

An event in aid of community mental health services in Georgia



## Music for Mental Health

Friday  
Nov 2  
2018

19:00

Placido Domingo Hall, **Opera America**  
330 7th Ave, Fl 7th, New York, New York, 10001

## Welcome

This event draws attention to the importance of mental health and the fact that there is much to be done to increase public awareness and advocacy, and to promote a stigma-free environment and community mental health services in Georgia.

The charity event aims to raise awareness about community-based mental health services in Georgia that were developed with the kind support of Georgian-American professionals and their friends.

**Assertive community treatment (ACT)** is a holistic approach to treatment and rehabilitation, in contrast to the institution-based, biologically oriented psychiatric system. It was the first and only community center in Georgia, established in 2011, which initially served only a few clients. Today, the organization provides assertive community treatment service to 81 Clients. Center was developed with the support of Georgian-American specialists: psychologist Nino Abdushelishvili and psychiatrist Archil Abashidze, the American organization “People Encouraging People” (PEP) and Open Society Georgia foundation.

**The Family Crisis Intervention Centre (CIS)** provides specialized multi-system services for the children, adolescents and their families. It was founded in 2015 and is a pioneer in introducing the bio-psycho-social approach with a multi- and interdisciplinary team for affected families in crisis.

**Hand in Hand**, a Tbilisi-based nongovernmental organization (NGO), is building stronger communities in Georgia by developing Community Based Housing for people with intellectual disabilities and mental health illnesses.

Organization's vision is a Georgia where all people, no matter their abilities or their disabilities, can participate fully in society, with access to housing, jobs, transportation, and social activities. Hand in Hand is to create

healthy living environments for people with disabilities and to support their integration into society.

# Programme Notes

Photo from 'ღოც'

## Welcome Party - 19:00

## Opening speeches - 19:30

**Irma Khabazi**, Public Health Program Manager, OSGF

**Archil Abashidze**, People Encouraging People

**Dale Mayer**, President & CEO People Encouraging People

**Kakha Imnadze**, Permanent Representative of Georgia to the UN

**Tamar Tchelidze**, Counselor on Health and Social Issues at Permanent Mission of Georgia to the UN in New York

**Dr. Judy Kuriansky**, Clinical Psychologist, Author, Lecturer

## Documentary film screening - 20:00

'My Place' by Levan Adamia

## Performances - 20:15

### Arsen Gulua

Arsen Gulua - "Untitled" (Dedicated to this particular cause)

### Nicolas Namoradze

Namoradze - Etudes I-III

### Pyotr & Arsen Gulua

Luiz Bonfá - "Black Orpheus"

Errol Garner - "Misty"

Charlie Parker/Bennie Harris - "Ornithology"

### Giorgi 'Guga' Chkhikvadze

Gia Kancheli - Instead of a Tango

Revaz Lagidze - Musical Moment

Elizbar Londaridze - "Tbilissuri Toccata"

### Alexandre Tsomaia

Sulkhan Tsintsadze - Melodia, Khorumi **with Jaime Gorgojo**

Revaz Lagidze - Rondo Toccata

## Closing speech and performance - 21:00

**Jana Javakhishvili**, Psychologist, Author and Performer

## Performers

### GIORGI 'GUGA' CHKHIKVADZE

The New York Times considered Giorgi Chkhikvadze's performance of Scriabin's early Sonata-Fantasia as "smart and likeable." The South Hampton Press dubbed him "an athletic performer." WGBH of Boston called him an "eighteen year old sensation" He has performed live on Interlochen public radio, Georgian National Radio, Georgian National Television, WGBH of Boston, RadioFreeEurope in Prague, and WGN-TV channel 9 of Chicago.

A native of the Republic of Georgia, Giorgi Chkhikvadze was born into a musical household in Tbilisi. He began his piano studies at the age of seven in the Music School for gifted children. At the age of eleven he had his debut as a soloist with the Georgian

Philharmonic Orchestra. Mr. Chkhikvadze came to the United States in the summer of 2000 and continued his studies at the Interlochen Arts Academy. In 2003 he was a First Prize winner in the 15th annual Chopin competition in Indiana. He has performed in numerous music festivals, including The Gilmore Keyboard Festival, The Prague Piano Festival, The Pianofest in Hamptons, The Goslar Piano Festival (Germany), The Newport Music Festival, The New Paltz Piano Festival, The Bowdoin music festival, and Georgian festival Chveneburebi. In 2013 he was asked to collaborate with New World Symphony Orchestra in a contemporary music concert.

Chkhikvadze is currently a piano professor at Palm Beach State College. He frequently performs in various concert halls in South Florida such as Duncan Hall, Aamarnick-Goldstein Concert hall, Wold Performing Arts Center, New World Center in Miami, and the Steinway Gallery of Miami.

Chkhikvadze holds a bachelor's degree from the Western Michigan University and a master's degree from DePaul University of Chicago. He received his professional performance certificate from Lynn University in Florida. Giorgi has studied under the tutelage of Stephen Perry, Lori Sims, Alex Toradze, Ana Takidze, Lali Gurgenidze, Nana Khubutia and Roberta Rust.

### JAIME GORGOJO

Dr. Jaime Gorgojo frequently appears as a soloist and chamber musician both nationally and internationally. Recent appearances include recitals at the Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Grand Teton Music Festival, Strathmore Hall in Washington D.C., and Chicago Symphony Presents Chamber Music, appearing both solo and in collaboration with artists such as Yo-Yo Ma, and Emanuel Ax. In 2018, Dr. Gorgojo received an Individual Artist Grant from City of Chicago to produce therecording of an album titled "Iberia," featuring Spanish and Georgian music for violin and piano. As an orchestra musician, Dr. Gorgojo often appears as guest concertmaster with Northbrook Symphony, Park Ridge Civic Orchestra, and other groups in Chicago. He was concertmaster of the Civic Orchestra of Chicago and has performed under the baton of Riccardo Muti, Lorin Maazel, Esa-Pekka Salonen and Jaap van Zweden. During the 2018-2019 season he will join the Haymarket Opera Company,





one of the country's leading organizations for historical performances, as an orchestra member. An avid explorer of different musical styles, Dr. Gorgojo performs as first violin with Corky Siegel's Chamber Blues, in over twenty performances a year, nationally and internationally.

Dr. Gorgojo combines his performing career with a vocation for pedagogy and an entrepreneurial vision. He is Violin and Chamber Music Professor at North Eastern Illinois University in Chicago, and Artistic Director of CCMF (Chicago Chamber Music Festival). Dr. Gorgojo received his Doctor of Music and Literature degree from Indiana University in October 2013 with a thesis on the works for solo violin by Manuel Quiroga and Jesús de Monasterio. He is the winner of the "Juventudes Musicales de Madrid Award" and recipient of the prestigious "La Caixa Fellowship," Spanish Culture Minister Scholarship, and the Bloomington Camerata Scholarship for excellence in orchestra playing.

Dr. Gorgojo performs on a Dalphin violin from 2005.

### ARSEN GULUA



Arsen Gulua received his initial musical training at the Kharkiv Music School in his native Kharkiv, Ukraine. In 1991 he immigrated to Israel and enrolled at the Rubin Academy in Jerusalem, where he continued to study piano and began his training in composition. Arsen made his New York City debut at Merkin Concert Hall in 2001 and has since appeared throughout the United States, Israel, and Ukraine as a soloist as well as in duo piano performances with his wife, Asya Gulua, and has premiered his compositions at Lincoln Center. Arsen holds degrees from the Juilliard School (BM), Indiana University's Jacobs School of Music (MM), and the University of Oregon (DMA).

Currently he lives in Salem, Oregon, and is on the faculty of Willamette University, where he teaches piano and music theory and serves as an accompanist. Arsen's proficiency in composition and a growing interest in improvisation leads him to recognize that both are an integral part of performing and he incorporates these two elements in his teaching.

### PYOTR GULUA

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., into a family of musicians, Pyotr Gulua began playing piano at the age of four. His innate feeling for and understanding of music soon led him to explore various instruments and genres outside of classical. At ten years old he began playing saxophone and showed interest in jazz. Serious studies commenced after Pyotr attended the Mel Brown Jazz Camp in the summer of 2018, where he studied with tenor saxophonist Renato Caranto, alto saxophonist John Nastos, and other members of the Mel Brown Septet. Currently, Pyotr lives in Salem, Oregon, and is an 8th grade student at Howard Street Charter School. He is a member of the Willamette University Band and a student of Derek Sims at the Portland Jazz School.



### NICOLAS NAMORADZE

Pianist and composer Nicolas Namoradze came to international attention in 2018 upon winning the top prize at the Honens International Piano Competition in Calgary, Canada - the largest piano prize in the world. The Calgary Herald called him "unparalleled" and "a pianist's pianist," writing that "Namoradze is not the conventional competition pianist, but his individuality was evident from the outset.



While he certainly has the virtuosity to spare, he gained the top spot through his remarkable clarity of execution, refinement and variety of tone, and his uncanny ability to make even the most ordinary passagework sound meaningful and distinctive...The refinement of his playing was of international standard, and everywhere his interpretative skills commanded attention and admiration."

As the 2018 Honens Prize Laureate, Namoradze's upcoming activities include debut recitals at Carnegie Hall in New York, Wigmore Hall in London and the Konzerthaus Berlin, recordings on the Honens and Hyperion labels, performances with orchestras such as the London Philharmonic, and residencies at leading festivals and music centers around the world, such as the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity.

After completing his undergraduate studies in Budapest, Vienna and Florence, Namoradze moved to New York for his Master's at Juilliard. He now pursues his Doctorate at the CUNY Graduate Center, holding the Graduate Center Fellowship, studying piano with Emanuel Ax and Yoheved Kaplinsky and composition with John Corigliano. Namoradze serves on the faculty of Queens College, CUNY.

### ALEXANDRE TSOMAIA



Hailed as "particularly impressive" by the Wall Street Journal, Alexandre Tsomaia made his debut at the Newport Festival in Rhode Island, where he premiered 24 preludes of the Georgian composer Sulkhan Tsintsadze in North America. At a young age he appeared as soloist with several orchestras in Georgia, as well as in solo recitals

At the age of 14, he was accepted at the Interlochen Arts Academy in Michigan.

During his time in the United States, he has appeared as a featured soloist at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. He has appeared on NPR's "From The Top, and performed at Columbia University's Miller Theatre with the members of the Toradze piano studio, receiving high acclaim from the New York Times. In March 2006, he won the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale competition. Alexandre was "Artist in Residence in Polish Music" while he was a performance diploma student and associate piano instructor at Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. His teachers include Evelynne Brancart, Edward Auer and George Vatchnadze.

Currently, Tsomaia is Assistant Music Director at St. Barnabas Church in Chicago as well as a piano Instructor at Ravinia Lawndale School and Lyriq School of Music. Recent highlights in his career include performance at the Chicago Cultural Center as part of the "Myra Hess" concert series, recitals at the Beverly Arts Center and at the Chopin Theatre of Chicago, a solo recital and a master class at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as a solo piano recital at the Tbilisi State Conservatoire.

# WHY MENTAL HEALTH?



- Every fourth person in Georgia has problems with mental health;
- Suicide rates are going up;
- Access to community-based mental health care and quality medications is very low;
- Financial and human resources for mental health care are very limited;
- There is a lack of housing and employment for persons with mental disorders;
- Advocacy services for mental health are limited;
- Stigma towards mental health is still strong;
- Drug and alcohol abuse rates are increasing;
- There is not enough data or research done on mental health;
- There are very few advocates for people with mental health problems;
- Insufficient implementation of mental health policy;



**By attending the event, you are supporting those, whose voices are heard the least in the society. This concert draws attention to the importance of mental health, knowing there is much to be done to increase public awareness and advocacy, and promote stigma-free environment in Georgia.**

*Thank you for being part of this!*

Current Partners & Collaborators:



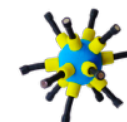
Eteri Chkadua



LAKO BUKIA



Nikoloz Nutsubidze



Eteri and Gocha  
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