

For Immediate Release

TCA ARSHAG DICKRANIAN ARMENIAN SCHOOL
1200 CAHUENGA BLVD. LOS ANGELES, CA 90038

TCA Arshag Dickranian School Holds 30th Anniversary Cultural Extravaganza

Los Angeles, June 1, 2011 - His Eminence Archbishop Hovnan Derderian, Archpriest Manoug Markarian, benefactors, board members, faculty, parents and friends were among the capacity attendees who had come to enjoy TCA Arshag Dickranian School's 30th Anniversary Cultural Extravaganza by the student body.

Jointly organized by Armenian teachers Emma Umroyan, dance teacher Robert Arakelian and music teacher Komitas Keshishian and collaboratively produced by staff and students, this most impressive event took place on Sunday afternoon, May 22nd, 2011 at the school's Walter & Laurel Karabian Hall.



King Arshag II and his courtiers greeting the audience

The event commenced with the welcoming remarks of Student Council Chairperson, Morris Sarafian, which was followed by the performance of the National Anthem of the United States, by senior student Ani Nercessian. Then students, dressed in traditional Armenian attire and carrying torches and the flags of the school and Armenia entered the hall in a procession. The stage décor, depicting the era of 4th century Armenia, had a beautiful painting of Mount Ararat as its background. On the stage, King Arshag II and his queen were seated on their thrones along with a few court members. This scene was selected in order to reflect the triumph of Armenians in safeguarding their culture and language to this day.



Senior students performing Armenian folkdance with soloist Ani Nercessian

The school orchestra then joined the event singing classic Armenian songs, followed by the Armenian National Anthem, the anthem of Arshag Dickranian School and the famous song "Sardarabad". After this, traditional Armenian folklore dances and dances from other cultures were performed by students intermitted with short speeches and poetry recitations. The kindergartners delighted the audience with an exquisite show in which they acted like they were playing imaginary music instruments to Brahms's Hungarian Dance under the tutelage of their teacher Mrs. Anahid Avanesian. Next the pre-kindergartners charmed the audience with a cowboy dance under the direction of their teacher Mrs. Madlena Marikyan.



Pre-kindergarten 'Cowboys' entertaining the audience



Kindergarten students performing the Hungarian Gypsies Dance

The keynote speaker of the event was ADS alumna Mariam Danielian. "Here I am today, ten years after graduating from this school, and the homey atmosphere is still there," She said. "Dear students, you must all work hard and remember that the future lies within your hands. You are here to learn and tomorrow to change the world."

Principal Vartkes Kourouyan then took the podium to greet the guests and deliver his remarks. "Today we are gathered here to celebrate the school's 30th Anniversary once again and to also show our gratitude to all those who have served the school, especially our benefactors and board members, without whom the school would not exist. We would also like to thank our teachers for their dedication," he said. Principal Kourouyan then continued by remembering benefactors, board members, teachers and students, who had passed away, while 8th grade students Anais Nahapetyan, Armenuhi Goulyan and the orchestra softly sang "Amazing Grace". Individuals duly memorialized were benefactors: Arshag Dickranian, Alex Manoogian, Suren Fesjian, Krikor Asatryan, Krikor Terzian, Dzeron and Esther Hekimian, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gazaryan, Silva Bzdigian, Dr. Noubar Mkhsi-Gevorgian, Christine Hripsime Meghrigian, Garo Meghrigian, Mkrtych "Mgo" Fidanian, Edward and Helen Mardigian, Armen Kuyumjian, Antranik and Zarminah Kuyumjian, Jirair Michaelian, Talin Tashjian, Vartkes Balian, Archie Arzooyan, Chris Tonoyan and Alice Baltayan; board members: Professor Avedis Sanjian, Anahid Orchanian, Yervant Yetenegian, Kevork Kupelian, Albert Ouzounian and Dr. Yeghia Taglyan; faculty members: Melkon Arslanian, Kachik Soghomonian and Salvatore Lopiccio; students: Karen Burmuyan, Sevag Mrgdichian, Sarkis Atikyan and Garik Mkrtychyan.

Board Chairman Mr. George Mandossian then got to the stage to present separate certificates of appreciation to teachers and staff who have served the school for over ten years: Alice Kourouyan for 30 years, Anahid Avanessian for 29 years, Arpy Mazlounian for 26 years, Emma Umroyan for 18 years, Vartan Abramyan for 17 years, Robert Arakelian for 16 years, Sarkis Seferian for 11 years, Komitas Keshishian for 11 years and Ricardo Rocha for 10 years.



Teachers receiving their Appreciation Certificates from Chairman Mr. George Mandossian

Archbishop Hovnan Derderian was then invited to the podium where he delivered his closing remarks talking about the importance of preserving the Armenian culture and spirit and offering his prayers and blessings to students and all guests.

Located at 1200 North Cahuenga Blvd., Los Angeles, the TCA Arshag Dickranian Armenian School is a federally tax exempt, Pre-K to 12th grade private educational institution. For more information visit www.dickranianschool.org.

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