

### Set 3. Aram Ilyich Khachaturian

<b>The Composer's Life</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Soviet composer, conductor (1903 – 1978)</li> <li>• <u>Born:</u> Tiflis; <u>died:</u> Moscow</li> <li>• 1921: Moved to Moscow</li> <li>• <u>Education:</u>1922 - 1927 Gnesin Music School (private composition class with Gnesin), 1929 - 1934 - Moscow Conservatory</li> <li>• <u>Career:</u> Professor at the Gnesin Institute and Moscow Conservatory, conductor, the Secretary of the Union of Soviet Composers (1957 - 1978), Conducting appearances in Europe, Latin America, the US with his own concerts (from 1950)</li> </ul>
<b>Essential Pieces</b>	<p>Best known for composing concert and theatric music:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ballets:</b> <i>Gayane (with renowned Sabre Dance), Spartacus</i></li> <li>• <b>3 Symphonies</b> ( 1935,1943,1947)</li> <li>• <b>Concertos:</b> <i>Piano Concerto, , Violin Concerto, Cello Concerto</i></li> <li>• <i>Anthem of the Armenian Republic</i></li> <li>• <i>25 film scores</i></li> </ul> <p>His other works include songs, piano pieces, and chamber music.</p>
<b>Music Style</b>	<p>Khachaturian's <b>Classical and Avant-Garde</b> music styles draw on the melodic and rhythmic vitality of Armenian folk music. He never strayed from a basically diatonic musical language. His style is characterized by impressive colorful harmonies, captivating rhythms, combining beautiful sensuous melodies, virtuosity, improvisations and powerful orchestrations. It has been used extensively in popular culture and has been performed by a number of musicians worldwide.</p> <p>The Piano Concerto and the Violin Concerto in D Minor are truly Romantic works, virtuosic, clear, and unaffectedly expressive, remaining popular and frequently performed. The popularity the "<i>Sabre Dance</i>" from the ballet <i>Gayane</i>, which made Khachaturian a household name during World War II, is still most widely recognized and performed all over the world by outstanding musicians. Blending national Armenian vocal and instrumental intonations with contemporary orchestral techniques makes Khachaturian unique among Soviet composers.</p>
<b>Cultural Recognition</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 20<sup>th</sup> century icon and a key figure of Soviet-Armenian pride (His proletariat origins, non-Russian ethnic origins and Soviet training made him a powerful symbol within the Soviet musical establishment of the ideal of a multinational Soviet cultural identity, an identity which the composer enthusiastically embraced and exploited both at home and abroad.).</li> <li>• Earned world-wide recognition, is a national treasure, celebrated by the Russian and Armenian people.</li> <li>• One of the leading composers of the Soviet era alongside Dmitri Shostakovich and Sergei Prokofiev.</li> <li>• Has become known to the wider international public.</li> <li>• The most renowned Soviet-Armenian composer of the 20th century, and the most famous representative of Soviet-Armenian culture, the "Armenian Tchaikovsky".</li> <li>• The musical ambassador of Armenian culture (the only Armenian composer to rise to international significance, who is credited for bringing Armenian music worldwide recognition).</li> </ul>