



Press release

20.09.2018

**Part of the proceeds of Tigran Hamasyan's
Los Angeles performance benefit COAF**

The famous pianist and composer Tigran Hamasyan will perform at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), on October 14.

The theme of the concert to be held at the Center for Performing Arts (CAP) is For Gyumri. This is the title of the latest album of the master of musical improvisation, who will present the works of the collection in the hall.

10% of the proceeds from the University's solo concert will go to the Children of Armenia Foundation (COAF). COAF's Board of Directors takes care of all the administrative expenses of the Fund, and 100% of the donations made by benefactors will directly go and serve the implementation of the programs.

"The leading role of the Children of Armenia Foundation in the development of rural communities was especially strengthened by the opening of the technologically innovative COAF SMART Center in the Lori region," mentioned Dr. Garo Armen, the Founder and the Managing Director of COAF. We highly value the partnership with CAP UCLA based on the same values and mission. We are thankful for donating a part of the concert proceeds to COAF. And we are especially grateful to Tigran Hamasyan for his efforts to improve the quality of life of children in the homeland. "

Pianist Tigran Hamasyan has always tried to bring positive changes in Armenia with his dedication and has joined the Children of Armenia Foundation to encourage youngsters.

Born in Gyumri, Tigran Hamasyan is recognized as one of the most significant and unique jazz-rock pianists of his generation. He mixes jazz improvisation and folk music with indescribable mastery.

British The Guardian newspaper expressed admiration. “He's the hottest pianist in jazz, and he likes to mix things up, whether it is bebop, thrash metal or dubstep. But his heart is in the folk music of his native land Armenia.”

* * *

Tigran Hamasyan was born in 1987 in Gyumri. He has been passionate about music since he was a child. His musical instruments captivated him more than his toys. At the age of seven, his love for jazz became more pronounced, and listening to jazz became one of his most important pursuits.

Later, Tigran's parents moved to Yerevan, where he became more involved in music. He soon began to create, and his love and skills grew with age.

In 2006 he won the Thelonious Monk International Jazz Competition at the world-famous Monk International Jazz Competition.

The Children of Armenia Fund (COAF) is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that employs community-led approaches aimed at improving the quality of life in rural Armenia, with a particular focus on children and youth. COAF's target development areas are education, healthcare, social and economic development. COAF launched its programs in 2004, starting in one village and expanding to 44 villages in Armavir, Aragatsotn, Lori, Gegharkunik, Shirak and Tavush regions, impacting over 75,000 people.

Since 2015 COAF has developed and started implementing a new vision – SMART Initiative. SMART is designed to advance a generation across the rural world through education that will benefit individuals, societies and the environment. SMART will become an exemplary model of development and will be replicated in other regions and communities throughout Armenia. The first COAF SMART Center was opened on May 27, 2018, at the village of Debet, Lori region.

UCLA's Center for the Art of Performance (CAP UCLA) is dedicated to the advancement of the contemporary performing arts in all disciplines — dance, music, spoken word and theater, as well as emerging digital, collaborative and cross-platforms — by leading artists from around the globe. Part of UCLA's School of the Arts and Architecture, CAP UCLA curates and facilitates direct exposure to artists who are creating extraordinary works of art and fosters a vibrant learning community both on and off the UCLA campus. The organization invests in the creative process by providing artists with financial backing and time to experiment and expand their practices through strategic partnerships and collaborations. As an influential voice within the local, national and global arts communities, CAP UCLA connects this generation to the next in order to preserve a living archive of our culture. CAP UCLA is also a safe harbor where cultural expression and artistic exploration can thrive, giving audiences the opportunity to experience real life through characters and stories on stage, and giving artists an avenue to challenge assumptions and advance new ways of seeing and understanding the world we live in now.

* * *

Photo by Yelena Hamasyan