

# KARAPETYAN

b r o t h e r s



"The Karapetyan Brothers" project has been motivated by the two brothers' desire to perform together after years of separation due to life and career circumstances. When Henrik left Armenia, aged twenty, Hrayr was only ten years old and just beginning to get serious about music. Throughout the years they each built successful careers as professional musicians, Henrik winning a contracted position at the Michigan Opera Orchestra and later earning his doctorate from one of the top universities in the world, and Hrayr seizing awards and prizes from numerous national and international competitions and at one occasion performing Khachaturian's violin concerto on two days notice with the first ever Armenian-Turkish Youth Orchestra. Fate had it that they wouldn't meet for nearly 12 years, as Henrik entered the USA with a single-entry visa and was able to return to visit his native Armenia only ten years later, unfortunately, just a week after his brother had left for Belgium to pursue his graduate studies in Music at Leuven Conservatory. The unification of the brothers was very symbolic as they were both invited to be part of the WAO - World Armenian Orchestra, to perform in Paris in a colossal AGBU project commemorating the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. (AGBU stands for Armenian General Benevolent Union, the largest Armenian charitable organization that, along with hundreds of initiatives benefitting Armenia and the Diaspora, also offers scholarships to students of Armenian origin, and both Henrik and Hrayr have been multiple winners of these scholarships). The invitation and the possibility to meet in this context sparked an idea to create a performance project, featuring both Armenian and Western European jewels of the Classical repertoire, with a goal to capitalize on new compositions and commissions. A project started by Henrik Karapetyan, while pursuing his doctorate at University of Michigan, called The Trilogy of Armenian Music, focusing on the harmonic integration of the three main branches of the Armenian musical tradition, served as the cornerstone of this new undertaking, called "The Karapetyan Brothers." The project launched in the Summer of 2015, where the brothers, accompanied by Hrayr's wife and a top-rate pianist, Hasmik Manukyan, were given the honor of opening the Miniemen Festival in Antwerp, Belgium. The trio was on the other side of the ocean only a few months later, appearing in three performances in USA. Future plans include concerts in the USA and Europe, as well as commissions, new musical arrangements, recordings and collaborations.

The brothers' repertoire is vast, and it encircles a significant range of styles and musical traditions. Hrayr has been specializing in traditional Romantic and Classical repertoire, and has also been active as a jazz violinist even while in Armenia, and Henrik has long championed new compositions, specialized in the art of period performance on Baroque violin and is a founding member of two folk bands in his hometown, as well as appearing as a guest player with many others. They somewhat complete each other in many ways and the practice sessions often turn into some kind of telepathic experiments where no words are necessary, as there seems to be some magically instinctive musical understanding. In concerts performed so far, the programs have featured the music of different styles and periods, from the sparkling flares of Vivaldi to the lyrical passages of Grieg and Khachaturian, and to the ethereal harmonies of Sharafyan. It has been established that half of all programs will present pieces by composers of Armenian origin and many of our present time. The Karapetyan Brothers Project has in its perspective to perform and introduce high quality classical music with a varied palette of styles and a narrative of beauty, love, and integrity.





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Meeting a brother after nearly twelve years of separation is something one can't explain with words. It will either sound too pompous if one tries to describe the whirlwind of emotions or would turn into a soap opera, in either case falling miserably short of accomplishing its main goal. It is something only those who have experienced themselves will understand. We are ten years apart, and I left when he was ten... and then, we met in Paris, less than a year after the passing of our father, with whom we each spent twenty years. It was only inevitable that we were going to launch something together, and that it would be dedicated to our father, who lived to see both of us take professional careers as violinists (an instrument he dreamed to play at youth), but never saw us perform together. The idea had started brewing in our minds late in 2014, and it was a reality within a few months. I have collaborated with many fine musicians in my career and have learned much from these collaborations, but there has been nothing as euphoreal and as humanly satisfying as our rehearsals and concerts together. Some say one gets rewarded for tough childhood and hard work. It is probably true, since there is little that can compare with the feeling that stirs your heart when you see the outpouring of your musical emotion picked up and continued on the hill of your brother's bow.

Henrik Karapetyan



The most recent (2015) Grand Prix winner of the Triomphe de l'Art International Music Competition (Belgium) and a prize winner in 2012 Aram Khachaturian International Violin Competition (Armenia), young violinist Hrayr Karapetyan has an impressive record of awards and concert appearances. In 2007 he carried the first prize in Avet Gabrielyan/Sargis Aslamazyan competition and won the Alexander Spendiaryan competition in his native Armenia. Winner of numerous scholarships and awards, Hrayr was also one of the finalists in 2012 President's Youth Award in Armenia. A member of YerazArt foundation and AGBU Performing Artist, Hrayr has participated in a charity program "Musical companion", which presented more than 300 concerts in retirement houses, orphanages and schools.

Hrayr has performed numerous concerts and recitals in USA, Canada, Belgium, Armenia, France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Russia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Turkey, Norway, Sweden, Denmark etc., appearing in venues such as Konzerthaus (Berlin),

Concertgebouw (Amsterdam),  
Flagey Concert Hall (Brussels),  
Palais des Beaux-Arts (Brussels),  
Alte Oper (Frankfurt).

Besides his solo career Hrayr is also an active chamber and orchestral musician. In 2008 he founded the "Art of Duo" project with his wife, pianist Hasmik Manukyan. Their debut CD was released in 2014, featuring works by E. Grieg and A. Babajanyan.

Hrayr is the founder and the artistic director of "Hayasa Music" festival, which was established in 2015 in Brussels.

In 2015 Hrayr and Henrik Karapetyans, two brothers founded the "Karapetyan Brothers" project, which is dedicated to the memory of their father.


As an orchestra musician Hrayr has been a member of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, Armenian State Opera and Ballet Orchestra, Yerevan Soloists' State Ensemble etc. In 2010 and 2012 he was the concertmaster and the featured soloist in Turkey/Germany, with the first ever Armenian-Turkish Youth Orchestra, performing Aram Khachaturian's violin concerto.

Hrayr is currently appearing in concerts with Belgian Virtuosos Orchestra (concertmaster), Classical Concert Chamber Orchestra (first assistant concertmaster), Belgian National Orchestra (guest player) among the others.



Hrayr Karapetyan





Dr. Henrik Karapetyan received his initial musical training in his native Yerevan, Armenia where he attended the Komitas State Conservatory for his undergraduate studies, working with distinguished professors Suren and Gayane Hakhnazarians. He later continued his graduate studies in Michigan, earning MM and DMA degrees in Violin Performance from Wayne State University and the University of Michigan.

An active soloist, recitalist and chamber musician, Dr. Karapetyan has been a member of the Michigan Opera Orchestra since 2003, and often performs as concertmaster with regional orchestras in the Metro Detroit area. He has won many scholarships, awards and competitions and has appeared with performances in Europe, the USA, Canada and Armenia. In 2015 he was invited to perform with the Armenian World Orchestra in Paris as part of the commemorations of the Centennial of the Armenian Genocide. Among other venues, Mr Karapetyan has performed at the Kennedy Center and Carnegie Hall in recent years, and collaborated, among others, with Isabel Bayrakdarian and the members of the Komitas Quartet. As a soloist and chamber musician, he appears in more than 150 concerts annually, in North America and Europe.

Mr Karapetyan's musical and ethnographic interests have directed him to a long and ongoing study of specific characteristics of Armenian music, its historical significance and its repercussions in modern professional music. In some ways a pleasantly unexpected byproduct of this fascination with folk culture in general, Henrik Karapetyan's alternative career as a folk violinist has made him one of the most sought-after violinists in Michigan, with performances in styles ranging from Gypsy Jazz to Irish, Country, Klezmer and Balkan traditions and appearances in many festivals in American Midwest and Canada. Henrik Karapetyan has released four albums, appearing both as a classical and folk musician, and he is currently working on a solo CD.

In addition to his performing career, he maintains a full teaching studio in Ann Arbor, Michigan, training the younger generation in the best traditions of Russian and American schools of violin playing.

Henrik Karapetyan


Hasmik Manukyan is the official pianist of the project. Her main teachers include Suren Zakarian (Armenia) and Alan Weiss (Belgium). Hasmik's collaboration with Hrayr began back in Armenia while the two were students in the State Conservatory of Music. Later, after their marriage and subsequent move to Belgium, she has accompanied Hrayr in numerous concerts and competitions, and in 2015 she joined the Karapetyan Brothers Project, both as an accompanist and as a soloist. Mrs Manukyan is in high demand as a soloist, chamber musician and collaborator, having performed across Europe, Russia, USA and Armenia. She had her orchestral debut with the Armenian Radio Philharmonic Orchestra at the age of sixteen, and has appeared in Aram Khachaturian Hall (Armenia), Flagey Concert Hall (Brussels), Queen Elizabeth Hall (London) among others. While pursuing her graduate degree in Brussels Conservatory of Music, Hasmik currently resides in Leuven, Belgium, with her husband and holds a full teaching studio.



Hasmik  
Manukyan



The **Karapetyan brothers** have always reached out to the Armenian communities and Armenian, as well as International organizations with their projects and research. Among their collaborations are AGBU, ASA, YerazArt, The Gulbenkian Foundation and the Armenian Ministry of Diaspora.


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## Karapetyan Brothers Project

Works by Grieg, Mozart, Vivaldi, Khachaturian, Baghdasarian, & Debussy


\$25 Assigned Rows 1-2  
\$15 Assigned Rows 3-5  
\$10 General Admission  
\$5 Student

Henrik Karapetyan, violin  
Hrayr Karapetyan, violin  
Hasmik Manukyan, piano


**Event Details**  
Area violinist Henrik Karapetyan will join his brother Hrayr, a recent Grand Prix winner at the International Music Competition Triomphe de l'Art for an afternoon of music by Grieg, Mozart, Vivaldi, Khachaturian, Baghdasarian, and Debussy dedicated to their father Hayk Karapetyan, an avid lover of classical music.

**Program**


Violin Sonata in E Minor, K. 304 (1778)	W.A. Mozart
I. Allegro (in E minor)	
II. Tempo di Menuetto (in E minor)	
Violin Sonata No. 3 in C minor, Op. 45 (1887)	Edvard Grieg
I. Allegro Molto ed Appassionato	
II. Allegretto Espressivo alla Romanza	
III. Allegro Animato	
Poem (1966)	Arno Babajanian
Waltz "La plus que lente"	Claude Debussy
Song-Poeme ("In Honor of Ashugs") (1929)	Aram Khachaturian
Nocturne for Violin and Piano	Eduard Baghdasarian



Henrik Karapetyan




Hrayr Karapetyan



Hasmik Manukyan

tuesday, 11 october





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## Musical Odyssey: Two Brothers from Armenia Reunite in Paris 14 Years Later

■ Anush Kocharyan

16:04, September 14, 2015

*Two brothers, world class violinists Henrik and Hrayr Karapetyan, leave Armenia and don't see each other for fourteen years. Here, we take a glimpse into their fascinating odyssey and eventual reunion.*

When Henrik, 20 years old at the time, left Armenia, his brother Hrayr was just 10 and just getting started on the road to becoming a professional musician.


Over the years, the brothers pursued their own career paths – Henrik in the United States, and Hrayr in Belgium.

Years later, Henrik Karapetyan signed a contract with the Michigan Opera and got his PhD. Hrayr, at the time, was wracking out international music awards (the Aram Khachaturian International Competition, and the Brussels international Triomphe de l'Art).

The paths of the two brothers never met for 14 years.

Henrik received a one entry visa to the United States and returned to Armenia ten years later. Just one week before returning, Hrayr had already left for Belgium to study at the Leuven





In August of 2015, the brothers lost their father. Aged only 59, Hayk Karapetyan suffered a paralyzing stroke and succumbed to death after a month and a half battle in the ICU unit of a Yerevan hospital. Mr Hayk Karapetyan had been a prominent journalist, serving as the the General Editor of the Araks Radio Agency (the foreign language program branch of the Armenian National Radio) during the Soviet years, then authoring a number of award winning Radio and TV programs of religious content ("Gandzasar," among them), and finally, working at the Ministry of Diaspora as the Chief Editor of the "Hayern Aysor" online newspaper for several years. An avid lover of Classical Music, he also sang professionally in the Armenian State Academic Choir under Hovhannes Chekijyan, for many years, alongside his wife and daughter. His dream had been to play the violin, which was an impossible ambition in the remote village in Shirak region where he was born. He lived to see both his sons realize that dream.

We would like to dedicate the entire project to the memory of the man, who, whether carrying Henrik on his shoulders in the 1988-91 demonstrations, or proudly calling Hrayr a "little aggressor" (teasing the Western Media's reactions on Armenian military successes in Artsakh), taught us how to be individuals of dignity and compassion, our dear father Hayk Karapetyan.

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