

# bardez partez

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THE BULLETIN OF  
THE ARMENIAN  
INSTITUTE

ՀԱՅ ՀԻՄՆԱԿ

2018



Dear reader, Միընդի ընթերցող,

Welcome to our Bardez-Partez / Պարտեզ!

## News and Views from the Armenian Institute

It has been another incredibly busy year here at the Armenian Institute, with 30-odd events throughout 2017, including the amazing concert by Levon Chilingirian, Alexander Chaushian and Karén Hakobyan at St James' Church, Piccadilly to mark the Institute's Sweet 16th Birthday.

Highlights for me have included the series on Armenian Art History at the Royal Asiatic Society, the book launch for the translation of Zabel Yessayan's works and the moving memorial to a staunch Armenian Institute supporter, Christopher A Walker.

The Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the Arts Council for their grant which allowed us to put forward our programme "Connecting Communities: Creative Writing Across the Arts" (see pages 26-30).

Looking forward to the year ahead, we are planning a number of lectures and workshops so please do lookout for our emails. On that note, (sorry for the administrative task in the midst of our welcome) with new data protection laws coming into force later in 2018, we will be in touch with our Friends to ask if they are still happy to be contacted by us in order to give them news of events and the latest copy of this magazine. We kindly request that when you receive such notices you do come back to us either way. (The administrative part is now over).

This year's Bardez-Partez is one of our largest to date and welcomes familiar contributors and well as new ones. I do hope you enjoy being taken through the past and the present, all over the Near East, only to end up back in West London with our articles herein.

Arda Eghiayan

If you would like to contribute in the next issue please contact the Publishing Committee on [info@armenianinstitute.org.uk](mailto:info@armenianinstitute.org.uk).

## In this Issue...

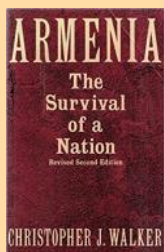
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in Ethiopia  
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**Travel in Armenia and beyond  
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**Christopher J Walker:  
in memoriam  
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**Armenians in  
Sports: We did  
it again!  
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**1 April 2017**

N Gulbenkian Hall **DANCE WORKSHOP FOR ARMENIAN INSTITUTE LANGUAGE STUDENTS** With Shakeh Major Tchilingirian

The Institute organised a dance workshop for its current and former language students. The workshop was led by Shakeh Major Tchilingirian, an acclaimed solo dance artist and choreographer. The purpose of this workshop was to introduce the participants to the symbolism and meanings encoded in Armenian folk dances. No previous dance experience, nor any prior knowledge was required. The single condition of participation was to communicate in Armenian only throughout the workshop; when necessary miming, facial expressions and hand gestures were allowed!



**1 April 2017**

N Gulbenkian Hall **HISTORY OF ARMENIAN CARTOGRAPHY UP TO THE YEAR 1918** By Rouben Galichian

Galichian's latest book offers an almost complete study of the history of Armenian cartography from its inception up to 1918, including reproductions of many maps. Appearing in print for the first time are a number of maps, mainly from private collections, that have come to light through Galichian's extensive research. The final chapter of the book includes manuscript maps made between 1890-1968 which represent important contributions to the Armenian cartographic heritage.

**29-30 April 2017**

Bush Hall **MEDZ BAZAR RETURNS TO LONDON;**  
N Gulbenkian Hall **SONG-WRITING WORKSHOP WITH MEDZ BAZAR MUSICIANS**

Almost two years after their sell-out debut concert in London, Collectif Medz Bazar returned to London performing at Bush Hall to some 300 people. The concert featured songs from their new CD, Poshmanella, as well as old favourites. Vahan Kerovpyan and Sevana Tchakerian led a workshop aimed at inspiring and coaching all song-writers.



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**4 May 2017**

Royal Asiatic Society **THE MAGIC OF WRITING: A SURVEY FROM STONE INSCRIPTIONS, ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS TO PRINTING** By Professor Claude Mutafian

The first language spoken by the ancestors of the Armenian people was Uartian, written with cuneiform characters. Many stone inscriptions have survived, but the creation of an alphabet for the Armenian language in early 5th century led to a real revolution, known as "the golden age of Armenian literature". Thousands of manuscripts were copied during the following centuries. They are precious not only for the text, calligraphy and illuminations, but also for the important information given by the scribes in their colophons. Later on, printing was quickly adopted, with the first book published in 1512. This "passion of writing" may be partially explained by the course of history: constantly threatened by annihilation, the Armenians felt they should leave a witness of their existence.



**11 May 2017**

Rich Mix **VARDAN HOVANISSIAN & EMRE GÜLTEKIN**

Haunting lyrical songs and music from across the cultural borderlands of Turkey and Armenia with Vardan on the Armenian flute, the duduk, and Emre on the saz, a Turkish version of the oud. In association with Dash Arts, Kazum and Nest Collection.



**25 May 2017**

N Gulbenkian Hall **PERFORMING THE POST-SOVIET: MUSIC, FOLKLORE AND CITIZENSHIP IN YEREVAN** By Rik Adriaans

The fall of the Soviet Union has transformed the city of Yerevan not just in terms of its economic organisation and urban architecture, but also in terms of its musical culture. Whereas some professional musicians of Soviet state folklore ensembles these days perform mostly in restaurants, the rabiz genre that was an underground phenomenon in Soviet times has become a soundtrack for pro-government rallies. For the opposition-minded intelligentsia and young activists, rabiz music has become a symbol of failed transition and the moral corruption of new elites, while folk dance is often believed to empower the active, engaged and patriotic citizen. The lecture examined the role of music and dance in shaping new forms of identity and citizenship by discussing three case studies.



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