

# The Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia presents





### Program

## 5:00pm sharp Opening speech

- Elena Gasparyan, President ACASA
- Paule Ignatio, Consul General of France in Melbourne and Tasmania
- Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier of South Australia
- Je M'Voyais Deja
- Que cest Triste Venise
- Ave Maria
- For me Formidable
- The Old Fashioned Way
- Emmenez -Moi

Armenian traditional dance from Marta Chorbajian -Charles and Seda Aznavour audio record performing Sayat Nova's song "Ashxarhums Imn Dun Is"

- Pour Toi Armenie
- Une Vie D'Amour
- Parce Que
- Les Comédiens
- I didn't see the time go by
- She
- La Boheme



Scan to access the lyrics of the songs



### Meet our talents of the day



#### **TASSO BOUYESSIS**

Our Australian tenor will be performing in the Tribute Concert to Monsieur Aznavour.

Tasso is an acclaimed professional singer, shining on both concert platforms and opera stages. Known for his versatility and extensive experience, his impressive portfolio includes high-profile corporate events, solo performances, large-scale productions, and national and international concerts, along with numerous accolades.

We are truly thrilled to have Tasso interpret Aznavour's timeless legacy with his talent and heart.



#### MINAS BERBERYAN

The conductor of our South Australian Aznavour Tribute Orchestra and stage director of the Tribute Concert dedicated to Monsieur Charles Aznavour.

Minas was born in Bulgaria, where he graduated from the Sofia School of Music and the Bulgarian State Conservatoire, studying violin under the guidance of Prof. Yossif Radionov.

In 1994, he moved to South Africa and joined the National Chamber Orchestra of South Africa. He later joined the National Symphony Orchestra of the South African Broadcasting Corporation in Johannesburg.

During his time in South Africa, Minas Berberyan taught violin and viola and directed several ensembles, including those at the Johannesburg College of Education, the Alliance Française of Johannesburg, St. John's College, and the National School of the Arts.

In 2001, Minas and his wife, Erna — also a violinist — relocated to Australia, where he secured a position with the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra.

An avid teacher and educator, Minas now teaches both violin and viola and serves as the conductor of the Adelaide Youth Sinfonia.

Proud of his Armenian heritage, he actively participates in cultural initiatives organised by the <u>Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia Inc.</u> (ACASA).



#### **ARNAUD BENASSY**

Born in Geneva and raised in the Haute-Savoie region, Arnaud Benassy loves skiing, rowing and raclette cheese. While DJing, performing at the Fringe, and teaching French are his other passions.

But above all, he loves talking about Aznavour!

"Learning a language with songs is a wonderful method, and Aznavour's pronunciation, his choice of words and the way he describes the French culture bring a lot to students."











#### **LA BUVETTE**













### **Special Thanks**

Tasso Bouyessis - Singer

#### South Australian Aznavour Tribute Orchestra Minas Berberyan - conductor

- Stephen van der Hoek- piano
- Liu Yanchao Percussion
- Jacky Chang Bass
- Robin Finlay Trumpet 1
- Samvel Berberyan Trumpet 2
- Casey Mifsud -Trombone
- Adina Lopez Violin 1
- Sofia Tortorelli Violin 1
- Shannon Whitehead Violin 1
- Javier Goh Violin 2
- Thomas Cheung Violin 2
- Erna Berberyan Viola
- Lara Berberyan Cello
- William Grocer Cello

Arnaud Benassy - Master of Ceremonies (MC) Marta Chorbajian - Dancer Corinne O'Connorian - Event Manager ACASA Committee and Volunteers

Supported by a grant from the Department of the Premier and Cabinet





## Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia

Founded in 1960, the Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia stands as a vibrant community dedicated to preserving and celebrating Armenian heritage for current and future generations. Many of our members are descendants of survivors of the 1915 Armenian Genocide, and our community has grown through waves of migration. Armenians arrived from countries like Palestine, Egypt, Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon in the 1960s, seeking refuge from political instability. In the 1980s, another wave came from Iran following the Islamic Revolution. In 2016, our community welcomed a group of Syrian-Armenian refugees, supported by the Federal Government. These Armenians, descendants of genocide survivors who had settled in Aleppo, were once again forced to flee due to ongoing conflict in the region.

Today, our community includes Armenians from around the world, including Armenia itself. Through social gatherings, art classes, cooking demonstrations, and commemorative events, we create spaces for connection, cultural expression, and heritage preservation. Our gatherings are primarily held at the Multicultural Communities Council of SA on Gilbert Street, where members come together to celebrate, pass down traditions, learn more about their motherland, and acquire new skills through workshops in Armenian miniature painting and polymer clay art.

Our community has strong connections with other cultural groups, especially the Greek community, with whom we share a history of resilience. Together, we honour this history through the Armenian, Greek and Assyrian Genocide Memorial Cross at Salisbury Cemetery, a collaborative effort with Assyrian community from interstate, and a memorial plaque at Adelaide's Migration Museum, which commemorates the victims of the Armenian Genocide and recognises the South Australians relief efforts.

Although small in number and without a dedicated Armenian Apostolic Church or community club, the Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia continues to enrich the state's multicultural landscape, preserving and celebrating the heritage of one of the world's oldest civilizations for generations to come.

More details about Armenian Cultural Association of South Australia and Armenia you can find on our website:

<u>www.armeniansofsa.org.au</u>

For all the inquiries and feedback please contact
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