**World Premiere**
This new production is sponsored, in part, by the Friends of "Arshak II" and by George and Flora Dunaians, Hirair and Anna Hovnanian, Louise Manoogian Simone, Roger A. Strauch and Dr. Julie Kulhanjian. The production is also sponsored, in part, by the National Endowment for the Arts.

**Arshak II**
(in Armenian)

Opera in four acts by Tigran Chukhadjian

Libretto by Tovmas Tersian

Publication of the performing edition is sponsored by the "Satenik G. Tchaker Fund" of the Armenian General Benevolent Union of Cairo, Egypt, in coordination with the Tigran Chukhadjian Research Center, Paris, France.

**CAST**

** Arsace (Arshak II), King of Armenia **
Christopher Robertson*  

** Vartan, Arsace's Guardsman **
Anooshah Golesorkhi* (9/16m,27)  

** Paransema, Princess of the House of Sunik, wife of Knel **
Nora Gubisch*  

** Knel, Prince of the House of Sunik, brother of Arsace, husband of Paransema **
Mzia Nioradze* (9/16 [mat. & eve.], 27)  

** Valinace, Prince of the House of Sunik, Commander in Chief of the Armenian army **
Philip Webb*  

** Olimpia, Queen of Armenia, Daughter of the Emperor of Byzantium **
Hasnik Papian*  

** Nerses, Catholicos of Armenia **
Tigran Martirosian*  

** Polisena **
Ayk Martirosian* (9/16m,27)  

*Role debut  †U.S. opera debut

**PLACE AND TIME: 365; the city of Armavir in Armenia**

**Act I, Scene 1 -- A field**

**Act II -- A room in the palace**

**INTERMISSION**

**Act III, Scene 1 -- The royal bedchambers**

**Act IV, Scene 1 -- The palace tower**

**Scene 2 -- The festival hall in the palace**

**Act I, Scene 2 -- A hall in the royal palace**

**Scene 3 -- A secluded landscape**

**Scene 4 -- An abandoned cemetery**
**Sponsors:**
The performance of September 8th is designated in honor of Friends of "Arshak II": George & Flora Dunaians, Hirair & Anna Hovnanian, Louise Manoogian Simone, and Roger A. Strauch & Dr. Julie Kulhanjian, (see also Notes)

**Notes:**
World Premiere (complete original version)
Performing edition by Haig Avakian and Gerald Papasian
Scenery, props, costumes and wigs constructed in the San Francisco Opera workshops
Oriental rugs courtesy of Joseph & Araxi Bezdjian, Simonian Rugs, San Mateo

"Arshak II" Cultural Advisory Committee
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"Arshak II" Opera Committee
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Pauline Kilijian
Kristina Kling
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Antenor Arenas
Randy Berenson
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