

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE CENTENNIAL CONCERT

Florida State University | Opperman Music Hall

Tallahassee | Florida

Friday, April 17, 2015 | 8:00 PM

THE ENSEMBLE:

Daniel Bedrosian – Music Director, Grand Piano, Vocals, Lecturer

Daniel is keyboardist, vocalist and band director for George Clinton and Parliament-Funkadelic, the longest running American band of all time. The band has the largest discography of any one musical group, and has been inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. P-Funk is likewise the most sampled band of all time, and famous for creating the sub-genre: P-Funk. Danny has appeared with P-Funk on all six livable continents year round for twelve years now, and has performed on some of the biggest television shows in the world as well, including the Tonight Show with both Jay Leno and Jimmy Fallon, The Late Show with David Letterman, the Carson Daly show, Late night with Craig Ferguson, the BET 25th Anniversary special, The MTV show 'I'm with Rolling Stone', and on National television stations in Russia, Spain, Switzerland, Belgium, Denmark, France, the United Kingdom, Tunisia, Brazil, Australia, Ireland, Italy, Finland, Japan, and elsewhere around the world. Daniel has played some of the biggest festivals all over the world, including some with up to a half a million people in the audience. Bedrosian has performed beside a virtual 'who's who' in the genres of Funk (George Clinton, Bootsy Collins, Fred Wesley, Sly Stone, Pee Wee Ellis, Maceo Parker), Rhythm & Blues (Nona Hendryx, El Debarge, Erykah Badu, Sueann Carwell, Paul Hill, Kendra Foster), Hip-Hop (Snoop Dogg, the Roots, Rza, T-Pain, Queen Latifah, Bow-Wow, Scarface), Rock (Fishbone, Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers, Shavo Odadjian of System of A Down), Country (The Musik Mafia) Electronic Music (Soul Clap, McGilp brothers of New Zealand), Gospel (Ray Chew, Various Church Choirs in New England), Jazz Fusion (George Duke, Dennis Chambers, Paul Schaffer, The Baltimore Horn Connection, Foley), World Music (Sheila E, Omnimusica, Clone from Russia), and Classical Music (his three piano mentors and teachers Peter and Jeanne Bedrosian, and P-Funk keyboard master Bernie Worrell). He has appeared on over 90 different professional album releases so far in his career, as well as multiple DVD releases, and is mentioned in four major books about music and the entertainment industry. Daniel has played piano for over 30 years, and was classically trained by his concert pianist parents (for 15 of those years), who run a music school in New England. Daniel is likewise a BA degree holding Historian of Middle Eastern studies from the University of NH, with a colloquial concentration in Armenian studies. Bedrosian is currently writing a book about the tribal migrations of the Armenian people in their infant stages of civilization. Daniel is also proud to be a descendant of Armenian Genocide Survivors from Habousi village, Kharpert City, and Sarigamish-on-the-Tigris, in Kharpert Province, Western (Ottoman controlled) Armenia.

Professor Michael Bakan – Doumbek, Assorted Percussion

Michael is Professor of Ethnomusicology and Head of World Music in the College of Music at Florida State University (FSU), Tallahassee, Florida. He is the director of the university's Balinese gamelan ensemble, Sekaa Gong Hanuman Agung, and the Artism Musicultural Center of Florida, which hosts an innovative music-play program for children on the autism spectrum and their families and is funded by the National Endowment for the Arts through a grant from the Florida Department of State's Division of Cultural Affairs. He has been a visiting lecturer at Harvard, Yale, Indiana, and Boston universities, at the Berklee College of Music, and at the universities of Chicago, California (Santa Barbara, Riverside), Washington, Colorado, Louisiana, Florida, Illinois, and British Columbia. He formerly served as president of the Southeast/Caribbean Chapter of the Society for Ethnomusicology. Bakan's textbook *World Music, Traditions and Transformations*, published by McGraw-Hill, has been adopted at more than 150 universities and colleges nationwide and internationally. It is currently in its second edition (2011) and a Chinese-language translation edition is in press. His first book, *Music of Death and New Creation: Experiences in the World of Balinese Gamelan Beleganjur* (University of Chicago Press, 1999), was selected to the Choice Outstanding Academic Titles list for the year 2000 and was recognized in *The Times of London* as one of the two "most significant publications on Balinese music in almost half a century" (17 May 2002). As a percussionist, Bakan has performed with several renowned world music, jazz, and symphonic artists and organizations, including the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, the Music at Marlboro Festival Orchestra, the Los Angeles Philharmonic Green Umbrella Players, Rudolf Serkin, John Cage, A. J. Racy, Tito Puente, and many others. Michael received his PhD in Ethnomusicology from The University of California, Los Angeles. Michael is the proud descendant of Holocaust survivors from the Jewish populations in Nazi-controlled parts of the Ukrainian and Russian Soviet Socialist Republics.

Doctor Silviu Ciulei – Classical Guitar

Silviu is a classically trained guitarist from Romania. He is the winner of multiple classical guitar competitions including: the Guitar Foundation of America International Competition, Indiana International Guitar Competition, Parkening International Guitar Competition, SCHADT, and many others. Silviu is from the Dobruja region of Romania (with Bulgarian and Italian heritage), and his upbringing in such a melting pot on the Black Sea was an inspiration to his contemporary style. While Silviu definitely infused his powerful classical abilities of both Western and Southern Europe, he also exudes the sounds of his home region and its many peoples, such as the Romanians, Bulgarians, Roma Gypsy, and various peoples of the Byzantine, Ottoman and Soviet worlds in Southeastern Europe. Silviu leads his own touring group, the Maharaja Trio, a flamenco inspired world music trio. He holds a Doctors of Music in Guitar Performance from FSU.

David Cobb – Bass Guitar

South Carolina born musician David Cobb is the bassist for the Danny Bedrosian & Somn' Fierce band, and Maharajah Trio, a high energy, Flamenco Nuevo Trio, and the guitarist for Appalachee Trio, a mix of chamber jazz, Americana and World music. David also plays bass and guitar for the

Omnimusica ensemble, and has composed an Armenian piece for that ensemble. In addition to his interests in West Asian forms, classical, and jazz, David has also played bass and guitar for Ghost Adventures television star Nick Groff on stage and in the studio. David also is a very capable engineer and music instructor; he also runs a music space in Tallahassee called Brandywine Hall. He currently holds a BA of Music from the University of South Carolina.

Ramin Yazdanpanah – Percussion

Ramin is a charismatic percussionist on various Middle Eastern and Latin American percussion instruments such as doumbek and cajon (his ancestry is Iranian and Cuban), who is also superb at the Australian Didjeridoo, and has even developed his own style of combining hand percussion and the didj in some amazing performances with the Maharaja Trio, Danny Bedrosian's Somn Fierce, and many other ensembles. In addition to his musical abilities, Ramin holds a Masters in Multilingual/Multicultural Education and a BA in International Affairs. He began teaching ESL at CIES in 2002. In 2003, Mr. Yazdanpanah taught one year in Madrid, Spain at the International Academy of Languages before returning to CIES. In addition to being an instructor, Mr. Yazdanpanah is an expert in ESL materials development. An example is his "American Interviews." He is also a recipient of the FSU Fordyce Award for Outstanding Teaching.

Stacy Christofakis – Bass Clarinet, Clarinet, Douduk

Stacy is a classically trained Greek-American woodwind player. She studied at Florida State University, where she is currently completing her Doctors of Music. Stacy recently won the prestigious Presser Award for her musical talents and abilities. In January, she travelled to Yerevan, Armenia to study douduk, with such renowned geniuses of the instrument as Gevorg Dabaghyan, among others. Stacy's family hails from The Island of Rhodes and the Ionian Isles.

Margaret Atayants – Vocals

A dedicated vocalist and musician, Russian is Margaret's first language, and she brings a balance of Eastern Armenian sensibilities to the ensemble. Margaret is also competent on guitar, piano and ukulele. She has performed at many events, weddings, receptions, church services, and music/dance programs with local Armenian, Greek, American, and Middle Eastern cultural groups. She is also the Tallahassee officer for Florida Armenians and successfully advocated for formal acknowledgement of the Armenian Genocide by the Florida State Senate in 2013. Margaret is a proud Armenian American, whose family fled Baku, Azerbaijan during anti-Armenian pogroms in 1989. Her family, though from Baku, is originally from the Lake Sevan region of Armenia paternally, and the Armenian community of Tbilisi, Georgia maternally. Currently a student at Tallahassee Community College, Margaret plans to attend music school in the fall for her BA in Music Technology, in Orlando, Florida.

Sean Gorman – Contrabass/Upright Bass

Irish-American music educator from Sarasota, FL. Leads his own groups including the Appalachian Trio (Americana and Classical fusion), and other Country/Bluegrass/Americana Rock trios and ensembles. Sean also is the founder and head of “Pretty Cool, Music’s Cool”, a Tallahassee based music center where students of all ages learn performance and technique, theory and training on multiple instruments and in various disciplines. Sean Gorman has played with Hip Hop artist Less-on at the Boston Hard Rock Café promotion for Nick Groff, and with Groff’s band as well as some of Bedrosian’s bands. Proficient on multiple instruments, Sean also runs a studio in Florida that has recorded albums for musicians from Tallahassee to Colorado to Australia. Sean holds a BA in Music Education from FSU.

Katelyn Best – Vocals

Katelyn Best earned her Bachelor of Music in vocal performance from Saint Mary’s College in 2007. She served as vocal instructor for Culver Academy’s summer session in 2007 and in 2008 she began her training as a musicologist at Florida State University. Working with the Brilliant Minds Arts and Learning Center, she taught and designed musical theater classes and served as a vocal instructor for private lessons. She also served as the director of the World Music Ensemble program in the summer of 2010 for the Florida State University Summer Camps. As a performer she has been involved with several music ensembles, guest lecture recitals, and currently performs as a vocalist for Omnimusica, a world music intercultural jazz ensemble, while she finishes her Ph.D. in musicology.

Nicole Schommer – Vocals

Musicologist and Vocalist Nicole Schommer is currently a first year graduate student in ethnomusicology at Florida State University. She recently graduated from St. Norbert College in De Pere, Wisconsin with a Bachelor of Music in vocal performance and Spanish. While primarily a vocalist, she has been involved in music in many capacities throughout her life, such as performing in and directing a hand bell choir, singing in various vocal groups, playing piano in her college jazz band, and traveling abroad to study music in Ecuador (2012), Brazil (2013), and South Africa (2014). Due to Nicole's interest in the Hispanic culture, her research in ethnomusicology focuses on Latin American music primarily. While her master's degree focuses much more on music research, Nicole is still an active vocalist. She currently sings in Omnimusica, and also studies privately with Dr. Chuck Chandler, a member of FSU's voice faculty.