figure in the local and Diaspora classical and folk music scene, was born in Cyprus in 1931. He was a composer, conductor, painter and educator.

After graduating from the Melkonian Educational Institute, he studied music at the Ecole Normale in Paris and the Conservatoire Russe, as well as fine art at the Academie de la Grande Chaumiere.

As an opera singer, Apkarian performed in Europe and the Middle East eventually returning to his native Cyprus where he taught art and music for nearly five decades. He conducted the Melkonian school choir, following in the footsteps of his music teacher and mentor Vahan Bedelian, another legend in the music world.

At the same time, he founded the Armenian radio programme at the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation, where he served for 46 years.

After teaching and conducting school and church choirs for many years, Apkarian took up the challenge to direct the newly established Kohar Symphony Orchestra and Choir in Armenia in 1999, returning to Cyprus for their first international performance in June 2002. After that, the music world beckoned and Apkarian travelled with Kohar to Turkey, Russia, USA, Syria, Lebanon, Uruguay and Argentina.

He passed away in Nicosia on 5 August 2014.

**LEVON CHILINGIRIAN**, born in Cyprus, began violin with his great uncle, Vahan Bedelian. After immigrating to the U.K., he later studied with his uncle, Manoug Parikian, Hugh Bean, and the Amadeus Quartet. Chilingirian's partnership with the late Clifford Benson was launched by winning first prizes in the 1969 BBC Beethoven Competition and the 1971 ARD Munich Duo International Competition. Founded in 1971, the Chilingirian Quartet is today one of the most celebrated string quartets on the international scene, its highly regarded recorded repertoire spanning classical to contemporary works. Chilingirian also performs as a soloist and with other chamber music partners. He is co- artistic director of the Pharos Festival (Cyprus) and active in coaching chamber music at the Lake District Summer School, West Dean College summer course, and El Sistema in Venezuela. He received the Cobbett Medal and in January 2000, an OBE in the Queen's Honours List.

Levon Chilingirian is Professor of Violin and Chamber Music Artist in Residence at the Royal Academy of Music (London) as well as Professor of Violin and Chamber Music at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London). He is a visiting Professor at the Royal Northern College of Music (Manchester) and gives master classes regularly at Longy School of Music (Cambridge, MA), the New England Conservatory (Boston, MA) and the Boston Conservatory of Music.

