

LULAL

ARMENIAN A CAPPELLA TRIO



INTRODUCTION



In Armenian, *zulal* means “clear water.” Zulal, the a cappella trio, takes Armenia’s village folk melodies and weaves intricate arrangements that pay tribute to the rural roots of the music while introducing a sophisticated lyricism and energy. Zulal’s singers, Teni Apelian, Yeraz Markarian and Anaïs Tekerian, have been singing together since 2002. The trio has performed in such esteemed venues as the Getty Museum, Berklee College of Music, Carnegie Hall’s Weill Recital Hall, The Kennedy Center’s Millennium Stage and New York’s Symphony Space, along with performances for Cirque du Soleil and the Silk Road Project. Additionally, the trio has scored the film *Stone Time Touch* and has three critically acclaimed albums to its credit.

Zulal celebrates the trials and joys of old Armenian village life: girls cast fortunes by the moon’s light, morning smoke rises from the tonir, young brides weave golden threads through their hair as others spin wool into gossip. These images of the past come to life in Zulal’s arrangements, hearkening back to a simpler time, providing tokens of comfort in our increasingly complex, modern world.

PERFORMANCES

A listing of Zulal's performance highlights. To view a complete listing of past and upcoming performances see www.zulal.org.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
May, 2016

MORGENLAND FESTIVAL, GERMANY
July, 2015

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, WASHINGTON DC
Homegrown Series
May, 2015

**KENNEDY CENTER MILLENNIUM STAGE,
WASHINGTON DC**
May, 2015

CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE, NYC
with Perspectives Ensemble
April, 2015

BERKLEE COLLEGE OF MUSIC, BOSTON
5th Annual Berklee Middle Eastern Festival
March, 2013 and 2014

THE GETTY MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES
Marvelous to Behold: Zulal Performs
Rare Jewels and Cherished Favorites
from the Armenian Songbook
September, 2011

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, NYC
Performance Series curated by
Yo-Yo Ma's Silk Road Project
January & February, 2010

SYMPHONY SPACE, NYC
preceding Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares
March, 2008

RUBIN MUSEUM OF ART, NYC
December, 2007

ALEX THEATRE, LOS ANGELES
Mosaic
January, 2007



REVIEWS

“Zulal is completely enchanting, providing rich and beautiful interpretations of ancient songs. They are one of the most exciting developments in Armenian music today, and *Notes to a Crane* finds them exploring new territory with tenderness, humor and passion.”

- ATOM EGOYAN, *Academy Award-nominated director*

“New York City-based Armenian Folk trio, Zulal casts a spell on its listeners. The three women spin a sound, haunting and ethereal, extremely natural and unprocessed. [...] Truly, world and folk music fans have no excuse to miss this stellar collection of Armenian village melodies, deftly arranged and beautifully sung. [...] At a mild volume, *Notes to a Crane* sets a relaxing or meditative mood; cranked, it’s an immersive, wistful, nearly mystical journey to a simpler world of the Armenian village and the elements of nature surrounding it, all through the shimmering lens of the gifted artists of Zulal.”

- JONATHAN MINKOFF, *The Recorded A Cappella Review Board*

“Haunting melodies, rhythmic rants, and playful counter-melodies are carefully transported via vessels of powerful open chord harmony and tension-filled resolution of dissonance. [...] If you want to experience something new and expand your musical horizons, Zulal’s *Notes to a Crane* is your ticket to experiencing music you’ve only ever dreamt about before.”

-BRIAN HAVERKATE, *The Recorded A Cappella Review Board*

“Zulal, an a cappella trio of Armenian-American women who refract ancestral folk songs through the prism of the collegiate close-harmony group, and do so to spectacular effect.”

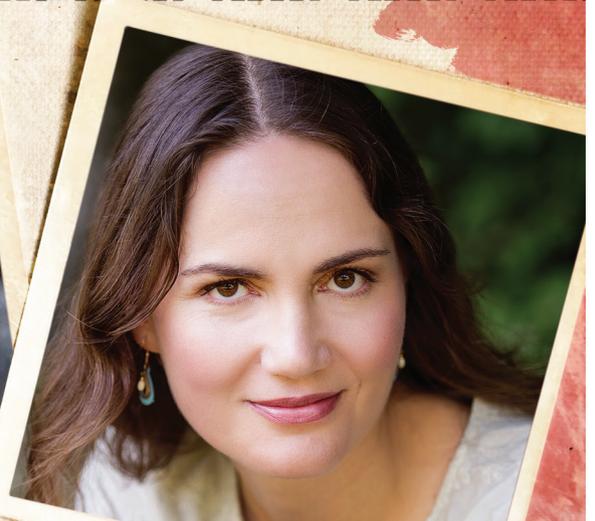
- JUSTIN DAVIDSON, *New York Magazine*

“The female a cappella trio Zulal take the rural folk music of Armenia and make it bewitching and transcendent.”

- RICK MASSIMO, *Providence Journal*



BIOGRAPHIES



TENI

Teni's love for Armenian folk music have guided her musical explorations. Her love for the a cappella genre began at Carnegie Mellon where she sang in the school's Jazz Choir and earned a Masters in Arts Management. A trip to Armenia in 2000 eventually led her to the members of Zulal in a most circuitous way. In addition to arranging, recording and performing with Zulal, Teni enjoys teaching Armenian folk music in the classroom setting. Zulal has brought life and breath to Teni's foremost passion and she considers herself lucky to share the creative process with two friends who are now truly sisters.

YERAZ

Yeraz Markarian was first introduced to a cappella at Barnard College at Columbia University where she began singing as a "bass". A native New Yorker, she has a background in marketing and a PhD in clinical psychology. Yeraz's passion for Armenian folk music began at an early age, when she performed with the Hamazkayin's Armenian Children's Choir of New York at Lincoln Center at the age of six. Yeraz is proud to take part in discovering, arranging and performing Armenian folk music, and is overjoyed that what began as an innocent conversation among friends has led to the creation of Zulal.

ANAÏS ALEXANDRA

Anaïs Tekerian, originally from San Francisco, discovered her joy of folk when she was a member and then director of the Yale Slavic chorus. A singer and theater artist now living in New York, she has performed in many plays and has written three works for the stage. Her most recent play, *Lost Spring*, co-created with artist Kevork Mourad, premiered (in French) at the Mucem in Marseille and at the Morgenland Festival in Germany in 2015. Celebrating her Armenian heritage through song with Zulal is a constant source of joy and inspiration.