



Thursday, November 3, 2022, 7:30pm
First Congregational Church

Ensemble Basiani

George Donadze, *artistic director*

Zurab Tskrialashvili, *director*

Irakli Tkvatsiria

Tornike Papidze

George Gabunia

Elizbar Khachidze

Sergo Urushadze

Giorgi Khunashvili

Zviad Michilashvili

Gela Donadze

Lasha Metreveli

Batu Lominadze

Vano Dvalishvili

*This performance will last approximately 80 minutes
and be performed without an intermission.*

COVID-19: Masking is required inside the auditorium, and is strongly recommended, though not required, for indoor lobby/waiting areas as well as outdoor spaces. Up-to-date vaccination is strongly recommended, though not required for entry. The latest information on Cal Performances' COVID-19 safety policies is available at calperformances.org/safety.
Photographing and/or recording this performance is strictly prohibited.

PROGRAM

Kuchkhi bedineri

A wedding song from Samegrelo.

Turpani skhedan chardakhsa (Pretty Women are Sitting in the Awning)

A banquet song from Kakheti.

Guruli maqruli

A wedding song from Guria, specifically for the groomsmen (*maqari/maqruli*). This song employs the *krimanchuli* technique (Georgian yodel).

Saidan mokhvel (Where Did You Come From, Pretty?)

A lyric-love song about a beautiful woman. With *panduri* accompaniment.

Namgluri

A work song from Kakheti, sung during the harvest of cornfields.
Namgali/namgluri – sickle.

Supris khelkhvavi

A banquet song from Guria. No fixed text.

Tsanash dashdul

A circle dance song from Svaneti.

Shobaman shenman (Thy Nativity, O Christ our God)

Troparion to the Feast of Nativity, Shemokmedi school, western Georgia.
Troparions are sung in church.

Saghmrtosa sakhmilavsas zeda (May Habakkuk, divinely speaking)

Paschal Irmos, Ode 4. Gelati school, western Georgia.

Tsmidao ghmerto (O, Holy God)

Liturgical hymn, in the east-Georgian tradition.

Odoia

A work song from Samegrelo, sung during the hoeing and weeding of cornfields. *Odo/odoia* – ancient god of labor

Kakhuri nana

A lullaby from Kakheti.

Khasanbegura

An epic, historical ballad from Guria. This song also employs the *krimanchuli* technique. One of the most remarkable achievements of Georgian polyphony.

Gandagana

A dance song from Achara, with *chiboni* and *panduri* accompaniment.

Chela

An ox-cartman's song from Samegrelo, accompanied by the *chonguri*.

Chakrulo

The crowning achievement of Georgian traditional polyphony, “Chakrulo” belongs to the family of lengthy Kakhetian banquet songs. Considered part of world's cultural patrimony, the song was included on the gold record attached to a Voyager space probe in 1977.

Naduri

Fieldwork songs (*naduris*) are the longest and most sophisticated antiphonal work songs, numbering in the dozens. Most antiphonal *naduris* are four-part, an unusual arrangement in Georgian folk music. This is a cornfield song

Kakheti, Samegrelo, Achara, Guria, Svaneti – regions in Georgia
chonguri, panduri – traditional string instruments
chiboni – bagpipe, traditional instrument

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

Ensemble Basiani was created in 2000, becoming the folk ensemble of the Georgian Patriarchate. In 2013, the group was given the status of State Ensemble of Georgian Folk Singing by the government of Georgia.

Ensemble Basiani is composed of singers from different parts of Georgia. Most members come from families that perform traditional singing and many have sung folk songs in other ensembles since childhood.

Since the day of its inception, Ensemble Basiani has actively revived and popularized many examples of Georgian traditional polyphony. The group has rediscovered a large number of traditional folk songs, released many albums, participated in numerous internationally acclaimed festivals, and performed at prestigious venues around the world, including the Concertgebouw in Amsterdam, the Gulbekian Great Hall in Lisbon, the Grand Hall of the Saint Petersburg Academic Philharmonic Society, the Aldeburgh Music Festival (England), the Kilkenny Arts Festival (Ireland), and many others.

The Ensemble has visited the United States several times (2010, 2012, 2016, and 2019), performing in prestigious venues such as Lincoln Center (NY), Stanford Live's Bing Concert Hall, Town Hall (NY), Kranert Center for Performing Arts (IL), and others. The group last performed at Cal Performances in 2019.

“Basiani” is the name of one of the regions in southwest Georgia (northwest of the town of Erzurum, in what is now Turkey). In 1203, Georgian royal troops defeated the enemy there, consolidating Georgia's position in Asia Minor.

In Georgia, the battle of Basiani is associated with devotion, unity, and love of homeland. The members of the ensemble wish to present their beloved music with similar devotion.

Born 1979, **George Donadze** (*artistic director*) was a member of Bichebi children's folk choir and studied at the music college in Tbilisi between 1995 and 1999. He served

as the children's choir conductor at school between 1997 and 2000, prior to becoming both the conductor of the Tbilisi Holy Trinity Cathedral Patriarchate Choir and founder and conductor of Ensemble Basiani. Donadze studied for a degrees in choir conducting at the V. Sarajishvili Tbilisi State Conservatoire. Since 2006, he has taught at G. Mtatsmindeli Church Chants Institution of Higher Education. He became the director of the Folklore State Center of Georgia in 2014.

Born in 1980, **Zurab Tskrialashvili** (*director*) was part of the children folk's choir Martve from the age of nine to 16. He attended music school and college in Tbilisi before studying at the Sarajishvili Tbilisi

State Conservatoire, where he earned a master's degree in choir conducting. Tskrialashvili has been part of the Tbilisi Holy Trinity Cathedral Patriarchate Choir since 2000 and the member of Ensemble Basiani since 2002, first as a singer and, since 2013, as the director). In 2007, he became an assistant professor at the G. Mtatsmindeli Church Chants Institution of Higher Education, and from 2014 until 2018, he was a children's folk choir conductor at Folklore National Palace.

Producers

Pemberley Productions

Doreen Sayegh

Tim Smith

Annie Shea Graney

SELECTED TEXTS AND TRANSLATIONS

Turpani skhedan chardakhsa

Turpani skhedan chardakhsa,
arigeb-charigebuli.

Tsin lurji supra ushliat, zed ghvino
morigebuli.

Alalme shensa gamzrdelsa, sheni survili
mometsa!

Pursa schamen da ghvinos smen,
simgheras ar itqviano!

Ar vitsi—visa hglovoben, ar vitsi—
ar itsiano.

Shen ki genatsvale, shena, shen magre ram
dagamshvena?!

Guruli maqruli

Chven movdivart, maqrebi,
rcheuli da kargebi!

Maspindzelo, gamogvkhede,
gagvighe chishkris kari!

Pretty Women are Sitting in the Awning

Pretty women are sitting in the awning,

They have a blue table-cloth spread in
front, with wine on it.

God bless your parents; I am overtaken
with love to you!

They are eating food, and drinking wine,
but are not singing!

I do not know whether they are mourning
over someone, or cannot sing.

What has made you so beautiful?!

Here we are coming, the groomsmen, the
good, selected ones!

Host, open the gate door for us!

Namgluri

Glesav da glesav namgalo,
Namgalo chemo rkinao
Gaglesav da migayoleb
Namgalo chemo rkinao

I'm sharpening you, my sickle
My sickle, my iron
I'll sharpen and take you with me
My sickle, my iron.

Shobaman shenman

Shobaman shenman, qriste ghmerto, agh-
moubrtskinvasopelsa nateli metsnierebisa,
rametu romelni varsklavsa msakhureben,
varsklavisagan itsaves taqvanistsema sheni,
mzeo simartlisao! Romeli aghmobrtskindi
maghlit aghmosavaltad, upalo, dideba
shenda!

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God

Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, hath arisen
upon the world as the light of wisdom. For at
it, they who worshipped the stars were, by a
Star, taught to adore Thee, the Sun of
Righteousness, and to know Thee, the
Orient from in light. O Lord, glory to Thee!

Saghmrtosa Sakhmilavsa zeda

Saghmrtosa sakhmilavsa zeda, saghmrt
metqveli Ambakom sdegin chventana da
gvichvenen chven angelozi natlisa,
brtsqinvald metqveli esret, tskhovreba ars
qovlisa soplisa, rametu aghsdga Kriste, vi-
tartsa qovlisa shemdzelebeli!

May Habakkuk, divinely speaking

The inspired prophet Habakkuk now
stands with us in holy vigil. He is like a
shining angel who cries with a piercing
voice: Today salvation has come to the
world, for Christ is risen as all-powerful.

Tsmidao gmerto

Tsmidao gmerto, tsmidao dzliero, tsmidao
ukvdavo, shegvitskalen chven!'

O, Holy God

O, Holy God, O, Holy Mighty,
O, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

Odoia

Aba, boshebi, skani goluapiro!

Come on guys, blessed be your work!

Kakhuri nana

Nanas getqvi, daidzine!
Agre tkbilad ram dagadzinao!

I will sing you a lullaby, sleep!
How sweetly you are sleeping!

Chela

Asho, Chela, si charchela! ava ava nana da.

Si monobas gegapili! au nana skani coda nanina.

Si uchonchxe! si sergela! ava ava nana da.
Si kiseri elapiri! au nana skani coda nanina.

Asho - Chela, isho - Jaga; ava ava nana da.
Chkim nashromus vamuchana! ava,
chkimi tsoda, nana da.
Chkim nakhachka re te qvana; ou nana
chkimi tsoda, nana

Here Chela [name of an ox], do not lag behind!

You the oppressed, slow one!

You're lifeless, with a horned neck!

Chela here, Jaga – there
I have hoed this cornfield, poor me!
I won't be given my earnings.

Chakrulo

Khidistavs shevkrat piroba, chven
gavckhdet gvidzli dzmania.

Chavukhtet mukhran batonsa, tavs
davangriot bania.

Mukhran batonis kmobita, pkvili ver
davdgi godrita,
dekeuli ver gavzarde, kalo ver vletse
mozvrita.

Khmalo khevsurets nachedo, telavshi
tushma gagpera,

Mepe ereklem gakurtkha, saomrad jvari-
dagtsera.

Matsale ertits avleso, khmal-chakhmakh
tsetskhlis kvesia,

Sultsmindad mogamkevino, rats chemtvis
dagitesia

We swore brotherhood at Khidistavi,

To attack Mukhran batoni, break down
the door.

Due to the servitude to him I could not
save any flour,
could not breed a cow and could not
thresh wheat with a bull-calf.

The saber forged in Khevsureti,
Tushetians ornamented you in Telavi,
King Erekle blessed you for the war.

Hey enemies you have defeated me,
but I don't weep, weeping is for the weak.
I have many times been in this state,
but never complained.

I will sharpen my saber, get my fire-
shooting gun,
And will make you pay for all the harm
you have done to me.