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[Cal Performances Press Room](#)



Photos of Asmik Grigorian are available for download from the Cal Performances [Press Room](#).

A video of Asmik Grigorian can be found on [YouTube](#).

CAL PERFORMANCES AT UC BERKELEY PRESENTS
SOPRANO
ASMIK GRIGORIAN
IN HER WEST COAST RECITAL DEBUT
WITH PIANIST LUKAS GENIUŠAS
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT HERTZ HALL

Berkeley, CA, October 8, 2024—Cal Performances at UC Berkeley welcomes Lithuanian soprano **Asmik Grigorian** in her West Coast debut on Sunday, December 15 at 3pm at Hertz Hall. In this rare US recital, Grigorian is accompanied by longtime collaborator, pianist **Lukas Geniušas**, in an all-Russian-language program of songs and romances by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. The performance is a highlight of Cal Performances' [2024–25 Recital Series](#), which launched in September and encompasses more than a dozen celebrated artists—rising stars and established artists alike—from around the world.

Grigorian's highly anticipated recital continues a long Cal Performances tradition of presenting international stars making their first-ever Bay Area or West Coast appearances. When mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli made her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in February 1991, she was already a popular and established performer in Europe, but not well known to Bay Area audiences, and she performed to a less than full Hertz Hall. Over close to a dozen subsequent visits, she often performed to standing-room-only audiences.

Jeremy Gefffen, Cal Performances' Executive and Artistic Director, shared, "Asmik Grigorian has established herself already as one of today's most riveting and popular stars in opera houses and concert halls throughout Europe, so it is a distinct pleasure to welcome her to the West Coast. I can think of no better introduction than our very own Bay Area audiences, whose openness, curiosity, and appetite for new voices has fostered many fruitful relationships with artists who have chosen to make their first or early American appearances on our series. Asmik's rare talents, the visceral power and infinitely nuanced palette of her voice, her disciplined and compelling interpretive gifts, as well as her captivating stage presence will make her a quick and enduring favorite here on the West Coast."

Grigorian earned rave reviews in her Metropolitan Opera debut as Cio-Cio-San in Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* last season, and in European opera houses she has recently sung the title roles in *Jenůfa*, *Salome*, and *Turandot* to great acclaim. Well-established abroad, she has twice received the Golden Stage Cross (the highest award for singers in Lithuania), and won Opus Klassik's 2023 Female Singer of the Year award in recognition of her debut album *Dissonance* with Geniušas. This year, she received the Grand Jury Prize at the Austrian Music Theatre Awards.

Grigorian's deftly curated recital program, sung entirely in Russian, draws from Tchaikovsky's Opp. 6, 38, 47, 57, and 73 song collections composed in the last decades of the 19th century, and a selection from Rachmaninoff's beloved Opp. 4 and Op. 8 songs, as well as his Opp. 14, 21, 26 and 34 collections. Geniušas is featured on Tchaikovsky's Scherzo humoristique, Op. 19, No. 2 and the Romance in F minor, Op. 5 for solo piano; and on Rachmaninoff's Preludes, Op. 32, Nos. 12 & 13.

CALENDAR EDITORS PLEASE NOTE:

CAL PERFORMANCES PRESENTS

Sunday, December 15, 3pm

Hertz Hall
Bancroft Way at College Avenue,

Recital

[Asmik Grigorian](#), *soprano*

Lukas Geniušas, *piano*

Program:

Tchaikovsky/Sred' shumnogo bala (Amid the Din of the Ball), Op. 38, No. 3
Snova, kak prezde (Again, As Before, Alone), Op. 73, No. 6
Nyet tolko tot kto znal (None but the Lonely Heart), Op. 6, No. 6
Sleza drozit (A Tear Trembles), Op. 6, No. 4
Blagoslovyayu vas, lesa (I Bless You, Forests), Op. 47, No. 5
Ne sprashivay (Do Not Ask), Op. 57, No. 3
Romance in F minor, Op. 5
Scherzo humoristique, Op. 19, No. 2

Rachmaninoff/V molchan'i nochi taynoy (In the Silence of the Secret Night), Op. 4, No. 3
Ne poy, krasavitsa, pri mne (Do Not Sing, My Beauty), Op. 4, No. 4
Ditya! kak tsvetok ty prekrasna (Child! Thou Art as Beautiful as a Flower), Op. 8, No. 2
Son (The Dream), Op. 8, No. 5
Vesenniye vody (Spring Waters), Op. 14, No. 11
O ne grusti! (Oh, Do Not Grieve!), Op. 14, No. 8
Ya zhdu tebya (I Wait for Thee), Op. 14, No. 1
Preludes, Op. 32, Nos. 12 & 13
Sumerki (Twilight), Op. 21, No. 3
Zdes' khorosho (How Fair this Spot), Op. 21, No. 7
My otdokhnyom (Let Us Rest), Op. 26, No. 3
Dissonans (Dissonance), Op. 34, No. 13

Having sung the title roles in *Madama Butterfly*, *Jenůfa*, and *Salome* in the world's great opera houses over recent seasons, soprano Asmik Grigorian makes her West Coast debut at Cal Performances in an all-Russian-language recital, performing rarely heard songs—"small pieces of opera in a few minutes," she calls them—by Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninoff. She is joined by her frequent collaborator, pianist Lukas Geniušas.

Tickets: \$78 (prices subject to change) Half price for UC Berkeley students.

Tickets for all performances are available at calperformances.org, by phone at (510) 642-9988, or in person at the Ticket Office at Zellerbach Hall, Tuesday–Friday, 12–5:30pm and Saturday–Sunday, 1–5pm. More information about UC Berkeley student tickets and discounts is available at calperformances.org/ucb-students. For information about other discounts, visit calperformances.org/discounts.

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