Faith & Love

Concert Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the AMAA

Under the Auspices of

The Armenian Missionary Association of America

Lark Musical Society Presents

Faith & Love

Sunday
March 4, 2018, 6:00 pm

Ambassador Auditorium
131 S. St. John Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105
Faith & Love

Concert Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the founding of the AMAA

- Anton Bruckner - Te Deum in C major, WAB 35
- Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

With the participation of

THE LARK MASTERSINGERS
THE LARK ORCHESTRA

Featuring
Soprano... Shoushik Barsoumian
Mezzo..... Garineh Avakian
Tenor....... Berj Karazian
Bass......... Abdiel González

Conducted by
VATSCHE BARSOUMIAN

Preconcert Lecture by
Doris Melkonian
5:00 pm

Tickets:
General Admission: $100, $50, $35
(Students $20)
Dear Friends,

The Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA) and the Lark Musical Society invite you to a celebratory concert on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the founding of the AMAA. The AMAA was established in 1918 in Worcester, Massachusetts during the annual meeting of the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Eastern United States; its stated purpose being to help rebuild the structures and communities decimated by the first genocide of the twentieth century.

During the last twenty years the AMAA and Lark have come together on an annual basis to produce concerts of sacred music, serving to enrich the lives of the people in the community both culturally and spiritually. The program this year will consist of Beethoven’s *Choral Symphony No. 9*, known as “Ode to Joy” based on Schiller’s poem of the same name. This work is one of the most valuable creations of Western Civilization and in itself a miracle, considering Beethoven was stone deaf when he composed it and certainly when he conducted it. The other piece on the program is Bruckner’s *Te Deum* which is a hymn of joy and thanksgiving to God. Bruckner was a devout Christian who served as the organist of his church for many years, and is famous for his many choral works. Like Beethoven he also wrote 9 symphonies, though he died before completing the last.

This concert celebration of the 100th Anniversary of the AMAA will take place on Sunday March 4th, 2018 at 6:00 PM at the Ambassador auditorium in Pasadena. On stage will be the Lark Mastersingers and orchestra, with soloists *soprano* Shoushik Barsoumian, *mezzo* Garineh Avakian, *tenor* Berj Karazian, and *bass* Abdiel González, all under the direction of Vatsche Barsoumian.

We hope that this concert will be an occasion for joy and thanksgiving as we celebrate The Armenian Missionary Association of America, and we praise God for its 100 years of service to communities worldwide.

Nazareth E Darakjian MD  
*President, Board of Directors*  
*Armenian Missionary Association of America*
ARGUMENT
For the concert Faith and Love

There is no event more auspicious than the centennial anniversary of an organization. To mark the passing of one hundred years of work is an impressive accomplishment; to mark the passing of one hundred years of benevolent service is something else altogether. It is a testament of incredible devotion, a worthy mission, and the grace of God. We are proud to celebrate the Armenian Missionary Association of America on this momentous occasion in its storied journey.

The Lark Musical Society takes great pride in its annual collaboration with the AMAA, its jointly produced concerts being a favorite mainstay of Lark's musical season. As an Armenian organization with a focus on the cultural patrimony of the Armenian people, Lark has nonetheless always programmed these concerts drawing from the full cannon of Western music, presenting works of international significance and scope. This seems a fitting emulation of the truly global scale of the AMAA's mission, with its charitable efforts rendered worldwide to communities in need, even as it maintains a focus on enriching the lives, both spiritual and physical, of Armenians wherever it can.

As soon as news of the Genocide reached them, the original founders gathered to establish the AMAA and began to seek ways to assist their suffering brothers and sisters. This group of devout individuals, who doggedly remained on mission, set an example of benevolence which has been carried forward by their forebears across a century of good works. In faith they praised God and they sought to love their neighbors as themselves - Indeed, is not this the inherent mission of every Christian in the world?

Reflecting on this spirit and in celebration of their centennial, Lark has programmed a concert to express in music this example set by the AMAA:

The first piece by Anton Bruckner, the tripartite Te Deum, is sung as a thanksgiving hymn at consecrations, ordinations, in marking military victories, and like occasions in praise of God, honoring His propitious work among his believers. Bruckner divided his work in three parts – a progression of praise for the “Father of immense majesty” from the 12 Apostles, to the company of the Saints, and finally to the army of Martyrs. A fitting progression of praise for the AMAA as well, for all its charitable work over the last 100 years.

The second is Beethoven's immortal 9th Symphony. A giant of classical music, Beethoven was ever interested in abstract musical thought, and the manner to find a truly free expression of great thought through sound. His had long been a celebration of man's potential and his own artistic freedom. In this masterwork, however, he leaves behind all musical cogitation, concluding that they are empty as compared to the simple idea of love and comradeship among humans. It is this which he makes eternal in the fourth movement, wherein he introduces the world-renowned hymn: “Ode to Joy” – his only addition of a chorus in any of his symphonies and an utter celebration of brotherhood.

The spirit of these masterpieces is the spirit behind the good works of the Armenian Missionary Association of America. Join us in marking an incredible achievement in the life of this organization. Long may they continue to serve. Long may they spread their Faith and Love.

Vatsche Barsoumian
Shoushik Barsoumian - Soprano

With an interest in both operatic and ensemble music repertories, Shoushik Barsoumian has performed in Europe and the United States. She has appeared as Oscar in Verdi’s *Un Ballo in Maschera* (OperaLombardia, Italy), Anoush in Tigranian’s *Anoush* (Lark Musical Society, USA), Adina in Donizetti’s *L’Elisir d’Amore* (Teatro Manoel, Malta), Gilda in Verdi’s *Rigoletto* (Bucharest National Opera, Romania), Musetta in Puccini’s *La Bohème* (St. Margarethen Opernfestspiele, Austria), Dama in Verdi’s *Macbeth* (Teatro Comunale di Modena, Italy).

Garineh Avakian - Mezzo-Soprano

Dr. Avakian has been on voice faculty and has taught Advanced Music Theory/Musicianship, Piano and Voice at the American Musical and Dramatic Academy College and Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Hollywood, CA. Dr. Avakian is a member of Pi Kappa Lambda National Music Honor Society, and the Southern California Vocal Association. She is also a member of the Los Angeles Master Chorale. She is currently an Adjunct Professor in Voice at Pierce College.

Berj Karazian - Tenor

Mr. Karazian is an artist who offers not only a graceful golden tenor voice, but also a striking presence on stage. Having performed in Armenia, Germany, Scotland, Brazil, South Korea, China, Lithuania, Estonia, Italy, France, Switzerland, Russia, Cyprus, Greece, Turkey, Serbia, and Lebanon to name a few, he has been busy working continuously on stage for the past several years.

Abdiel González - Bass

Puerto Rican baritone, Abdiel González, has been praised for his “rich, lush baritone” and for having a “superb voice, which commanded the stage.” He has appeared as a concert soloist under the batons of Gustavo Dudamel, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Grant Gershon to name a few. He is equally at home on the operatic stage, having done over 30 roles, as well as on Film and TV, having sung in over 20 films and appeared in 4 TV shows. Most recently he sang the solos in Beethoven’s 9th Symphony in Veracruz, Mexico for the inaugural concert of a brand new, state of the art Performing Art Center with the Boca Del Rio Orchestra which included the President of Mexico in attendance.
Ludwig van Beethoven - Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125

Symphony No. 9 in D minor, Op. 125, is one of the best-known works in common practice music. It is widely viewed as the pinnacle of musical Classicism, and one of the greatest compositions in the western musical canon.

The symphony was the first example of a major composer using voices in a symphony. The text is sung during the final movement by four vocal soloists and a chorus. They were taken from the "Ode to Joy", a poem written by Friedrich Schiller, with text additions made by the composer.

Anton Bruckner - Te Deum in C major, WAB 35

The Te Deum is sung as a thanksgiving hymn marking victories and like occasions in praise of God, honoring His propitious work among his believers. Bruckner himself called his Te Deum as "the pride of his life."
FAITH & LOVE

INVITATION TO SUPPORT

A program of this magnitude, of course, requires immense backing and ticket sales alone cannot cover all expenses. We are grateful to have the support of our dedicated patrons and invite you to join them. Lark welcomes any donations you are able to make in support of this program and in this celebration of a beloved organization, the AMAA.

Sunday, March 4, 2018, 6:00 pm

Ambassador Audirorium
131 S. St. John Ave., Pasadena, CA 91105

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Please make checks payable to: LARK (memo: Faith & Love)
543 Arden Ave., Glendale, CA 91203
www.larkmusicalsociety.com

Tickets can be purchased at: www.itsmyseat.com/lark

For information call the Lark office
818.500.9997

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