

Composer Michelle Ekizian & Conductor Constantine Orbelian discuss Dream Gardening on Parev TV for a Glorious Return to the Orchestra Concert Stage



New Jersey: Towards their planning for a hopeful New York World Premiere of **GORKY'S DREAM GARDEN (a musical theater opera of love, courage and...modern art)** in full orchestral concert reveal to celebrate the eventual COVID recovery in America, Armenia and the world, **Parev TV host Vartan Abdo** held an interview with **composer Michelle Ekizian and Maestro Constantine Orbelian**, Conductor/Artistic Director of the Armenian National Opera Ballet Theatre. In their conversation Ekizian and Orbelian discuss the work's urgent global relevance, its innovative breaking of opera and Broadway traditions, its evolution, its conflicts and passions. We hear in Ekizian's own words how her bio-op(era) goes beyond mere, factual story telling with "the love of being alive, and of a time and place for people to come together."

Of the work's transcending gateway to "GORKY'S" heartbreaking and glorious journey to "the dream garden"—and the world's return to the concert hall through it—Orbelian praises its unique accomplishments and anticipates a New York premiere. Here is an encapsulation of his artistic vision: "Beautiful music...very moving...a very compelling story: interesting and tragic...touching and real...the truth...everything is there to prod the senses...it would be very important to do (GORKY'S DREAM GARDEN premiere) in New York: THIS IS GOING TO BE NEW AND WONDERFUL!"

The Parev TV show opens with an exclusive screening of **the opera's 5-minute feature trailer of its 'Love Songs Showscape'** (previewed to its halfway-mark in chamber concert reduction fall 2019 at **The Newark Museum of Art** before a sold out house). **View the 24-minute Parev TV show: Ekizian & Orbelian Discuss GORKY'S DREAM GARDEN for an Orchestral Premiere (Trailer@start+Conversation@4:52):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRzcDq6AV6M>

Created by the award-winning composer Michelle Ekizian, GORKY'S DREAM GARDEN is a mesmerizing glide through the real/unreal/surreal story of **artist Arshile Gorky**, a founding father of American abstract expressionism and survivor of the Armenian Genocide (the first genocide of the 20th century). Described recently in Broadway World as "a genre bending opera," the 100-minute show will be a soulful coming together of performers in remembrance of Gorky's lost childhood lands of Ararat (the "seat of civilization")—now recovering again from genocidal flames of fall 2020's Azerbaijan conflict. Through immersive music, dance and theater, Ekizian along with Orbelian and her Dream Team of leading Broadway, opera and concert stage performers plan for "a breathtaking, inspiring Dream Garden for the world to be a better place."

Highlighting the (Virtual) schedule of the **The 10th Ridgewood Guild International Film Festival**, two screenings of **Ekizian's 90-minute 'Love Song Showscape'** of GORKY'S DREAM GARDEN (of the Newark preview noted above) are slated for screenings, which will be followed by interviews. They will run (est) Sunday evening, February 28 through Wednesday evening, March 3, capping off the Festival's Grand Finale. **Check the Festival's website for screening updates:** www.ridgewoodguildfilmfest.com

In preparation for the Film Festival screenings, Ekizian created a **Quick Tour** telling of the opera's ties to art, history, popular culture and world affairs. **View the 10-minute Documentary Featurette 'Seven Gates to Gorky's Dream Garden':** https://youtu.be/Fh_KOCAeI9Q

Photo: Top l>r: Orbelian, Abdo.
Bottom: Ekizian, the lost Armenian
lands photographed by HHK.