

Anchiskhati Ensemble from Tbilisi, Georgia on U.S. Tour

Note to editors: Press photos and a generic version of this press release are available for free download on this website: <http://www.villageharmony.org/PR/anchiskhati.html>

In their first ever tour of the United States, the Anchiskhati choir from Tbilisi Georgia will be performing in (list city can venue) on (list date) at (list time). The program will include repertoire from Georgia's reviving medieval church chanting tradition, as well as the world famous early polyphony of various Caucasian regions within Georgia. Admission is (list admission price) For tickets or information call

The men of Anchiskhati Choir come from different regions of Georgia where they have absorbed the unique singing traditions of their parents and grandparents. Singing weekly in the famous 6th century Anchiskhati church in Tbilisi, Georgia, the group collaborates as a group of expert and passionate ethno-musicologists, who teach, hold workshops and regularly perform in Georgia and abroad.

Anchiskhati specializes in reviving the authentic tunings and arrangements of ancient Caucasian three-voiced polyphonic folk-singing. This repertoire includes brusque, mountain defying work songs, funeral laments, historical ballad songs, and love songs, and can be characterized as expressing the emotional and spiritual culture of a deeply musical people. The music features unusual, dissonant harmonies, a biting but deeply sonorous vocal timbre, and in some songs the unique Georgian yodeling known as krimanchuli.

Music from Georgia rests heavily on a strong three-part a capella tradition, but Anchiskhati will also present the diversity of Georgian folk instruments including three and four string lute-type instruments, traditional mountain bagpipes, as well as highland round dances accompanied by singing.

During Soviet times, the medieval church chanting tradition was firmly suppressed along with the Orthodox church, but since the late 1980s, the Anchiskhati Choir has led a national revival of this music, sparking worldwide interest in the 9th-12th century hymnographic tradition. The choir sings weekly in services, and have produced at least eight recordings and six publications of medieval Orthodox Christian church chanting.

Anchiskhati Choir has toured in twelve countries throughout Europe and the former Soviet Republics. The US tour is sponsored by Village Harmony, Inc. based in Montpelier Vermont, an organization specializing in world music choral activities including singing workshops in South Africa, Bulgaria, Georgia, and Corsica, as well as prolific choral and tour activities within the United States.

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