

THANK YOU!

Zedashe's 2010 U.S. Tour is sponsored by Village Harmony and is made possible by a generous grant from The Trust for Mutual Understanding. Contributions from The River Singers and Greenfield Harmony enabled the ensemble to create a recording studio for this tour. Thanks to the following organizations and people whose volunteer efforts and enthusiasm have made this tour possible:

Patty Cuyler	Val Rogers
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Craig Ferguson	Ariella St Clair
Izumi Pinar Sekine Fairbanks	Gary Lamprecht
David Kharadze	Eka Gvatuia
Paul Kallmes	Sara Velas
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Maka Gabelia	Eve Pericich
Karen Shimizu	Anne Hulegard
John Graham	Mark Forry
Jen Morris	Daniel Steinberg
Allison Dvaldze	David Havar
Mark Levy	Heidi Renteria
Andrew Morbey	Liza Carter
Sarah Burghardt	Brian Keigher
John Herbert	Mary Cay Brass
Mollie Stone	Colin Jesse Kinland
Deb Sparks	Rhea Grieco
Barbara Courtney	Anna Furry
Sherri Wood	Marina Lomtatidze

DePaul University • Chicago World Music Festival
Landfall World Music Festival • Grinnell College
Grace Episcopal Church (Bainbridge Island) • Orcas Center
Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington
University of Oregon, Eugene • St. Clair Productions
Rogue World Music Ensemble • St. Herman Monastery
Velaslavasay Panorama Theater • Wayfarer's Chapel
Alioni Chorus • Zhena Chorus,
and the many people who opened their homes to house
and feed the ensemble members.

Thanks, Leslie Turpin and Claire Griffith, (Tour Organizers)

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111th Season, 5th program



SCHOOL OF MUSIC AND DANCE

Beall Concert Hall
8:00 p.m.

Friday evening
October 8, 2010

THE WORLD MUSIC SERIES

presents

ZEDASHE ENSEMBLE

Folk Music and Dance from the Republic of Georgia

*SPONSORS of this U.S. tour:
Village Harmony, and the Trust for Mutual Understanding*

*LOCAL CO-SPONSORS: UO Cultural Forum,
and the Oregon Humanities Center's Endowment
for Public Outreach in the Arts, Sciences, and Humanities*

O | UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

PROGRAM

MRAVALJHAMIERI (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Feasting Song
SHISHA DA GERGILI (SVANETI)	Heroic Ballad
SHALVA CHEMO (GURIA)	Love Song
KIDOBANSA MAS SJULISASA	Chant, Shemokmedi School
IERISHI (GURIA)	War Song
DACHKIASH MAMA (SVANETI)	(Romeo Pirtskelani)
AGHZEVANS (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Ballad
IKHAREBDIN TSANI	Chant, Karbelaant Kilo
SHARATIN (APKHAZIA)	Dance
MAKRULI (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Wedding Song
XORUMI (AJARA)	A War Dance

INTERMISSION

MAKRULI (RACHA)	Wedding Song
LALKHORI (SVANETI)	Ballad (Romeo Pirtskelani)
VEENGARA (MEGRELIA)	Ballad
HEIDA (GURIA)	Round Dance
SHOBA SHENI	Chant, Shemokmedi School
TAMAR KALO (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Feasting Song
ARKHOT ROM TSKAROT (KHEVSURETI)	Love Song
ANGELOZI GHAGHADEBS	Chant, Gelati School
GANATLDI GANATLDI	Chant, Gelati School
DIAMBEGS KALI (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Feasting Song
PARINE (KARTL-KAKHETI)	Ballad
PARIKAOBA (KHEVSURETI)	Sword Dance

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Betkil Pirtskhelani was born into a family famous for singing and preserving ethnic highland culture in Latale, Georgia. He went to school in Latale and studied at the school for bards, which the famous singer Anzor Erkomaishvili founded. His teachers were Vakho and Islam Pilpani. He sang in the Svan choir "Riho" before moving to Sighnaghi to join Zedashe. Betkil sings in many Georgian regional styles. He is also a judo master.

Tamuna Beridze is trained in eastern Georgian folk music. She has been a member of Tamila's church choir since 2003, and sang top voice for a traveling school choir. She sings duets with Ketevan in their eastern Georgian repertoire of elegant ballad songs.

Erekle Kanchurashvili is one of the most promising dancers in eastern Georgia. Erekle began dance training at age five under dance master Vano Tchintcharauli, and has performed at folk festivals throughout Georgia.

Eka Taralashvili was born in Sighnaghi, but her family comes from the remote highland region of Mtuleti, accessible only in summer months. She has been dancing highland dances since she was young, and has been a laureate in numerous folk dance festivals. Eka is a soloist in the Jleha dance troupe, where she dances with her daughter Vika.

Vano Tchintcharauli has been associated with Zedashe Ensemble for over 14 years as a drummer, choreographer and dance instructor. He began training Erekle when Erekle was five years old. Although he has worked with Zedashe since its inception, this is his first U.S. tour. Vano joins the ensemble on this tour as a drummer, bass singer, and dancer.

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UPCOMING WORLD MUSIC EVENTS

Sun. Oct. 24, 7:30 pm • Agate Hall Auditorium
Kabile Traditional Bulgarian Wedding Band

Fri. March 11, 8:00 pm • Beall Concert Hall
Irish Traditional Music, featuring Kevin Burke and others

Fri. April 15, 8:00 pm • Beall Concert Hall
Classical Music of North India,
featuring Kartik Seshadri, sitar

The group's name is taken from the special earthenware jugs — *zedashes*—used for making wine. The wine made in *zedashes* was historically used specifically for the veneration of ancestors, so these vessels carry great ritual significance.

Zedashe's third US tour in 2010–2011 is organized by Village Harmony, a world music umbrella organization, and coincides with the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the USSR and of Georgian independence. Zedashe has also toured the United Kingdom (2002), and Holland (March 2008).

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ABOUT TONIGHT'S PERFORMERS

Ketevan Mindorashvili, director of the Zedashe Ensemble, was raised in a traditional singing family in Sighnaghi, eastern Georgia. She has become well known as a singer and teacher of Georgian folk music, particularly the fluid ornamentation of eastern folk songs. She has a deep knowledge of church chants, and is a master of the *panduri*, a three stringed lute from that region. Ketevan is also a solo dancer in the Jleha dance troupe.

Shalva Mindorashvili was born in Sighnaghi, where he is an English and Georgian language instructor. With his sister Ketevan, he is a cofounder of the Zedashe Ensemble. Shalva also dances in the Jleha dance troupe, and has been involved in the revival of Orthodox liturgical music at nearby Bodbe Monastery.

Tamila Sulhanishvili is a piano teacher at the music institute in Sighnaghi, as well as the choir director at the local church of Saint George. She usually sings first voice on church chants.

Shmagi Pirtskhelani is from the highland region of Svaneti, the second of eight siblings who were all raised singing and dancing traditional songs. Shmagi makes his permanent home in Sighnaghi, where he is an artisan, teacher and performer. He plays the *panduri* (plucked lute), *chuniri* (bowed lute), and *chiboni* (bagpipe).

Shergil Pirtskhelani also moved to Sighnaghi from Svaneti, after studying painting in the capital for two years. He directs a furniture design and building business in Sighnaghi. He sings bass and second voice and performs with the Jleha dance troupe. He plays *panduri*, *chonguri*, and *chuniri*.

ABOUT ZEDASHE

Mountainous Caucasus Georgia has a rich polyphonic singing tradition. The music features a dark, sonorous vocal quality and startling, unexpected 3-part harmonies. Directed by Ketevan Mindorashvili, Zedashe was founded in the mid 1990s to study and perform repertoire suppressed during the Communist era. Currently, Zedashe also works to preserve and revitalize a way of singing threatened by modernization. With five male and three female singers, as well as two dancers, Zedashe is one of the few mixed gender performing ensembles in Georgia. The group has developed a highly distinctive sound, which captures the traditional way of singing in village homes. Each concert tour represents two years of research, during which the chorus gathers field recordings from various singing-masters and families throughout Georgia. From these recordings, Zedashe develops a concert program that preserves the integrity of the singing contexts at which these songs were originally performed. This repertoire includes an older layer of three-part vocal music from the Georgian Orthodox Christian liturgy, one of the first targets of Tsarist and Communist suppression. Zedashe also sings a full range of folk song genres including work songs, love songs, historical ballads, war dance songs, and ritual circle dances. These are sometimes accompanied by *chuniri* (bowed lute), *panduri* and *chonguri* (plucked lutes), *doli* (drum), *chiboni* (goat-skin bagpipe), and accordion.

Dance is an integral part of traditional family singing, and all members of Zedashe are trained as dancers. Two members of the group, Eka Taralashvili and Erekle Kanchurashvili, have specific training in the more virtuosic and intricate footwork and gestures of traditional Georgian solo dance styles.

With her rich and flexible low contralto voice, Ketevan Mindorashvili has won a wide reputation for her mastery of the melismatic ornamentation of the traditional songs of her native region of Kakheti. Ketevan is joined by her long-term singing partner and brother, Shalva. The brothers Shergil, Shmagi, and Betkil Pitskhelani come from a large family with a long tradition of singing in the highland region of Svanetia. They bring their knowledge of the remarkable singing styles of this remote, mountainous northeastern region where older non-tempered tunings remain alive in current practice. Because the group consists primarily of singers from two families, it is evident in their performances that their relationships extend well beyond the stage.

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