

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.

Conductor

Loris Tjeknavorian

Production

Francesca Zambello

Set designer

John Coyne

Costume Designer

Anita Yavich

Lighting Designer

Mark McCullough

Chorus Director

Ian Robertson

Choreographer

Denni Sayers

Musical Preparation

Alain Altinoglu

Carol Isaac

Jonathan Khuner

Svetlana Gorzhevskaya

Prompter

Jonathan Khuner

Supertitles

Philip Kuttner

Assistant Stage Director

Martina Pfaff

Kristine McIntyre

Stage Manager

Theresa Ganley

Fight Director

Jonathan Rider

CAST

Arsace (Arshak II), King of Armenia

Christopher Robertson*

Anoosah Golesorkhi* (9/16m,27)

Vartan, Arsace's Guardsman

David Okerlund*

Paransem, Princess of the House of Sunik, wife of Knel

Nora Gubisch*

Mzia Nioradze* (9/16 [mat. & eve.], 27)

Knel, Prince of the House of Sunik, brother of Arsace, husband of Paransem

Philip Webb*

Latchezar Pravtchev* (9/16m,27)

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

Gordon Gietz*

Olimpia, Queen of Armenia, Daughter of the Emperor of Byzantium

Hasmik Papian*

Nerses, Catholicos of Armenia

Tigran Martirosian*

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

Polisena

Katia Escalera*

Ghost of King Diran (Arsace's father)

John Ames*

Ghost of Arsace and Olimpia's child

Bryan Jolly*

*Role debut †U.S. opera debut

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

Saturday, September 8 2001, at 8:00 PM

Sunday, September 16 2001, at 2:00 PM

Sunday, September 16 2001, at 8:00 PM

Friday, September 21 2001, at 8:00 PM

Thursday, September 27 2001, at 7:30 PM

Sunday, September 30 2001, at 2:00 PM

Act I, Scene 1 -- A field

Scene 2 -- A hall in the royal palace

Scene 3 -- A secluded landscape

Act II -- A room in the palace

INTERMISSION

Act III, Scene 1 -- The royal bedchambers

Scene 2 -- A solitary place

Scene 3 -- An abandoned cemetery

Act IV, Scene 1 -- The palace tower

Scene 2 -- The festival hall in the palace

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

The originally scheduled performance of September 11th was moved to the evening of September 16th. (Note to posterity: The Opera House was closed on September 11th.)

Scenery, props, costumes and wigs constructed in the San Francisco Opera workshops

Oriental rugs courtesy of Joseph & Araxi Bezdjian, Simonian Rugs, San Mateo

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Richard G. Hovannisian, Professor of Armenian and Near Eastern History, University of California, Los Angeles

Dikran Kouymjian, Professor of Armenian Studies, California State University, Fresno

Lucy Der Manuelian, Professor of Armenian Art and Architecture, Tufts University

James R. Russell, Professor of Armenian Studies, Harvard University

"Arshak II" Opera Committee

Suzanne Abnous, Edward & Eleanore Aslanian, David Balabanian, Beth Broussalian, George & Flora Dunaians,

Shavarsh & Lala Hazarabedian, Laurel Karabian, Julie Kulhanjian, Co-Chair, Denise M. LaPointe, Co-Chair, Roxanne

Makasdjian, Sylvia Melikian, Teni Melodonian, John Poochigian, Carol Rustigian, Araxie Sarian, Gigi Dunaians Young

San Francisco Opera celebrates the extraordinary life of an outstanding friend of the Opera by dedicating the 2001-2002 season to the memory of William R. Hewlett, May 20, 1913--January 12, 2001.

San Francisco Opera recognizes the following individuals, whose participation in our Triple Circles campaign will be completed this year. These contributors demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the Opera. We are grateful for their outstanding support of this campaign, which was instituted to assist San Francisco Opera during a period of important growth.

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Supernumeraries:

Sarah Alexander

Bev Black

Nancy Huie

Jenny Jirousek

Pauline Kilijian

Kristina Kling

Tom Abels

Antenor Arenas

Randy Berenson

Doug Ceffalo

Roderick Chow

Anthony Clarke

Marcel Delgado

Jim Downey

Bob Ericson

Jason Erlich

Jay Franz

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