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Research Article

Pianists of Azerbaijan

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ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT Received: 10 Dec 2024 The article talks about popular and famous pianists of Azerbaijan. These virtuoso pianists are also engaged in teaching work and perform in their homeland and abroad. Revised: 28 Jan 2025 They promote classical and Azerbaijani music. Accepted: 14 Feb 2025 **Introduction:** Only selected people who are destined by fate to have a high mission as creators end up in the history of the world. These people become symbols of their time, their country. They say a lot and different things about them, I mean they are famous and in demand. Pianist-musician playing the piano. Pianists can perform solo, play as part of an ensemble or orchestra, or accompany other musicians. The professional qualities of a pianist consist of his technical skills, expressiveness of performance and the ability to create his own interpretations of the works he sings. There are skill competitions among pianists. Many famous composers were talented pianists. For example: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Ludwig van Beethoven, Franz Liszt, Frederic Chopin, Sergei Rachmaninov and others. Azerbaijani music is distinguished by its rich, centuries-old history and traditions. The music of Azerbaijan has enriched the treasury of world musical culture with vivid examples of true talent and free creativity of ordinary residents of the country. Keywords: concert, pianist, music, competition, teacher.

Azerbaijani piano music has come a short way. In 1900, under the leadership of A. Ermalaeva, the first music school was opened. In 1921, under the leadership of U. Hajibeyov, the Azerbaijan State Conservatory was opened. Strong pianists M. Presman and G. Sharoev worked in Baku.

In 1935, the famous teacher and pianist M. Brenner began his activity at the conservatory. He laid the foundation for national piano art. Brenner students: R. Atakishiev, E. Safarova, N. Usubova, T. Seyidov, Z. Adygezalzade, F. Badalbeyli.

Khadija Gaibova is one of the first Azerbaijani pianists. Koikeb Safaralieva is a pianist and teacher who has enormous merit in the development of music education.

It is enough to mention the name of the People's Artist of the USSR, Professor Farhad Badalybeyli, a man of brilliant talent, always open to innovation. He was lucky enough to play music together with such people of high art as Metislav Rostropavich, Muslim Magomaev, Bella Rudenko, Rauf Atakishiev, Elmira Safarova.

Farhad Badalbeyli, with a feeling of deep appreciation, respect and gratitude, addresses the memory of his dear teachers: Major Brenner, Bella Davidovich, Yakov Zak. They made an invaluable contribution to his development both as a musician and as a person.

At the age of 20, Badalbeyli first took part in the international piano competition named after B. Smetana (III prize), and a year later he became the winner of the Viana da Mota competition held in Lisbon (Portugal).

The young pianist is grateful to fate for providing him with a fantastic chance to communicate with teachers who have become legends in the history of musical education.

Badalbeyli had to prove his professional worth. Repeatedly performed in Moscow as a soloist with the orchestras of Veronica Dudarova and Vladimir Fedoseyev. Then, together with Dudar's orchestra, he made a concert tour: they performed in Sweden, Finland, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria, and Cuba, where he performed Saint-Saëns' piano concertos. Rachmaninov, Prokofiev, Amirov. In order to play with highly professional orchestras and conductors, famous pianists, in particular with Nahum Shtarkman, it was necessary to match the high level of these musicians.

He had to work a lot. In 1991, Badalbeyli was appointed rector of the Azerbaijan State Conservatory (nine Baku Music Academy named after U. Hajibeli). Badalbeyli says: the years passed, the accumulated life experience draw, if not a straight line, then a dotted line between the possible and the unrealizable, but my dreams are quite real - I'm clear of that.

Azerbaijani pianist Murad Adigezalzadeh is the son of the famous pianist, professor Zohrab Adigezalzadeh, the grandson of the famous writer Imran Gasimov.

He gave his first concert when he was only 9 years old. Murad remembers this event to this day - he and the chamber orchestra named after K. Karayev on the same stage of the conservatory.

Later, there were endless number of concerts, competitions, creative life was in full swing.

After graduating from the BMA, Adigezalzade entered the Higher School of Music in Munich, in the class of Professor E. Virsaladze. Then an assistantship at the Moscow State Conservatory named after Tchaikovski.

Improving his skills, he grew, polished his technique, developing his own style and manner of performance. The talent of the young pianist did not go unnoticed and was rewarded with the high title of Honored and then People's Artist of Azerbaijan.

Murad Adygezalzade, being the director of the Philharmonic, is very supporting the young musicians.

In support of young talents in the country is the preservation and development of the traditions of world and domestic musical culture, the implementation of programs aimed at solving the problems of musical education and the formation of legal consciousness among domestic musicians.

Murad Adygezalzadeh does not forget to delight his fans with his performances. When he appears on stage at the piano, these performances are always accompanied by a long standing ovation.

Not a single international music festival is complete without a performance by Adygezalzade. The pianist also represents our country abroad, causing delight among foreign audiences.

We wish him further victories. His repertoire includes works by Bach, Beethoven, Mozart, Haydn, Schiemann, and Brahms.

He promotes Azerbaijani music both in Baku and in other countries of the world.

A future graduate student of the outstanding pianist Nikolai Petrov, Murad Guseinov received his first skills as a piano performer at the Bulbul Music School, then with the Honored Artist Elmira Safarova at the Azerbaijan Music Conservatory, and in graduate school with Professor Farhad Badalbeyli. At the age of 15, the talented boy played S. Rachmaninov's concerto with an orchestra. Then graduate school in Moscow.

Performances in the cities of Azerbaijan, abroad: in Europe, America, Japan, in Kabul. At the Poulenc competition he won all three prizes for the best performance of works by French composers.

Music is like air for musicians, they live by it. Murad Guseinov believes that you just need to follow the path of sincere love for music. Without technical equipment, it is impossible for a musician to convey the meaning of a musical work. But then you need to put your soul into this work. The talented pianist believes that the performance of a work deeply reflects the character of the performer, as well as a

person. You can be a laureate of all kinds of competitions, but the public does not always go to the concerts of these performers. It's important how you play. Rachmaninov did not play at any competition, nor did Chopin. Richter played only at all-Union competitions.

Murad Guseinov played a Mozart concert in London with the Royal Orchestra. But it wasn't just concerts that took place in London. There were also exhibitions.

The pianist's immediate plans include a performance in France, from where he recently received an invitation. Now he is busy preparing the speech program.

People's Artist of Azerbaijan, famous pianist Murad Guseinov was awarded a special prize. Eurasian Peoples' Assembly. He was awarded this prize for his great personal contribution to the preservation and popularization of folk musical traditions and support of peace initiatives in Eurasia.

It should be noted that People's Artist of Azerbaijan Murad Guseinov was previously awarded medals and awards from several governments. Among them, it should be noted the Order of Hungary "Grand Cross of Officers", the medal of the French Senate, the Order of France "Arts and Literature".

The love of music determined the life path of Elmira Khanim Safarova. In 1942, she entered the tenyear school at the Azov State Conservatory in the class of the wonderful teacher Ts.S. Grushko. In 1952, E. Safarova entered the Az State Conservatory in the class of one of the founders of the Azerbaijan Piano School, People's Artist of the Republic, Professor M.R. Brenner. Elmira khanim proved herself to be a gifted musician and a talented pianist. She regularly performed in symphony and solo concerts.

In 1957, E. Safarova entered graduate school at the Moscow Conservatory and studied in the classes of outstanding masters of pianistic art, professors A. Shatzkes and Y. Flier.

Studying in Moscow and systematically attending concerts of the best musicians in the world influenced the outlook of the gifted pianist. In 1960, at the first Transcaucasian competition of performing musicians, Elmira Safarova was awarded the title of laureate.

Upon returning from Moscow to Baku, she begins her teaching career at the Azerbaijan State Conservatory. Elmira Hanim, a talented teacher, has trained more than 60 graduates. Her teaching activities include all genres, styles and musical directions.

Themed concerts organized by Elmira Safarova were of particular interest to musicians and classical music lovers.

The culmination of Safarova's creative and pedagogical activity was the festival of classical and modern music that she held in 1995 at the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic. The significance of this event for the development of national musical culture was clearly reflected in his speech by the rector of the Baku Music Academy. Uz.Hajibeyov, Professor Badalbeyli: Never in the history of our piano art has a whole cycle-festival of one teacher been held. This is a new phenomenon in our musical life.

Students of Elmira Safarova worthily represent her school, giving concerts in many countries around the world. The knowledge and traditions laid down by E. Safarova in the pianistic school are successfully continued in the activities of her numerous students.

Today, students from Elmira khanim are laureates of many prestigious international competitions and festivals.

Students of the school of Professor Elmira khanim Safarova forever will retain in their memory the bright, bright and unique image of their teacher.

Among the representatives of Azerbaijani culture, a special place belongs to the honored artist, talented pianist, teacher, professor Elmira Nazirova. While studying at a special school at the Azov State Conservatory in the class of R. Sirovich, she simultaneously studied in the class of children's musical creativity with N. Chumakov. Classes in two specialties continued at conservatories - in Baku and in Moscow - in the piano class of T. Sharoev and Y. Zak, in the composition class of B. Zeidman and D. Shostakovich.

Possessing versatile talents, Elmira khanim Nazirova entered the history of Azerbaijani national culture as a teacher, performer and composer. E. Nazirova was an excellent pianist.

Subsequently, Elmira khanim will continue to pay attention to piano music, expanding the repertoire of professional performance.

Elmira khanim combined her composing activities with concert and performing activities. Together with R. Atakishiyev, N. Usubova, F. Kuliyeva, she is one of the representatives of the second generation of the Azerbaijani piano school in the mid-20th century. Elmira Nazirova made a significant contribution to the creative achievements of the Azerbaijan Piano School as an excellent pianist and teacher.

The characteristic features of Elmira khanim's pianism, in the opinion of her students, reveal closeness to the basic principles of the St. Petersburg piano school.

What are the characteristics of her performing style? We can talk about bright natural musicality, beautiful sound, performing temperament, technical perfection.

Elmira Nazirova treated Beethoven's work with special love. Among her best performing achievements are the piano concertos of the great classic.

During lessons, she often played with inspiration, showing the student's compositions. She taught in such a way that the student could learn on their own.

Elmira Nazirova represents the generation of Azerbaijani musicians who contributed to the flourishing of Azerbaijani piano culture in the second half of the 20th century.

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