



SACRED MUSIC FESTIVAL

Friday, October 4 – Sunday, October 6, 2019

St. James Armenian Church, Evanston, IL

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

- 4:00 p.m. Bishop's reception for choir directors and clergy
- 6:00 p.m. Vespers
- 6:30 p.m. Welcome
Dinner and fellowship
- 8:00 p.m. Prelude Performance by the **NAREK Bell Choir of St. James Armenian Church**
Dn. Rubik Mailian—Lecture/Recital with live examples of singing:
“Gomidas Vartabed / 150 Years: His Contribution to Armenian Sacred Music”

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5

- 8:00 a.m. Morning Service
- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:30-10:15 1ST PLENARY SESSION
Bishop Daniel Findikyan: “When Armenians Sing with the Angels”
- 10:30-11:15 2ND SESSION
- a. **Workshop for Choir directors (Dn. Rubik Mailian)**
Conducting the Armenian Divine Liturgy - Badarak
Review of the general rules for conductors and elements of conducting such as proper posture, gesture, patterns, phrasing, changes in tempo, soft-strong dynamics, legato-staccato characters, rehearsal techniques, working with singers and motivating them. The sessions will include individual conducting.
 - b. **Workshop for Organists (Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian)**
The role of the organ in the Armenian Church
 - c. **Voice (Solange Merdinian)**
Breathing, Vocal Health
This class teaches the basics of maintaining long-lasting vocal health through breathing exercises, nutrition planning, and posture exercises.
 - d. **Instrumental music workshop (Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan)**
Playing Armenian Church music with instrumental ensemble.

11:30-12:15 3RD SESSION

a. Workshop for Choir directors (Dn. Rubik Mailian)
Conducting the Armenian Divine Liturgy - Badarak

Review of the general rules for conductors and elements of conducting such as proper posture, gesture, patterns, phrasing, changes in tempo, soft-strong dynamics, legato-staccato characters, rehearsal techniques, working with singers and motivating them. The sessions will include individual conducting.

e. Workshop for Organists (Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian)
How to help the Deacon, Choir or Priest to sing in the right tune

b. Voice (Solange Merdinian)
Phrasing, Interpretation, Pronunciation

In this class we will learn to approach music from different angles. We will learn techniques to make a phrase or a song more expressive and to communicate with the listener while staying true to the composer and words.

c. Instrumental music workshop (Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan)
Playing Armenian Church music with instrumental ensemble.

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30-2:15 4TH SESSION – PRESENTATIONS

○ **The Aging Voice (Dn. Rubik Mailian)**

A deeper understanding of chronological development and changes in voice, and exercises to help maintaining a healthy vocal production. The presentation includes colorful images and streaming media about voice disorders. Recommended for singers, public speakers and everybody specially ages 50 and up.

○ **Nurturing Sacred Music in Youth (Sevag Derderian, Western Diocese)**

This presentation will focus on weaving the thread of sacred music into the new generation of our youth. We will focus on acknowledging the role we play as adults into fostering, educating, and nourishing the hymns of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Participants will be tasked with live assignments and demonstrations, receiving education and instruction, and working with fellow class attendees. This workshop is open to all faithful, and will especially focus on the importance of co-dependent relations within the church itself and the community.

○ **Church Music and 21st-century Technology (Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan)**

Presentation on the Diocesan SMC resources.

2:30-3:15

5TH SESSION

- a. **Workshop for Choir directors (Dn. Rubik Mailian)**
Conducting the Armenian Divine Liturgy - Badarak

Review of the general rules for conductors and elements of conducting such as proper posture, gesture, patterns, phrasing, changes in tempo, soft-strong dynamics, legato-staccato characters, rehearsal techniques, working with singers and motivating them. The sessions will include individual conducting.

- b. **Workshop for Organists (Very Rv. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian)**
How to use or change the manuals or stops, pedals of the organ

- c. **Voice (Solange Merdinian)**
Differences Between Solo Singing, Ensemble Singing and Choral Singing

In this class, we will learn differences and similarities between solo singing, ensemble singing and choral singing, through an exploration of the differences in technique, the production of sound and in interpretation.

- d. **Instrumental music workshop (Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan)**
Playing Armenian Church music with instrumental ensemble

3:30-4:15

6TH SESSION

- a. **Workshop for Choir directors (Dn. Rubik Mailian)**
Conducting the Armenian Divine Liturgy - Badarak

Review of the general rules for conductors and elements of conducting such as proper posture, gesture, patterns, phrasing, changes in tempo, soft-strong dynamics, legato-staccato characters, rehearsal techniques, working with singers and motivating them. The sessions will include individual conducting.

- b. **Workshop for Organists (Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian)**
The art of improvisation in the Badarak

- c. **Voice (Solange Merdinian)**
Vocal Training and Technique

In this class we will learn about vocal technique and the production of sound by speech and singing through the use of visualization and technical exercises in phonation, brilliance, posture, breath support, voice placement and more.

- d. **Instrumental music workshop (Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan)**
Playing Armenian Church music with instrumental ensemble

- 4:30-5:15 7TH SESSION
Gomidas sectional rehearsals
(Solange Merdinian, Dn. Rubik Mailian, Sevag Derderian)
Sopranos Altos
Baritones Basses
- 5:30-6:15 8TH SESSION
Gomidas combined rehearsal
- 6:30 p.m. Dinner
- 8:00 p.m. **“Singing in Exile”**
Documentary screening and post-screening discussion with Ara Kerovpyan

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6

- 9:00 a.m. Morning Service
10:00 a.m. Episcopal Badarak

Farewell Brunch

* * *

PRESENTERS:

Bishop Daniel Findikyan, Primate
Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian
Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan
Dn. Rubik Mailian
Solange Merdinian
Sevag Derderian
(Western Diocese)
Ara Kerovpyan
(Akn Choir, France, via Skype)

#