

OCT. 2021 | VOL. 1

# UCLA Armenian Music Program Newsletter



THE MODULATION  
NECKLACE JOURNAL

## Professor Melissa Bilal joins Armenian Music Program as its full-time Associate Director.

The UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Melissa Bilal, an internationally recognized ethnomusicologist, sociocultural anthropologist, and social historian, as the full-time Associate Director of the Armenian Music Program (AMP). Working jointly with AMP's Founding Director Movses Pogossian, Professor Bilal will take lead in scholarly programming for AMP, enhance research in ethnomusicology, and



teach innovative Armenian Music Courses. For a detailed bio of Professor Bilal, as well as her current projects, click [here](#).

Melissa's research and publications focus on the Armenian experience in relation to Turkey's minority and memory politics; historical and ethnographic study of Armenian musical practices; and the gender history of the late Ottoman Armenian intellectual life. She is currently working on the book and digital humanities project *Feminism in Armenian: A History in Documents* (with Lerna Ekmekcioglu) and on her two monographs *The Wake-up Lullaby: Gender, Music, and Memory in Armenian Awakening, 1860-1923* and *Injuries of Reconciliation: Being an Armenian in Turkey*.

## Tigran Hamasyan's latest album *The Call Within* receives prestigious prize in Germany

World-renowned jazz pianist Tigran Hamasyan has been awarded the prestigious Deutscher Jazzpreis 2021 and has been named International Artist of the Year, in recognition of his latest Nonesuch album *The Call Within*, which was recorded at UCLA's Ostin Music Center with the assistance of the Armenian Music Program.

[In the Press:](#)

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[Meet Our Ensemble  
In-Residence:](#)

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[Releases & Recordings:](#)

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Nonesuch Journal writes, "The Call Within is a journey into his dreamlike inner world, taking inspiration from his interest in maps from different eras, poetry, Armenian folk stories, astrology, geometry, ancient Armenian design, rock carvings, and creating what Record Collector calls 'a kaleidoscopic tapestry of sound.'"



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*Record Collector Music Magazine*

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## Armenian Music Playlist Created on School of Music's Youtube channel

A newly created Armenian Music Playlist launched on UCLA Herb Alpert School of Music's YouTube Channel. The largest five entries showcase innovative mini-documentaries about VEM Ensemble members and their relationship with Armenian music, created by Irene Baghdasaryan, AMP's Music Outreach coordinator. Each documentary includes interviews with VEM members and a complete performance of an important contemporary work by an Armenian composer. Check out the Armenian Music Playlist [here](#).



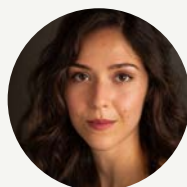
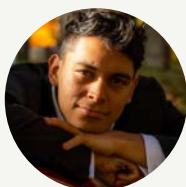
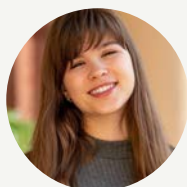
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"Showcase  
innovative mini-  
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music"

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## Introducing the new members of VEM

We are excited to welcome five new members of the VEM Ensemble -- the flagship Ensemble-in-Residence of the Armenian Music Program. To meet Arutyun, Hanna, Evan, Abraham, and Lena click [here](#).



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Meet Our  
Ensemble  
In-Residence:

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## Promise Armenian Institute announces Tigran Mansurian Composition Competition

**DEADLINE**  
05.01  
2022

**CALL FOR NEW WORKS**

**Annual TIGRAN MANSURIAN COMPOSITION COMPETITION**

Students enrolled in a college, university, or conservatory in the state of **California** are invited to submit an original chamber composition inspired by Armenian culture, music, and/or history. The winning composer will receive a **cash award of \$2500**, a public performance by members of the Armenian Music Program at UCLA, and a professional level recording.

[bit.ly/PAIMus](https://bit.ly/PAIMus)

The Promise Armenian Institute UCLA

**UCLA** Armenian Music Program

The UCLA Promise Armenian Institute, in close cooperation with the Armenian Music Program, has announced the Mansurian Composition Competition, to honor the world-renowned Armenian composer and to encourage the creation of chamber music that demonstrates a tangible connection to Armenian art, culture, or history. Instrumentation. A generous \$2500 prize will be awarded to a composer currently enrolled in a California University or

College, and will be announced on June 1st, 2022. More information can be found [here](#).

## Outreach Series: new residency with the Merdinian School

Expanding its commitment to in-depth Outreach, AMP has established a new partnership with the Merdinian Evangelical School (Sherman Oaks), with several virtual and in-person events scheduled for the duration of the year. The continuing outreach commitments of the upcoming year include an annual Armenian Genocide Commemoration concert at the Hammer Museum, performances on the UCLA campus, Glendale/Pasadena, and a Tour of California in May, 2022.



"music that demonstrates a tangible connection to Armenian art, culture, or history"

[Click here for the Google Meets link](#) to the virtual Outreach events scheduled in 2021.

## Undergraduate and Graduate course offerings in 2021/22

Five Armenian Music Courses are offered during the 2021/22 academic year. Karenn Presti currently teaches the Introduction to Armenian Music Course. Armenian Music Ensemble (directed by Armen Adamian) returns in Winter/Spring. Melissa Bilal will offer the graduate seminar "Gendering Armenian Soundscapes" in Winter quarter and the undergraduate course "Music and Intersectionality in the Mediterranean" in the Spring.

## AMP Partners with the Promise Armenian Institute to launch "Processing and Preserving the Bedros Alahaidoyan Music Collection: An Inaugural Project for the Planned UCLA Armenian Sound Library"

Movses Pogossian, Melissa Bilal, and Armen Adamian of AMP have recently been granted funding by the Promise Armenian Institute to launch the project Processing and Preserving the Bedros Alahaidoyan Music Collection. This project aims to introduce LA-based ethnomusicologist and song collector Bedros Alahaidoyan's (b. 1934) body of work to the Music Studies community and to make his archive widely available to scholars at-large as well as the broader public.



With his matchless efforts of preserving an enormously rich repertoire from genocide survivors and their descendants, Bedros Alahaidoyan has been the most prominent researcher of Western Armenian musical heritage. From 1980s on, he traveled to the Republic of Armenia and the various communities of Armenian diaspora in Europe, the USA, and

the Middle East to conduct interviews with Armenians and to document their orally transmitted lore. With the help of the sound recording technology available during these sessions, he was able to capture live, embodied examples of particular vocal and instrumental performances. Throughout the past decades, Mr. Alahaidoyan published interpretive volumes presenting selected recordings from his collection. Digitized samples have also been featured on online platforms. Yet a major part of his ethnographic recordings still remains in their original reel-to-reel and audio cassette formats.

The Armenian Music Program is in the process of signing an agreement with the Folk Music Section at the Art Institute of the National Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Armenia to collaborate on the digitization and processing of these recordings which were recently partly relocated to Yerevan.

Bedros Alahaidoyan during a lecture at Abril Bookstore. Glendale, 2018.

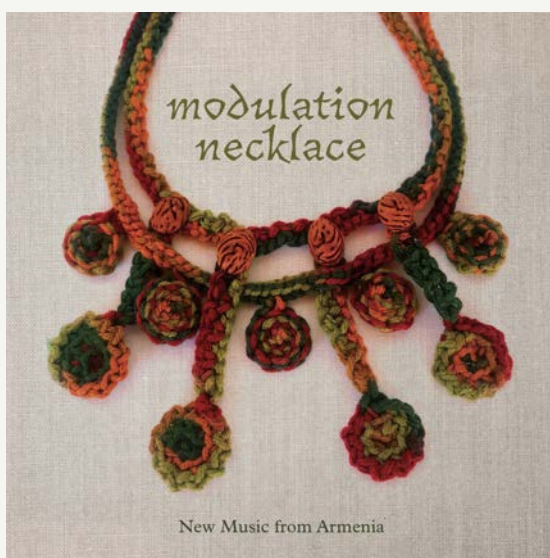
"The Armenian Music Program is in the process of signing an agreement with the Folk Music Section at the Art Institute of the National Academy of Sciences in the Republic of Armenia."





## Upcoming Recording Project

Following on the success of the critically acclaimed *Modulation Necklace* CD, a subsequent double-disc recording of Armenian music gems is in progress, featuring UCLA students, faculty, and internationally acclaimed artists Ani and Ida Kavafian, Steven Vanhauwaert, and others. The recording will be released in the Fall of 2022 by Naxos-distributed New Focus Recordings (NY).



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## Learn more at:

[schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/armenian-music-program/](https://schoolofmusic.ucla.edu/resources/armenian-music-program/)

