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«Երաժշտական Հայաստան» ամսագրի խմբագրական խորհրդի երաշխավորությամբ՝ Ծովինար Հրայրի Մովսիսյանի՝ 2.5.2023 թ., ընդունվել է տպագրության՝ 22.5.2023 թ., ներկայացրել է հեղինակը՝ 20.4.2023 թ.

25 TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GYUMRI BRANCH OF THE YEREVAN KOMITAS STATE CONSERVATORY

Abstract

Gyumri branch of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory was founded in 1997 to provide quality music education, training of professional music personnel and development of musical-cultural life in the northern region of the Republic of Armenia with the most important mission of assistance. Being the bearer and successor of the principles of the state policy of education, the university was formed on the basis of the traditions of Yerevan State Conservatory, the forge producing professional Armenian musicians, and the musical and historical heritage of Shirak. The primary role of an educational institution is the full application of the principles of professional musical knowledge, mastering the necessary skills, their transmission and popularization.

The article is devoted to the milestones of establishment and development of the university, achievements of dedicated founders and teachers. Today, the system of musical standards of higher education at the university is in the process of continuous modernization with a clear consideration of international experience and requirements. They will contribute to the development of the university. It can be stated with confidence that the Gyumri branch of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, intensively developing with Alma Mater, may become one of the competitive universities of the Republic of Armenia.

Key Words: *Yerevan State Conservatory, Gyumri branch, professional musical education, traditions, progress.*

Անվանում

Արվեստագիտության թեկնածու, ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի դոցենտ Հասմիկ Հայրի Հարությունյան - «Երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի 25-ամյակը»:

Երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի Գյումրու մասնաճյուղը հիմնվել է 1997 թվականին՝ Հայաստանի Հանրապետության հյուսիսային տարածաշրջանում երաժշտական բարձրագույն կրթություն ապահովելու, պրոֆեսիոնալ երաժշտական կադրեր պատրաստելու և երաժշտական մշակութային կյանքի զարգացմանը նպաստելու կարևորագույն առաքելությամբ: Իբրև կրթության պետական քաղաքականության սկզբունքների կրող ու հետևորդ, բուհը ձևավորվել է հայ պրոֆեսիոնալ երաժիշտներ կերտող դարբնոցի՝ Երևանի պետական կոնսերվատորիայի ավանդույթների և Շիրակի երաժշտական, պատմամշակութային ժառանգության վրա: Կրթօջախի առաջնային դերը երաժշտական պրոֆեսիոնալ գիտելիքների, անհրաժեշտ հմտությունների տիրապետման, դրանց փոխանցման ու հանրահռչակման սկզբունքների լիարժեք կիրառումն է: Բուհի հիմնադրման, կազմավորման և զարգացման հանգրվանների, նվիրյալ անհատների ձեռքբերումներին է նվիրված հոդվածը: Այսօր երաժշտական բարձրագույն կրթության չափորոշիչների համակարգը ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղում դիտվում է շարունակական արդիականացման գործընթացի մեջ՝ միջազգային փորձի և պահանջների հստակ նկատառումներով: Դրանք նպաստելու են բուհի զարգացման գործընթացին: Անտարակույս, Երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի Գյումրու մասնաճյուղը կարող է դառնալ Հայաստանի Հանրապետության մրցունակ բուհերից մեկը, մայր բուհի՝ Երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի զարգացմանը համաքայլ:

Բանալի-բառեր. *Երևանի պետական կոնսերվատորիա, Գյումրու մասնաճյուղ, երաժշտական պրոֆեսիոնալ կրթություն, ավանդույթներ, առաջընթաց:*

հիմնադրված 25-ամյա հոբելյանին

Абстракт

Кандидат искусствоведения, доцент ГФ ЕГК Асмик Гайковна Арутюнян. - "25-летие Гюмрийского филиала Ереванской государственной консерватории имени Комитаса".

Гюмрийский филиал Ереванской государственной консерватории имени Комитаса был основан в 1997 году для обеспечения качественного музыкального образования, подготовки профессиональных музыкальных кадров и развития музыкально-культурной жизни в северном регионе Республики Армения. Являясь носителем и продолжателем принципов государственной политики образования, университет формировался на основе традиций Ереванской государственной консерватории - кузницы, выпускающей профессиональных армянских музыкантов, и музыкально-исторического наследия Ширака. Первостепенной ролью образовательного учреждения является полноценное применение принципов профессионального музыкального знания, овладение необходимыми навыками, их передача и популяризация. Статья посвящена вехам становления и развития вуза, достижениям самоотверженных основателей и преподавателей. Сегодня система музыкальных стандартов высшего образования в вузе находится в процессе непрерывной модернизации с четким учетом международного опыта и требований, что будет способствовать процессу развития вуза. С уверенностью можно сказать, что Гюмрийский филиал Ереванской государственной консерватории имени Комитаса, интенсивно развиваясь с Альма-матер, может стать одним из конкурентоспособных вузов Республики Армения.

Ключевые слова: Ереванская государственная консерватория, Гюмрийский филиал, профессиональное музыкальное образование, традиции, прогресс.



Teachers of YSC Gyumri branch 25 years later, December, 2022

ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի դասախոսները 25 տարի անց, 2022 թ., դեկտեմբեր
Преподаватели Гюмрийского филиала ЕГК 25 лет спустя, декабрь 2022

Introduction

The Gyumri branch of the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory was founded in 1997 with the important mission of providing higher musical education, training professional musical staff, and promoting the development of musical cultural life in this northern region of the Republic of Armenia.

The Gyumri branch, as the carrier and successor of the principles of state educational policy, was built on the traditions of the Yerevan State Conservatory, the forge of professional musicians in Armenia, as well as the musical, historical, and cultural legacy of The Shirak Area. The primary role of the educational institution is the comprehensive implementation of the principles of professional musical competence, the acquisition of the necessary skills, their transfer, and their popularization. The article is intended to highlight the milestones in the establishment and development of the institution and the achievements of those who have selflessly devoted themselves to their mission.

Preface

The Shirak region in historical Greater Armenia has long been famous, not only for its fertile fields. The Voracious Sharah, mentioned by Movses Khorenatsi, had also been full of spiritual harvest - songs, tales, and national legends. Throughout the turbulent historical events and upheavals since ancient times, musical traditions have been formed, developed, and replaced one another, which is most visible through the vibrant urban culture of medieval Ani and more tangible in the very different, yet equally national, artistic atmosphere of Alexandropol-Leninakan.

The music tradition has naturally shaped the principles and norms of music education appropriate to its time and has evolved to meet the demands of the time. In 1924, thanks to the efforts of D. Ghazaryan, a music studio was established in Leninakan, followed by the opening of the K. Kara-Murza music school in 1934. In the Soviet years, the idea of establishing a higher music education facility in the second city of the republic was regularly discussed. The artists, authorities, and music lovers were constantly discussing the subject. For Azat Shishyan, composer, this idea was always in the spotlight, and he talked about it constantly during his years at the Kara-Murza Music School,

Նվիրվում է ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի

making major plans for the future. Composer Edgar Hovhannisyan, Rector of the Yerevan State Conservatory, was the closest to the implementation of these plans; in 1986-1987, he organized meetings and discussions on this subject at the Music College of Leninakan. However, circumstances were different. In 1988, political events and the devastating earthquake of December 7 halted the process.

In 1991, a project by composer, conductor, pedagogue, and musical public figure Loris Chgnavoryan was seen as a brilliant idea after the fatal disaster, when this art-loving city and the Shirak region as a whole were in an existential crisis. On June 1st, he started an unprecedented pilgrimage from Yerevan to Gyumri. The objective was fascinating and highly desirable: to establish a Shirak-based Academy of Arts.

Everyone was eager to learn everything they could about the artist Loris Chgnavoryan back then.

He was born in Iran in 1937. From 1950 to 1954, he studied at the Tehran Conservatory (violin class); in 1961, he graduated from the Vienna Academy of Music (Departments of Violin and Composition); from 1963 to 1964, he studied at the Mozarteum in Salzburg; and from 1965 to 1966, he studied at the University of Michigan. In 1970-1975, he was the director of the Folk Music Archive at the Ministry of Culture of Iran, the chief conductor of the orchestra at Tehran's Roudaki Opera Theater, and the chief musical director of the Pahlavi Cultural Foundation. Later in life, he lived and worked in Vienna, New York, and London. In 1978, Loris Chgnavoryan founded the Institute of Armenian Music in London, and since 1989, he has conducted his activities in Armenia.



*Loris Chgnavoryan
Լորիս Ճգնավորյան
Лорис Чгнаворян*

L. Chgnavoryan has performed on concert tours in Europe, the United States, and the Americas. He has made a number of critically acclaimed recordings and has conducted a number of world-renowned orchestras, including the London Symphony Orchestra and the Vienna State Opera Orchestra.

He is the author of more than seventy works, including Aghavnavank opera (1961), 'Rostam and Sohrab' (1962-1964), "Pardis and Parisa" (1972), Fantastic Dances (1958-1961), Simurgh (1975), and Otello (1984) ballets, oratorios, five symphonies, concertos, orchestral suites, choral works, music for cinema, etc. He was the organizer of several festivals, such as We and the World, Aram Khachatryan-90, From the Genocide to Independence, a series of concerts called Hour of Sacred Music, etc.

Chgnavoryan has received the gold medal instituted by the President of Austria, as well as numerous state medals and awards. In 1978, he received the Iranian Order of Homayun, as well as Saint Sahak-Saint Mesrop Order instituted by the Armenian Apostolic Church.

And it was at this moment that the world renown composer took on an unprecedented task - a mission for the sake of his compatriots living in the Motherland, who were in need of comfort and hope. According to the maestro, culture is a powerful tool capable for healing the people's wounds. It may also become a source of creative power and energy for the people, contributing to the reconstruction of villages and towns affected by the devastating earthquake. These thoughts were persistently following him, and the inner light illuminated the soul and thoughts of the Chgnavoryan-artist (1. p. 70).

Indeed, the pilgrimage was truly nationwide, with over a million people from villages and cities in Armenia participating. Around 15,000,000 rubles were collected as a result of their contribution. And, despite further depreciation of the ruble, the money served its purpose (1. p.70). The entire outpouring of joy was ecstatic. According to Hasmik Kirakosyan, a Shirak culture devotee. "The national earthquake made Armenians groan, the national earthquake caused us great pain by destroying the Armenian flower, Gyumri. In the town of poetry, music, and poetry of ashughs, the town of artists, the hearths of art have turned cold, bringing sorrow and grief to its people, those who used to place the arts on the table together with their daily bread. The collapse of the temple of the soul of the people was no less devastating and painful... And then your support came along. We don't want to impress you with our astonishment and admiration, nor do we want to repeat those worn out words of gratitude. We simply wish to express our genuine pride and joy. We would have lost the havens of our souls if it hadn't been for your reviving pilgrimage and unwavering support. Because of you, they were given a new life (1. p. 71).

The Gyumri Academy of Arts was to be housed in the former building of the Leninakan city committee of the Communist Party of Armenia, which was in desperate need of repair after the disaster. The Armenian General Benevolent Union, and personally Louise Simon Manoogian, supported Maestro's intentions. On August 19, 1996 she announced the grand opening of the Gyumri Academy of Arts amid greetings from the grateful Gyumri people who thronged Independence Square.



The building of Leninakan City Council of the Kommunist Party of Armenia after the Earthquake of 1988. It was built in 1952-1953. Architect: Zaven Bakhshinyan (1908-1989)

Լենինականի ՀԿԿ քաղաքային կոմիտեի շենքը 1988թ. երկրաշարժից հետո: Կառուցվել է 1952-1953 թվականներին: Ըարտարապետն է Չավեն Բախշինյանը (1908-1989)

Здание городского комитета КПА в Ленинанке после землетрясения (1988). Построено в 1952-1953 г., архитектор Завен Бахшиян (1908-1989)

The Yerevan State Academy of Fine Arts, the Yerevan State Institute of Theater and Cinema, and the State Komitas Conservatory established their branches here in Gyumri. “Anyone who passes by the Academy of Arts building cannot help but remember that it had been established with the support of Loris jeknavorian. And with my participation, as I worked tirelessly to establish a professional arts education in Gyumri. This wonderful educational institution, which included branches of the Conservatory, the Institute of Theater and Cinema, and the Academy of Fine Arts, was the reward after several years of suffering and hardship. Those universities make a great contribution to the cultural life of the city, their graduates come to enrich the established traditions.” (2. p. 88)



*Gyumri Academy of Arts today
Գյումրու Արվեստների ակադեմիան այսօր
Академия искусств Гюмри сегодня*

The self-sacrificing organizational efforts of the city officials and dedicated individuals, particularly Karlen Hambardzumyan and Hasmik Kirakosyan, contributed to the providing professional and technical adequacy and compliance of the institution. Thus, the long-cherished

dreams of having a higher music education center for promoting professional music in the region became a reality.

The establishment of the branch of the Conservatory that proudly bears the name of Great Komitas required an enormous degree of responsibility and willingness.

The parent conservatory community, particularly the teaching staff, provided exceptional professional and human support. First and foremost, the coordination of the necessary university scientific, pedagogical, methodological, and musicological foundations, as well as the main components of academic education, was organized by specialists who gained professional experience at the Kara-Murzà Music College, as well as by novice musicians. Stepan Sukiasyan, vice-rector of Yerevan State Conservatory, played an extremely important role in the formation of the newly created establishment, ensuring the regular course of programs, organizing master classes and consultations, and performing complex scientific and methodological works.

Stepan Khachatryan, the first director of the YSC Gyumri branch, managed to create a lively environment for the professional interactions of musicians. Along with establishing the priorities for the branch's development, understanding its strengths and weaknesses, and outlining the future projects. Quite naturally, the structure of the branch consists of the local units of all the YSC departments, which work together.

Ada Sanoyan, Nelly Gyozyan (head of the department), and Anahit Manvelyan joined the piano department. Soon after, Tsoghik Mkhitarian, Tigran Hovhannisyan, Gayane Tumanyan, Larisa Aleksanyan, Susanna Avetisyan, Maria Karapetyan, Ashot Manukyan, Marine Khachatryan, Mariam Mkhitarian-Margaryan, and Margarita Ghukasyan joined the teaching staff.

The Department of String Instruments, along with the Department of Chamber Ensemble, was founded by violist Samvel Adamyan (head of the department), cellist Tigran Adamyan, and later by Yervand Varosyan, who also acquired a conductor's qualification.

Artush Gevorgyan (trumpet, head of the department), Rafik Gevorgyan (trombon), Ashot Papikyan, and Artush Zatikyan (clarinet) began to teach in the department of wind instruments.

At the largest department of voice and music theory, musicologists Rita Aghayan (Head of the Department), Nina Hayrapetyan, Vardges Adamyan, Hasmik Apinyan, Hasmik Stepanyan (Harutyunyan), Nvard Yeghoyan, Anna Kuzmina, choirmasters Robert Mlkeyan, Silva Vardanyan, Gemma Kaghtsrikyan, and composer Tigran Ghukasyan, singer Karine Mkrtychyan, Karapet Shaboyan (duduk), Anahit Valesyan, and Marine Asatryan (qanun), and singer Gevorg Noroyan were teaching at the Gyumri branch.

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Vocal-Theoretical Department of YSC Gyumri branch in 2006, sitting from left to right - V. Adamyan, A. Valesyan, S. Vardanyan, J. Kaghtsrikyan.

Standing - R. Aghayan, G. Noroyan, H. Harutyunyan, K. Shaboyan, N. Hayrapetyan, H. Apinyan

*ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի վոկալ-տեսական ամբիոնը 2006 թ.,
Վ. Ադամյան, Ա. Վալեսյան, Ս. Վարդանյան, Ջ. Կաղտցրիկյան
Ռ. Աղայան, Գ. Նորոյան, Հ. Հարությունյան, Կ. Շաբոյան, Ն.
Հայրապետյան, Հ. Ափինյան*

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В. Адамян, А. Валесян, С. Варданын, Дж. Кажцрикян
Р. Агаян, Г. Нороян, А. Арутюнян, К. Шабоян,
Н. Айрапетян, А. Апинян, 2006*

The administration of the newly established university immediately got to work on enhancing the professional training of the educational staff. A specialized music school was established at the university for this purpose, which later served as the basis for the Department of Teaching Practice (Marine Khachatryan, head of the department).



Pupils and teachers of the specialized music school of YSC Gyumri branch after the concert of June, 1999

ԵՊԿ ԳՄ հատուկ մասնագիտացված երաժշտական դպրոցի սաներն ու մանկավարժները 1999 թ. հունիսին կայացած համերգից հետո

Воспитанники и педагоги Специализированной музыкальной школы ГФ ЕГК после концерта, июнь 1999

Professors A. Gevorgyan and A. Papikyan (wind instruments), E. Varosyan (string instruments), S. Vardanyan (choirmaster), A. Alanakyan, A. Manvelyan, M. Khachatryan, S. Avetisyan, G. Tumanyan (piano), K. Mkrtchyan (voice training), N. Yeghoyan, and H. Harutyunyan (musicology) made a significant contribution to the establishment of the school in professional fields. Specially developed educational and methodological activities were complemented with concert performances. Also, meetings were held with prominent musicians that

remained engraved in the memory of the students. Particularly memorable was the meeting with Vladimir Spivakov, artistic director and conductor of the renowned chamber orchestra "Moscow Virtuosi", in October 1998.



Artistic director and conductor of the Chamber Orchestra "Moscow Virtuosi" V. Spivakov's visit to the YSC Gyumri branch in 1998

«Մոսկվայի վիրտուոզներ» կամերային նվագախմբի գեղարվեստական ղեկավար և ղիրիժոր Վ. Սպիվակովի այցելությունը ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղ, 1998 թ.

Визит в Гюмрийский филиал ЕГК художественного руководителя и дирижера камерного оркестра "Виртуозы Москвы" В. Спивакова, 1998

The visit of Maestro Spivakov was a significant event in the cultural life of both the university, and the entire city. Spivakov did not come empty-handed; he generously donated two violins to the university. He also laid the groundwork for cooperation between the university and the Vladimir Spivakov International Charity Foundation, which provided gifted musicians from Gyumri with the opportunity to visit Moscow to participate in various events organized by the Foundation.

In 2001-2003 Lyudmila Melikyan was the Director of the Gyumri Branch of YSC, and Karine Avdalyan was the Director in 2003-2018. Over these years, the majority of the teaching staff of the branch were young professionals, mainly graduates of this institution. Pianists Narine Ayyvazyan, Hasmik Zakaryan, Liana Grigoryan, Ani Asatryan, Diana Khachatryan, Anna Tamiroghlyan, Mary Mkrtchyan, Nazan Ghazaryan, Sergo Zakaryan, flutist Vahan Zaimtsyan, violinist Meruzhan Gevorgyan, and guitarist Artur Nazaryan were among them.

University graduates became musicians in the city orchestras, like the Gyumri State Symphony Orchestra, the Gyumri State Orchestra of Folk Instruments, and the Gyumri Gohar Symphonic Orchestra and Choir. Many of them started teaching music in Gyumri and Shirak Marz, throughout Armenia, or abroad.

The hard work and dedication of the teaching staff at the university made it possible to implement programs and events contributing to the strengthening of international relations for the further development of the Gyumri branch in both the performing, academic, and educational sectors. In 2006, the university hosted republican, and in 2008-2018, international festivals and conferences of different formats, yet their goal always remained the same: to enter the broad international arena, thus ensuring the full and dynamic development of this field. The Renaissance International Competition-Festival has brought together various renowned performing musicians who were happy to arrive in Gyumri for a few days to create a unique opportunity

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for novice performers to rehearse, participate in workshops, and be properly appreciated. Professors Rita Aghayan, Anahit Manvelyan, Samvel Adamyan, Vahagn Hovhannisyanyan, Marine Khachatryan, Artush Gevorgyan, Silva Vardanyan, and others assisted Karine Avdalyan in carrying out these complex organizational tasks.

The Dialogue of Cultures International Conferences were also held within the framework of the Renaissance Competition-Festival, and were attended by scholars from Yerevan State Conservatory, YSC Gyumri Branch, as well as from various academic educational institutions around the world.



International conference "Dialogue of Cultures" in YSC Gyumri branch in 2009

«Մշակույթների երկխոսություն» միջազգային գիտաժողովը ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղում 2009 թ.-ին

Международная конференция "Диалог культур" в Гюмрийском филиале ЕГК, 2009

Hasmik Apinyan, musicologist, Hasmik Harutyunyan, PhD in Arts, Anna Kuzmina, Svetlana Sargsyan, Doctor of Arts, Professor, were key figures in organizing these academic sessions. Research reports presented at the conference were published in the Collection of Research Articles.



Edward Mirzoyan, Araksi Saryan and Sofik Saryan at the opening of the international conference "Dialogue of Cultures"

Էդվարդ Միրզոյանը, Արաքսի Սարյանը և Տոֆիկ Սարյանը «Մշակույթների երկխոսություն» միջազգային գիտաժողովի բացմանը: ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղ, 2009 թ.

Эдвард Мирзоян, Аракси и Софик Сарьяны на открытии международной конференции "Диалог культур"

In 2006-2011, the university published Art and Time: A View from Gyumri Journal on Science and Culture, where numerous research articles were published, discussing various subjects and problems in musical culture, fine arts, theater, and other areas of art both in

Armenia and around the world. However, the turbulent events of these years, considered by the leadership of the university as a strategic movement forward, did not get them to the desired results, having set aside the educational, academic, and methodological standards at the university. As a result, the 22-year-old university was down to two PhD candidates, two docents, and one professor.

At this critical juncture, the Gyumri branch received exceptional support from the leadership of YSC, particularly its respected rector, Professor Sona Hovhannisyanyan, who stated unequivocally that the branch, true to its mission, plays an important role in the educational and cultural life of the Shirak region. It went through a complicated social situation and should gain new opportunities for its future development.

Strategic steps have been taken to upgrade the close cooperation between the two universities. The Gyumri branch was presented to the YSC Academic Council and included in the activities of the Erasmus Boost project aimed at expanding international cooperation and mobility.

The YSC Gyumri branch has also been included in the training activities dedicated to the development of the capacities of the international offices and the promotion of the internationalization of the universities held in the Spanish city of Tarragona on June 24-29, as part of the project promoting the internationalization and marketing of Armenian universities.

In various fields of academic, methodological, and educational reforms of the university, essential support in various fields for the further development was given by Aram Hovhannisyanyan, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs at the YSC, Tsovinar Movsisyan, Vice-Rector for Science, Narine Avetisyan, Vice-Rector for Educational Quality Assurance, Nona Voskanyan, Head of the Training Sector, David Kazarian, Professor, and Artur Avanesov, Docent.



Discussions of new programs with YSC Rector Sona Hovhannisyanyan, YSC Gyumri branch, 2019

Նոր ծրագրերի քննարկումներ ԵՊԿ ռեկտոր Սոնա Հովհաննիսյանի հետ, ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղ 2019 թ.

Обсуждение новых программ с ректором ЕГК Соной Оганнисян

With the active support of the Rector of YSC, problems with the heating system of the building of the branch were solved, and effective steps relating to the proper operation of the basic

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facilities of the institution were discussed, particularly the organization of the repair and purchase of new musical instruments. Hasmik Harutyunyan, director of the Gyumri branch of YSC, PhD in Art History, initiated the organization of cross-visits, recitals, lectures, conferences, and workshops.

The urgent needs required for the development strategy of the Gyumri branch were identified. One of the first steps was the organization of intensive work aimed at improving the professional expertise of the teaching staff. It took consistent educational and methodological discussions, interdisciplinary seminars on contemporary music and pedagogical and musicological issues, and practical advances. The establishment of close ties with all the departments of the YSC was the key to the effectiveness of that work. The year 2019 can be given as an example. In March, the YSC Department of the History and Theory of Performing Arts held a seminar at the Gyumri branch, where the new curriculum provisions were discussed as well as some interesting papers related to the subject. A follow-up study was carried out aimed at developing the academic potential of the university lecturers. In an effort to establish a cutting-edge connection between the university and the scientific community, the cooperation of the branch with YSC, the Institute of Art of NAS RA, and the Center for Armenian Studies has proven to be extremely effective. All scientific sessions of the YSC were attended with great interest by the lecturers and students from the department. In Gyumri, international conferences were also held. On April 30, 2022, a conference honoring Margarita Harutyunyan, a prominent musicologist and educator, Honored Artist of the Armenian SSR, PhD in Arts, and Professor at Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory, was held in Gyumri.



Participants of the conference dedicated to the 100th anniversary of YSC Professor Margarita Harutyunyan

ԵՊԿ արտֆեստր Մարգարիտ Հարությունյանի ծննդյան 100-ամյակին նվիրված գիտաժողովի մասնակիցները

Участники конференции, посвященной 100-летию со дня рождения профессора ЕТК Маргариты Арутюнян

On November 12-13, 2022, the International Scientific Conference 'Apinyan Readings: Current Challenges in Traditional Music' was held at the Gyumri branch of the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory. The organizers of

the conference were the Shirak Center for Armenian Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Armenia and the Gyumri branch of the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory. This year, the conference, held in memory of musicologist and ethnographer Hasmik Apinyan, was dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Gyumri branch of the YSC. As a result, efforts were made to accelerate the process of assigning academic degrees to the teaching staff of the branch. The university now has two professors and nearly twenty docents.



Apinyan readings: participants of the conference "Modern Problems of Traditional Music"

Ափինյանական ընթերցումներ. ավանդական երաժշտության արդի հիմնահիմունքները խորագրով գիտաժողովի մասնակիցները

Апиняновские чтения. Участники конференции "Современные проблемы традиционной музыки"

Yet another important strategy for improving the quality of education at the university was to increase the students' accountability for basic knowledge and learning. A personalized approach and efficient working regimen become a means to properly harness the potential of every student to effectively develop his or her professional skills. The implementation of the evaluation system with the components of the new YSC standards also contributed to the increase and improvement of the quality of the evaluation of the student's knowledge.

A significant role in this matter was also played by the Student Council of the university by contributing to the growth and employment of students' professional skills.

Conducting a series of student recitals was the best incentive to provide a more focused education for future performing musicians. For example, in the spring and fall of 2019, the student council of the YSC Gyumri branch organized a series of recitals commemorating the 150th anniversary of Komitas in around twenty public schools and rural communities in Gyumri. These recitals were the most effective way to establish close collaboration with the students of Yerevan State Conservatory as well as other musical educational centers in the Shirak region and throughout the Republic. Furthermore, this was a further stage in the strategy to enhance the reputation of the university, bring future students together, and assist them in obtaining the proper professional orientation.

Over time, relations and cooperation with Gyumri and other musical educational centers in Armenia have become closer due to common educational programs, collaborative recitals, festivals,

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and competitions. It was largely facilitated by the organization of preparatory courses at the university.

The university's Department of Competitions and Concerts will be hosting performances by various chamber ensembles as well as collaborating with state orchestras, including the Gyumri State Symphony Orchestra and the Gyumri State Orchestra of Folk Instruments. A chamber orchestra (conductor Armen Karchyan) and a choir (choirmaster Arpine Manukyan) were formed in the Gyumri branch of YSC.



*Chamber Orchestra of YSC Gyumri branch, conductor:
Armen Kartchyan*

*ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի կամերային նվագախումբը,
ղեկիժը՝ Արմեն Կարճյան*

*Камерный оркестр Гюмрийского филиала ЕГК, дирижер
Армен Карчян*



*Choir of YSC Gyumri branch, choirmaster:
Arpine Manukyan*

*ԵՊԿ Գյումրու մասնաճյուղի երգչախումբը, խմբավար՝
Արփինե Մանուկյան*

*Хор Гюмрийского филиала ЕГК, хормейстер
Арпине Манукян*

In 2021, the lecturers and students of the Gyumri branch of the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory organized a series of recitals in various concert halls and educational centers to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Yerevan State Komitas Conservatory. Soloists of the Chamber Orchestra of the Gyumri branch took part in the anniversary gala held on the stage of the Alexander Spendiaryan Academic Opera and Ballet Theater. And in 2022, about thirty concerts were organized to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Gyumri branch of the YSC.

Various concert venues in the city were chosen to hold diverse concert programs. For this purpose, cooperation memoranda were signed with a number of organizations

in Gyumri, including the Technology Center, the Hayordyats Tun Youth Centre of the Shirak Diocese of Mother See of Holy Etchmiadzin, the Olympia Center for Sports and Culture, and the Mariam and Eranuhi Aslamazyan House Museum. An important agreement was reached to sign a memorandum of cooperation with the Gyumri branch of the Tumo Center for Creative Technologies. It is noteworthy that the Tumo Center is housed in the former People's House of Alexandropol, where on August 4, 1912, Anush Opera by A. Tigranyan was first performed. This will allow the Voice Department of the YSC Gyumri branch to establish an opera class and stage opera productions in the future. The YSC Gyumri branch aspires to be a cultural life center in Gyumri and the Shirak region, as well as a leader in promoting professional music.

The strategic plans for the development of the Gyumri branch place a special emphasis on the development of distance learning, especially given the university's unique position in the republic. The goal is to properly present and organize educational opportunities. As a result, the distance learning department:

- allows musicians with professional work experience to expand their expertise;
- enables the student to develop his or her individual musical abilities by acquiring new professional skills;
- provides the university with the opportunity to enter the international arena and expand its achievements in this field.

The distance learning department also facilitated closer ties between the branch and the parent university through the inclusion of prominent music educators in professional classes, including Professors A. Gurgenov, I. Yavryan, R. Tandilyan, S. Kechek, B. Vardanyan, H. Smbatyan, G. Smbatyan, A. Harutyunyan, V. Harutyunyan, V. Pepanyan, musicologists A. Barsamyan, A. Saryan, A. Pahlewanyan, S. Sargsyan, N. Avetisyan, etc. Their visits, workshops, class recitals, and seminars became increasingly common at the university.

The Career Center, which handles graduate and undergraduate employment issues, promotes educational quality at the YSC Gyumri branch, with a particular emphasis on career resources.

The main goal of the center is to improve the competitiveness of the students and graduates of the Gyumri branch considering the employment opportunities, to strengthen permanent communication and cooperation between graduates and the university, and to solve the problems that the university is facing.

To increase the effectiveness of work in that direction, in the rural communities of the Shirak region with no music education centers, an attempt is made to organize music education activities in secondary schools to identify gifted children in the community and promote their musical talents. This would also contribute to the promotion of the cultural life of the rural community.

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