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«Երաժշտական Հայաստան» ամսագրի խմբագրական խորհրդի
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«THE “GHAZAROS (LAZAR) SARYAN” COLLECTION WITHIN THE MAIN HOLDINGS OF THE MARTIROS SARIAN HOUSE-MUSEUM»

Abstract

The article is dedicated to the activity of the author's beloved father, Ghazaros (Lazar) Saryan, in his capacity as the President of the Union of Composers of Armenia, and from 1960 to 1986, as the Rector of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory. It also explores a nearly unknown page of his biography: the fact that the eminent composer also assumed the position of the first director of the Martiros Sarian Museum. In this role, he undertook the responsibilities of building construction, organizing the exhibition, and developing the strategy for the future replenishment of the museum's funds. A handwritten list of the exhibition, compiled by Lazar Saryan, has been preserved; it includes the works that remain on display in the museum's halls to this day.

Key Words: Ghazaros (Lazar) Saryan, director, Martiros Sarian Museum, activity, biography, exhibition, funds.

Ամփոփում

Մ. Սարյանի տուն-թանգարանի գլխավոր ֆոնդապահ Սոֆյա Ղազարոսի Սարյան. - «Ղազարոս Սարյան» հավաքածուն՝ Մ. Սարյանի տուն-թանգարանի հիմնական ֆոնդի կազմում:

Հոդվածը նվիրված է հեղինակի սիրելի հայրիկի՝ Ղազարոս Սարյան գործունեությանը որպես Հայաստանի կոմպոզիտորների միության նախագահը, իսկ 1960-1986 թթ. որպես Երևանի Կոմիտասի անվան պետական կոնսերվատորիայի ղեկավար: Եվ կենսագրության գրեթե անհայտ էջը, որ ականավոր կոմպոզիտորն ստանձնել է նաև Մարտիրոս Սարյանի թանգարանի առաջին տնօրենի պաշտոնը, վերցնելով շենքի շինարարության, նաև ցուցադրության կազմակերպման և ֆոնդերի ապագա համալրման ռազմավարության աշխատանքները: Պահպանվել է թանգարանի ցուցադրության ձեռագիր ցուցակը, կազմված Ղ. Սարյանի կողմից, որտեղ ամփոփված են այն աշխատանքները, որոնք մինչև օրս ցուցադրված են թանգարանի սրահներում:

Բանալի բառեր: Ղազարոս Սարյան, տնօրեն, Մարտիրոս Սարյանի թանգարան, գործունեություն, կենսագրություն, ցուցադրություն, ֆոնդեր:

Абстракт

Главный хранитель фонда Дома-музея М.Сарьяна Софья Лазаревна Сарьян. - «Собрание “Газарос Сарьян” в составе главного фонда Дома-музея Мартироса Сарьяна».

Публикация описывает деятельность отца автора статьи, Газароса (Лазаря) Сарьяна, на посту председателя Союза композиторов Армении и ректора Ереванской государственной консерватории имени Комитаса с 1960 по 1986 годы. Малоизвестной страницей биографии выдающегося композитора является его деятельность в качестве первого директора Музея Мартироса Сарьяна. На этом посту он занимался строительством здания, организацией выставок и разработкой стратегии по расширению музейных фондов в будущем. Сохранился рукописный список экспонатов музея, составленный Г. Сарьяном, в котором перечислены все произведения, по-прежнему представленные в экспозиции музея.

Ключевые слова: Газарос Сарьян, директор, музей Мартироса Сарьяна, деятельность, биография, выставка, фонды.

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Prologuea

The first director of the Martiros Saryan Museum

It is important to highlight that despite holding various responsible positions, Lazar Saryan remained an artistic and creative personality, however, he did not have the opportunity to fully pursue his creative ambitions. He passed away without achieving his lifelong dream of composing his second symphony. Therefore, preserving every example of his compositional work is of utmost importance, and we have been actively engaged in this effort since 2023. Following the decision of the Foundation Evaluation Commission of the Sarian House Museum, the Lazar Saryan collection has been established within the main fund. This collection encompasses not only manuscripts of the composer's musical works. It also includes a range of photographs, documents, and letters that illuminate his life and career, along with his orders and medals.

Lazar Saryan the President
of the Union of Composers of Armenia and
Rector of Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory

While at the front, Lazar shot down a Nazi Junkers-88 bomber with a machine gun, for which he was awarded the Medal For Military Merit (1943). He was later awarded an even higher honor-the Order of the Red Star (1944)-for his musical activities, such as organizing amateur performances with his platoon, and composing its anthem. Saryan also played the bayan, accompanying songs and dances, thereby raising the morale of his unit. This is evidenced by excerpts from the award documents, which in the early 2000s the commander of the Russian forces donated to the museum, stating: "You know Lazar Saryan as a musician, and we know him as a soldier".

In 2016, the residential part of Martiros Sarian's house was opened to the public. For many years, his son Ghazaros lived and worked there. The composer's study showcases his piano, personal items, and display cases filled with photographs, letters, sheet music, and posters. There is also a bookshelf with sheet music by prominent composers - Sarian's contemporaries, a record player, and a separate collection of vinyl records. All these items tell the fascinating story of a the third generation representative of a talented family.

According to Araksi Sarian, his wife and a renowned musicologist, Candidate of Art History, Honored Artist of the Republic of Armenia, and Professor at the Yerevan State Conservatory, Ghazaros (Lazar) Saryan did more than just inherit the name of his grandfather, the distinguished writer and educator Ghazaros Aghayan, and the surname of his father, the great artist Martiros Sarian. In his person, this name and surname took on new meaning and significance for Armenian musical art.

The Martiros Sarian House Museum not only documents and preserves the composer's musical legacy but is actively engaged in its promotion. In 2020, a compact disc featuring his symphonic and chamber works was released to mark the composer's 100th anniversary. The two-disc album comes with a trilingual booklet that outlines the composer's life and work, presented by Nerina Sahakyan, a Candidate of Art History.

In 2025, a jubilee concert dedicated to the composer's 105th anniversary was held in collaboration with the symphony orchestra. In addition, two of his most renowned pieces-Symphonic Images (1956) and Passacaglia (1992) for a symphony orchestra-were digitized. We intend to digitize more works in the future, though the absence of digitized scores for Sarian's compositions is a significant challenge for their performance. A particular spot in Ghazaros Sarian's collection is reserved for the manuscripts of his cinema music scores. They were employed to confirm the list of ten movies he wrote music for. As part of the celebrations marking the composer's 105th birthday, a memorial evening was held at the Ghazaros and Araksi Sarian Hall in the house museum.

During a discussion with the museum director, Mr. D. Banuchyan, projects related to the digitization of composer's manuscripts, their distribution, and their potential use in the education process were explored. It is important to note that this collaboration resulted in the idea of creating and performing a Serenade orchestral suite based on instrumental parts of the music Saryan wrote for the film Song of First Love.

As the renowned musicologist Marina Berko points out in her book Lazar Saryan, the musical fragments composed by Saryan proved far more substantial than the cinematic imagery. The composer also arranged his film music into suites for an orchestra. Symphonic paintings derived from the music for the film Trifle (1954) and a symphonic panel based on the score for Martiros Saryan (1964) gained significant popularity.

L. Saryan arranged and published the songs from the film Sober Wine as a Lyrical Songs cycle for soprano and piano. These compositions are frequently performed. In 2020, Tatev Movsisyan and Anahit Nersisyan released the collection on CD. There has been a growing interest among musicians to perform these songs in Armenian. Anna Mailyan was the first to translate the lyrics and perform the Armenian version of the work. She was followed by Anna Sharoyan, who also expressed her desire to present the songs in Armenian. In 2025, the students of her class performed the translated versions during the anniversary concert L. Saryan Blossom, honoring Martiros and Ghazaros (Lazar). We intend to publish the songs in Armenian, facilitating their

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Ghazaros Sarian's study in the Martiros Sarian House-Museum

Ղազարոս Սարյանի աշխատասենյակը Մ. Սարյանի տուն-թանգարանում

Кабинет Газароса Сарьяна в Доме-музее М. Сарьяна

Medal For Military Merit

Շքանշան՝ Մարտական սխրանքների համար

Медаль за воинские заслуги



Order of the Red Star

Շքանշան՝ Կարմիր աստղ

Орден Красной Звезды

inclusion in educational and competitive programs at music universities.

Among Lazar Saryan's handwritten scores we discovered a version of the renowned Three Piano Postludes (1991) arranged for a symphony orchestra. This year, Ruben Asatryan, conductor and the Dean of the Vocal and Theory Department, has digitized this orchestral version of the work. The project was carried out on the initiative of Ms. Tsovinar Movsisyan, the Rector of the Yerevan State Conservatory. The work is currently undergoing preparations for being

released. Apparently, Lazar Saryan developed a practice of orchestrating piano compositions during his studies at the Moscow Conservatory, as evidenced by the pre-served orchestral arrangement of his Theme with Variations for piano (1947). The composer's characteristic symphonic mindset is once more exemplified by this.

Additionally, we were able to digitize the manuscripts for Sarian's First Quartet, First Cello Sonata, and vocal-symphonic cantata Day of Peace.

During the year of the 80th anniversary of Victory

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in the Great Patriotic War, the Lazar Saryan collection at the Sarian House-Museum has been enriched with letters from the wartime period. Among these is a draft letter written by Martiros Sarian to the commissar of the Southwestern Headquarters of the USSR. Additionally, the collection features correspondence from the People's Commissariat of Defense from the initial three months of 1942, responding to Martiros Sarian's inquiries. These response letters attest to the fact that Lazar Sarian's name is absent from the lists of people who were killed, injured, or reported missing in action. The records poignantly reflect the emotional journey of a caring father and a compassionate artist.

These emotional experiences served as the foundation for the painting From the Artist's Life - Portrait of Lusik Sarian (1941). The artist maintained an unwavering belief in his son's survival. The mirror presented in the artwork symbolizes the father missing his son, while simultaneously reflecting his steadfast assurance that everything would ultimately be alright, as expressed through the piece's lively and colorful palette.

Despite the grim realities of war and the intensity of the battles fought at the front, Lazar Saryan held onto his hope of pursuing his musical education. In a letter written to his father in 1944, he expressed his aspiration: "I want to study with Dmitri Shostakovich. Do you think that's impossible?"

At the conclusion of the war, Lazar was 25 years old. Eager to realize his ambition, he diligently prepared to present his compositions to the esteemed Dmitri Shostakovich. After hearing his works, the renowned composer decided to welcome Lazar into his class.

As Berko notes, upon entering Shostakovich's classroom, Ghazaros noticed a landscape by his father, Martiros Sarian, among the paintings hanging on the wall; this greatly inebriated and inspired the young man. After listening to the works of young composer, Shostakovich announced his decision to admit Ghazaros to his class.

Epilogue

The Lazar Saryan collection, which is part of the Martiros Sarian House-Museum's main fund, contains a variety of items that represent the life and career of the Master's worthy son, an outstanding composer, a brave, honorable, and responsible personality, and serves as the primary center for the preservation of his legacy.

About the author: SOPHIA LAZAR SARIAN, Chief Curator of the Funds and the Head of the Vaults Department of the Martiros Sarian House-Museum. Granddaughter of the great artist Martiros Sarian, daughter of the composer Ghazaros (Lazar) Saryan, and the musicologist Araksi Sarian. She received her secondary education at the P. I. Tchaikovsky Music School (1978-1989) and later graduated from the Departments of Philology (1989-1994) and History of Arts (1990-1992) at the Yerevan State University. In 1993 she started to work at the Martiros Sarian House-Museum as a research assistant and guide. She has researched and systematized M. Sarian's personal archive, as well as conducted excursions in Armenian, Russian, English, and French. Since 2004 she is the Chief Curator of the Museum. She is the content author and editor for the official website of the M. Sarian House-Museum. In 2020 she published Catalog of Sarian's paintings and graphic works.

Հեղինակի մասին. ՍՈՖԻԱ ՂԱԶԱՐՈՍԻ ՍԱՐԳՅԱՆ - Մեծ նկարիչ Մարտիրոս Սարյանի թոռնուհին, կոմպոզիտոր Ղազարոս (Լազար) և երաժշտագետ Արաքսի Սարյանների դուստրը: Սովորել է՝ Երևանի պետական համալսարանում՝ ռուսական բանասիրական (1989-1994 թթ.) և արվեստաբանական (1990-1992 թթ.) ֆակուլտետներում: 1993-ից աշխատել է Մ. Սարյանի տուն-թանգարանում որպես գիտաշխատող-էքսկուրսավար: Ուսումնասիրել և համակարգել է Մ. Սարյանի անձնական արխիվը, անցկացրել էքսկուրսիաներ հայերենով, ռուսերենով, անգլերենով և ֆրանսերենով, 2004-ից՝ թանգարանի գլխավոր ֆոնդապահն է: Հեղինակ է՝ Մ. Սարյանի տուն-թանգարանի պաշտոնական կայքի տեքստերի, հեղինակն է ու խմբագիրը: 2020-ին հրատարակել է Մ. Սարյանի գեղանկար և գրաֆիկական աշխատանքների կատալոգը:

Об авторе: СОФЬЯ ЛАЗАРЕВНА САРЬЯН, внучка великого художника Мартироса Сарьяна, дочь композитора Газароса (Лазаря) Сарьяна и музыковеда Аракс Сарьян. Окончила: филологический (1989-1994) и искусствоведческий факультеты (1990-1992) Ереванского государственного университета. С 1993 года начала работать в Доме-музее Мартироса Сарьяна в качестве научного сотрудника-экскурсовода (проводила экскурсии на армянском, русском, английском и французском языках). Исследовала и систематизировала личный архив М. Сарьяна. С 2004 года является главным хранителем музея. Автор и редактор текстов официального сайта Дома-музея М. Сарьяна. В 2020 издала каталог живописных и графических работ М. Сарьяна.