

2024

NOVEMBER

Simonian Concert

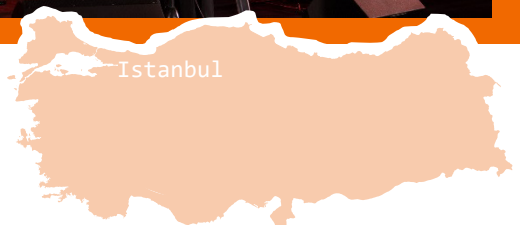
Preserving and transferring cultural heritage



Dutch based Armenian vocalist, Ilda Simonian, performed a concert with storytelling in Istanbul. Ilda Simonian is an Armenian vocalist living and working in The Netherlands (Amsterdam). Through her music and other cultural activities she strives to promote the rich Armenian culture and music in The Netherlands.

The current project “Heritage - Jarankutyun -Miras” includes an album (Heritage) with 12 samples of ancient Armenian folk music compiled by Soghomon Soghomonian (1869-1936) also known as Bishop Gomidas (Komitas). This collection features joyful yet melancholic songs. By presenting Gomidas' compositions, the project emphasized the significance of preserving and transferring cultural heritage to younger generations, while facilitating a deeper connection between the two nations.

The project, organized by Stichting GRUNG, aligned with the policy objectives of fostering dialogue and collaboration through arts and cultural heritage. It aimed to strengthen mutual understanding between Armenian and Turkish communities by highlighting the shared cultural legacy through music.



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A concert was held at Surp Vortvots Vorodman Church in Kumkapi on 2 November 2024, a cultural venue restored in 2010 when Istanbul was one of the European Capitals of Culture. The event, was attended by approximately 250 people. In addition to the concert, a musical workshop engaged at least 30 Armenian and Turkish students, fostering an environment for cultural exchange and inspiring potential future collaborations.

The involvement of the Matra and Human Rights departments further ensured that the project reached out to minority groups in Istanbul, with positive feedback from the Hrant Dink Foundation, recognizing the value of such intercultural activities.

Stichting GRUNG, under the leadership of Ilda Simonian, successfully implemented the project, showcasing Armenian and Anatolian music while promoting multicultural values.

This initiative provided an excellent example of cultural diplomacy and collaboration, contributing to a deeper understanding of shared history and traditions between Türkiye, Armenia, and the Netherlands.

Projects such as this are aimed at fostering an environment for cultural exchange and inspiring potential future collaborations.

