

THE AZNAVOORIAN SISTERS

Ani & Marta Aznavoorian, Cello & Piano



The prize-winning Armenian-American sister duo of ANI & MARTA AZNAVOORIAN celebrate their heritage performing Armenian composers as well as Beethoven, Paganini and more!

“True artists showing GREAT SENSITIVITY AND GREAT VIRTUOSITY at all moments.” –LOS ANGELES TIMES

“SUPERB PLAYING . . . expressive, technically poised and well blended throughout.” –Chicagoclassicalreview.com



The Aznavoorian Sisters' first concert together was at the ages of 4 and 8 at their Armenian church in Evanston, IL. Their 1st Prize in the Illinois Bell Young Performers Competition resulted in a live performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on PBS.

Since then, the sisters have toured France, Armenia, and Finland, performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and presented countless programs in their hometown of Chicago including a major fundraiser for the Armenian earthquake in 1988. This season, the Aznavoorian Duo embarks on a tour of California, and the Seattle Chamber Music Society presents them in a winter residency.

The sisters won the National Foundation for the Arts Recognition and Talent Award, leading to their appointment as Presidential Scholars in the Arts and performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. as well as at The White House, where they met two presidents.

In 2022, the Aznavoorian Sisters released their debut album, *Gems from Armenia*, on the Cedille label. The CD has received rave reviews in the press.

“...In presenting an in-depth overview of the Armenian musical landscape, past and present, the Aznavoorians have done a valuable service.” –TEXTURA

Cellist ANI AZNAVOORIAN has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras. She studied with Aldo Parisot at Juilliard, where she won 1st Prize in the Concerto Competition, the youngest cellist in the history of the competition to do so.



“THE MOST RAPTUROUSLY POIGNANT ALBUM OF THE YEAR so far is *Gems From Armenia*, by the Aznavoorian Duo ... It underscores the disproportionately rich influence this tiny nation's music continues to make around the globe.” –DELARUE NEW YORK MUSIC DAILY

Pianist MARTA AZNAVOORIAN has performed to critical acclaim throughout the world as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, chamber musician, and educator, and has been nominated for multiple GRAMMY Awards. She is a founding member of the Lincoln Trio and has a vast discography. She studied with the renowned teacher Menahem Pressler at Indiana University.

Ani proudly performs on a cello made by her father, Peter Aznavoorian, and Marta is a Steinway Artist.

www.martaaznavoorian.com/aznavoorian-duo

The Aznavoorian Sisters
Ani Aznavoorian, Cello ~ Marta Aznavoorian, Piano

REVIEWS

"True artists showing great sensitivity and great virtuosity at all moments"

—Los Angeles Times

"... the superb playing of the Aznavoorians, who are expressive, technically poised and well blended throughout."

—chicagoclassicalreview.com

"... a lively and lovely program of melodic and harmonic jewels ... all have elements of Armenian musical tendencies that are realized with a dedicated devotion by the Aznavoorians. It is a happy addition to your Armenian collection or for that matter an excellent introduction to Armenian chamber classical as a modern whole. Very recommended."

—Classical Modern Music Review

"... in presenting an in-depth overview of the Armenian musical landscape, past and present, the Aznavoorians have done a valuable service."

—Textura

"The most rapturously poignant album of the year so far is Gems From Armenia, by the Aznavoorian Duo ... Sisters Ani and Marta Aznavoorian – cello and piano, respectively – draw on their heritage for a lyrical playlist of material that spans from the 19th century to the present. It underscores the disproportionately rich influence this tiny nation's music continues to make around the globe."

—Delarue New York Music Daily





Sample Programs

Program 1:

Beethoven: Cello Sonata no. 3 in A major, Op. 69
Arutunian: Impromptu
-Intermission-
Debussy: Sonata for Cello and Piano
Komitas: Tsirani Tsar (Apricot Tree)
Komitas: Chinar es (Plane Tree)
Khachaturian: Ivan Sings
Piatigorsky: Variations on a Theme of Paganini

Program 2:

Khachaturian: Ivan Sings
Schubert: Arpeggione Sonata
-Intermission-
de Falla: Suite Populaire Espagnol
Komitas: Tsirani Tsar (Apricot Tree)
Komitas: Chinar es (Plane Tree)
Paganini: Variations on One String on a Theme by Rossini (“Moses”)

Program 3 All-Armenian:

Komitas:
Chinar Es; Tsirani Tsar; Garoun A; Al Ailux; Krunk

Aram Khatchaturian:
Ivan Sings; Yerevan

Arno Babajanian:
Elegy; Aria & Dance

-Intermission-

Avet Terterian:
Sonata for Cello and Piano

Serouj Kradjian:
Sari Siroun Yar

Alexander Arutiunian:
Impromptu

Vache Sharafyan:
Petrified Dance

Peter Boyer
Mount Ararat (Written for the Aznavoorian Sisters)

The Aznavoorian Sisters
Ani Aznavoorian, Cello ~ Marta Aznavoorian, Piano



Virtuoso Performers of Armenian and Classical Repertoire

“True artists showing great sensitivity and great virtuosity at all moments”
—Los Angeles Times

The sisters' first public performance was at the ages of 4 and 8 at their Armenian church in Evanston, IL. They won First Prize in the Illinois Bell Young Performers Competition, resulting in a live performance with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra on PBS.

Since then, they have toured France, Armenia, and Finland, performed at Carnegie Hall's Weill Recital Hall, and presented countless programs in their hometown of Chicago including a major fundraiser for the Armenian earthquake in 1988. This season, the Aznavoorian Sisters embark on a tour of California, and the Seattle Chamber Music Society presents them in a winter residency.

The Aznavoorian Sisters went on to win the National Foundation for the Arts Award, leading to their appointment as Presidential Scholars in the Arts and performances at The Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. and at The White House, where Ani met President Bill Clinton and Marta met President George H. W. Bush.

They have worked with leading contemporary composers such as Lera Aerbach, Ezra Laderman, William Bolcom, Osvaldo Golijov, Shulamit Ran, Peter Boyer, Augusta Read Thomas, Stacy Garrop, Bright Shen, Pierre Jalbert, Laura Schwendinger, Mischa Zupko, Daron Hagen, Patrick Zimmerli, Vache Sharafyan, Debra Kaye, and Colin Mathews among others.

In 2022, the Aznavoorian Sisters released their début album, *Gems from Armenia*, on the Cedille Label. The CD features Armenian music and a world premiere recording written for the duo by composer Peter Boyer and Vache Sharafyan. The CD has been receiving rave reviews in the press.

Marta and Ani work with many programs to help create musical training pathways for students from traditionally under-represented backgrounds. They created the Keynote Foundation, which aims to fund these students and help them achieve their full musical potential.

Website: www.martaaznavoorian.com/aznavoorian-duo

YouTube channel:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yI3xjCqlNzs&list=PLcv-O4gbpIKp-raFxTK8_9S33f-kQeb1Q

Individual bios:

Ani Aznavoorian is in demand as a soloist and chamber musician with some of the most recognized ensembles, and she has appeared with many of the world's leading orchestras. Ani studied with Aldo Parisot at the Juilliard School, where she won First Prize in the Concerto Competition, the youngest cellist in the history of the competition to do so. This season marks her fifteenth year as Principal Cellist with Camerata Pacifica.

Ani has been a member of the music faculty at the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana, and in the summers has served on the faculty of the Great Mountains Music Festival in South Korea. Marta is an Artist-in-Residence and on faculty at the Music Institute of Chicago and is a piano and chamber music faculty member at the DePaul University School of Music. Ani proudly performs on a cello made in Chicago by her father, Peter Aznavoorian.

“A pianist of exceptionally finished technique and purity of musical impulse” (Boston Globe), **Marta Aznavoorian** is known for her inspiringly spirited playing and vast emotional reach. The multi Grammy-nominated artist made her professional début at the age of 13 performing Mozart Piano Concerto No. 24 with the Chicago Symphony at the invitation of Sir Georg Solti. She went on to perform with orchestras throughout the United States and abroad including the Sydney Symphony Orchestra, San Diego Symphony, Chicago Symphony and the New World Symphony at the invitation of Michael Tilson Thomas, who was also the conductor.

Marta has performed and recorded with violinists Joshua Bell, Philippe Quint and Stefan Milenkovich, and has appeared at some of this country's most prestigious festivals, including Ravinia, Tanglewood and Marlboro.

Her many awards and accolades include 1st Prize in the Stravinsky International Competition as well as the Special Prize for best interpretation of the commissioned contemporary work.

Marta has recorded extensively for the Naxos, Warner Classics and Erato labels, and has just released her 7th album on Cedille Records. She is a founding member of the GRAMMY-nominated Lincoln Trio, which Fanfare Magazine called the “hottest trio in the business.”

She is a Steinway Artist.