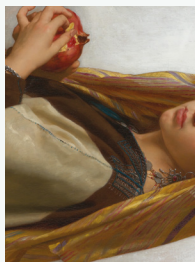


I AM HE
WHOSE
LIFE
AND
SOUL
ARE
TORMENT



Other Minds® presents *Scenes
from I Am He Whose Life and Soul
Are Torment. A Work-in-Progress.*

Friday, July 25, 2025,
7:30pm. Paul Drescher
Ensemble Studio.



The title *I Am He Whose Life and Soul Are Torment* is an English translation of a lyric by Sayat Nova quoted in the opening line of *The Color of Pomegranates*, the 1969 film by the visionary Georgian-born Soviet-Armenian film director Sergei Parajanov. Born January 9, 1924, in Tiflis, Georgian SSR, Parajanov made significant contributions to film across several Soviet Republics—in not only his native Georgia, but also Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Ukraine—yet he was repeatedly censored and imprisoned by the Soviet government. His “active tableaux” style features scenes reminiscent of medieval Armenian illuminated manuscripts with repetitive movements and minimal dialogue. The multiplicity of cultures in his native South Caucasus region was essential to his work, which is reflected in the multilingual text for this piece by the 18th century *ashugh* (bard) Sayat Nova, the subject of *The Color of Pomegranates*. This work combines Sayat Nova’s existing melodies with newly created ones by Khatchadour Khatchadourian and Joseph Bohigian, along with live electronic manipulation of recordings by folk musicians from across the South Caucasus from the Sayat Nova Project’s *Mountains of Tongues*. Like Parajanov’s 1969 film, this piece illustrates the filmmaker’s life story through an abstracted series of scenes with video projections filmed in Armenia and Georgia at locations significant to his life and work.

Tonight, four scenes of this work-in-progress will be presented for the first time. An additional four scenes will be composed over the next year and the world premiere of the completed piece will take place in 2026 at the Other Minds Festival in San Francisco.

Joseph Bohigian is a composer and performer of acoustic and electronic music. His work focuses on issues of memory, cultural reunification, and diaspora. With a strong interest in reestablishing a relationship with lost elements of our past to better envision our future, he makes use of archival materials in his music, such as sound recordings, interviews, and written texts, synthesizing fragments of song lyrics and reviving ancient musical notations. Bohigian’s music has been performed at the International Computer Music Conference (Limerick, Ireland), Walt Disney Concert Hall (Los Angeles), TENOR Conference (Melbourne), Suoni Per Il Popolo (Montreal), New Music Gathering, and Aram Khachaturian Museum Hall (Yerevan) by the Mivos Quartet, Decibel, Great Noise

Ensemble, Argus Quartet, and Playground Ensemble. He performs as a founding member of Ensemble Decipher, a group dedicated to working with vintage, contemporary, and emerging technologies, and produces broadcasts of contemporary music for *Music from Other Minds* on KALW in San Francisco and interviews with composers on the *Other Minds Podcast* and the music/technology-focused series *Decipher This!*. Bohigian holds a PhD and MA in composition from Stony Brook University and a BA from California State University Fresno.

Khatchadour Khatchadourian is a Lebanese-Armenian vocalist and duduk player based in the Bay Area. His vocal repertoire is grounded in the Armenian and Levantine Arabic vocal traditions. Growing up within

the Armenian diaspora on the Lebanese Mediterranean coast, and later having spent many years in Aleppo, Syria, Khatchadour’s voice pays homage to the vocal landscapes spanning the regions of the South Caucasus, Levant, and Anatolia. Khatchadour’s passion for the duduk, an Armenian double reed woodwind, began in 2007, and has since taken him on musical journeys across Armenia and Southern France. He studies under master duduk player Levon Minassian. Additionally, for the past few years, Khatchadour has immersed himself in the study of Persian vocal Radif, and sings in Farsi under the instruction of master vocalist Mahsa Vahdat. Khatchadour is currently completing his sixth album, *Shounch: Breath*.

PROGRAM

I AM HE WHOSE LIFE AND SOUL ARE TORMENT
A WORK-IN-PROGRESS BY JOSEPH BOHIGIAN

Scene I – The Director's Childhood: 1920s, Tiflis, Georgian SSR

Scene 2 – Film School: All-Union State Institute of Cinematography,
Moscow, 1945

Scene 5 – The Return: Filming *The Color of Pomegranates*, 1969 in Armenia

Scene 8 – The Director's Death: Return to film and death in Yerevan, Armenian SSR, 1990

Lyrics by Sayat Nova

Khatchadour Khatchadourian, voice
Ensemble Decipher, electronics
Joseph Bohigian, Robert Cosgrove, Eric Lemmon,
Chelsea Loew, Taylor Long, Niloufar Nourbakhsh

Vocal melodies Scenes 2, 5, and
8 by Sayat Nova
Vocal melodies Scenes 1
and 8 by Khatchadour
Khatchadourian
and Joseph Bohigian

Video Scene 1 by Gizy Amirejibi
Video Scenes 2, 5, 8 by Blue
Kalamian

INTERMISSION

Panel discussion and audience Q&A
Khatchadour Khatchadourian and Ensemble
Decipher, moderated by Charles Amirkhanyan

Samples of recordings by
the Sayat Nova Project from
Mountains of Tongues
used with permission of Living
Music Duplication.

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Ensemble Decipher is a modular, experimental music group that performs with vintage, contemporary, and emerging technologies. Founded in 2017 by Niloufar Nourbakhsh, the ensemble strives to redefine performer virtuosity by drawing on the technological advancements of our time to highlight new voices and ways of listening. Ensemble Decipher seeks to reflect on and challenge the power structures that lace the field of electronic music by reexamining technology's role in their performance practice.

Recent works commissioned by the group have mobilized network technologies, amplified gardening, machine learning, kinetic sculptures, acoustic instruments, and laptops. Ensemble Decipher consists of Joseph Bohigian, Robert Cosgrove, Eric Lemmon, Chelsea Loew, Taylor Long, and Niloufar Nourbakhsh. Ensemble Decipher has collaborated with composers and technologists including Bora Yoon, Mari Kimura, Margaret Schedel, Daria Semegen, Erin Rogers, Jose Tomás Henriques, Mara Helmuth, Yaz Lancaster, Paul

Leary, Lyn Goeringer, and Lainie Fefferman and premiered works by many others. Recent feature performances include concerts at the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States, International Computer Music Conference, New York City Electroacoustic Music Festival, Roulette Intermedium, Rhizome DC, New Music Gathering, and an ensemble residency at the New Music for Strings Festival in Denmark.

Founded in San Francisco in 1992, Other Minds® is a leading organization for new and experimental music in all its forms, devoted to championing the most original, eccentric, and underrepresented creative voices in contemporary music. From festival concerts, film screenings, radio broadcasts, and the commissioning of new works, to producing and releasing CDs, preserving thousands of interviews and concerts and distributing them free on the Internet, Other Minds is a leading conservator of new music's history and evolution.



Executive & Artistic Director – Charles Amirkhanian

Associate Director – Joseph Bohigian

Production Director – Liam Herb

Archivist – Adrienne Cardwell

Business Manager – Jenny Maxwell

Creative & Design – Dom Cooper

Audio Engineer – Jacob Felix Heule

Still Photography & Videography – Joseph Jimenez



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