

National Anthems Online

ARMENIA: Mer Hayrenik

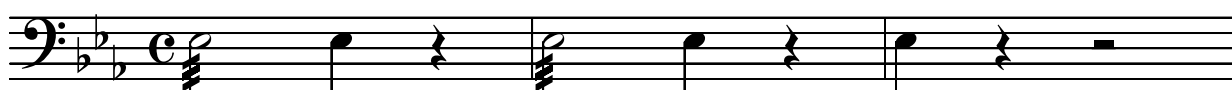
Armenia - officially the Republic of Armenia - is a landlocked mountainous country in the Southern Caucasus, with Turkey to the west and Georgia to the north. Situated along the route of the Great Silk Road, it has impressive scenery with high mountains, caves, lakes and hot springs. Armenia is one of the oldest civilizations in the world and was the first nation to adopt Christianity as its official religion. Although Armenia is constitutionally a secular state, the Christian religion plays a major role in both its history and identity. Armenia adopted the "Mer Hayrenik" as its anthem upon regaining independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

"Mer Hayrenik" means "Our Fatherland": the words are by Mikael Nalbandian (1829-1866) and the music by Barsegh Kanachyan, one of many Armenian composers, the most famous of whom are probably Aram Khatchaturian, Alan Hovhaness and Loris Tjeknavorian. In 2006 it was decided that Armenia should have a new national anthem. This was because the present one was evidently intended only as a temporary measure; the words were not composed by an Armenian, and there is concern that they do not reflect the modern Armenia. It has been suggested that the melody of the anthem of Soviet Armenia form the basis of a new anthem but at the time of publishing this arrangement it seems that no clear plan has yet emerged.

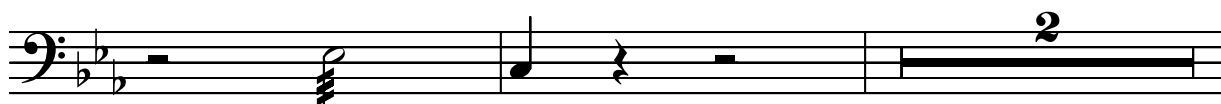
♩ = 100

Barsegh Kanachyan (1885-1967)

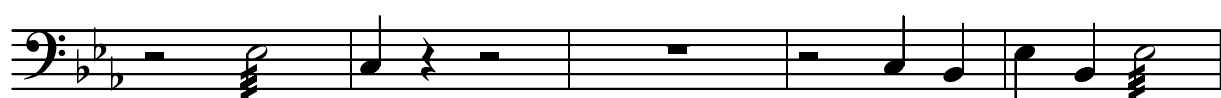
Arranged by Colin Kirkpatrick

***f*** In Eb, Bb and C

4

***mf cresc. f***

8

***cresc. ff******molto rit.***

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