

## **BISHOP DANIEL FINDIKYAN**

A native of Fort Worth, Texas (USA), Bishop (Michael) Daniel Findikyan is Primate of the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and Professor of Liturgical Studies at St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in Armonk, New York. Prior to his election as Primate in May 2018 he served as Director of the Krikor and Clara Zohrab Information Center of the Diocese of the Armenian Church (Eastern), New York.

Bishop Daniel is a member of the brotherhood of the Holy See of Etchmiadzin. He earned his doctorate in Liturgical Studies from the Pontifical Oriental Institute in Rome, where he studied under the late Robert F. Taft, S.J. He previously earned the Master of Arts degree in Musicology from the City University of New York, and the Master of Divinity from St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary.

Having published numerous articles in scholarly journals and books, Bishop Daniel served as the general editor of an innovative and acclaimed Divine Liturgy "pew book," used throughout the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America, and has served as a model for similar liturgical books in other churches and jurisdictions.

Bishop Daniel is a founding member of the Society of Oriental Liturgy and served as its President from 2016-2018. He is a member of several other academic and ecumenical organizations. He was Visiting Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, Indiana) from 2001-2014 and has lectured throughout the United States, as well as in Armenia, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lebanon, Russia, Slovakia, and Sweden.

Bishop Daniel is a founding member of the Fellowship of St. Voski and regularly contributes essays to its flagship publication, The Treasury.

From 1998-2005 Bishop Daniel served as visiting pastor of St. Sarkis Armenian Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. During his pastorate the mission parish grew into a full-fledged parish.

### **VERY REVEREND FATHER MAMIGON KILEDJIAN**

Very Rev. Fr. Mamigon Kiledjian received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees, majoring in Organ Performance from Manhattan School of Music, NYC.

From 1989–1994, he was a teacher of ecclesiastical music at Holy Etchmiadzin Theological Seminary. In 1992 he performed at the Yerevan Philharmonic Hall and The Concert Hall in Sydney, Australia. In 1998, he participated at the World Organ Competition at St. Mark's Basilica and the Conservatory of Music Benedetto Marcello in Venice, Italy and was ranked the fifth place out of 200 participants.

From 1994-2000, he developed and conducted a youth choir at St. Vartan Cathedral, NY. Under his direction, this group grew from a handful to 80 young voices and performed many major liturgical services such as Christmas, Easter, Vartanantz and Holy Translators. In 1997, he conducted St. Vartan Youth Choir at Disneyworld, Orlando, FL.

Since 1995, he is an adjunct Professor at St. Nersess Armenian Theological Seminary. From 2000-2012, he was the Pastor of St. Stepanos Armenian Church in Elberon, NJ, where aside from his pastoral duties, he taught piano, voice training and organ lessons.

From 2012-2018, he has served as the Dean of St. Vartan Cathedral in New York, and currently he is the Diocesan Instructor of Sacred Music.

### **REVEREND FATHER HOVHAN KHOJA-EYNATYAN**

Rev. Fr. Hovhan Khoja-Eynatyan holds bachelors and master's degrees in music from the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan, and the Maimonides State Conservatory of Moscow, Russia. Fr. Hovhan has been a member of the Armenian Philharmonic Orchestra, the Pekarsky Percussion Ensemble, and the Moscow Modern Music Ensemble, and has taught at the Yerevan conservatory and the Spendiarov School of Music.

In 1999, he moved with his family to the United States. He served for many years as an organist and conductor at St. Mary Armenian Church in Washington, DC, and in 2000 he founded the church's well-known Narek Bell Choir.

Fr. Hovhan studied at Catholic University of America in Washington and St. Nersess Armenian Seminary in New Rochelle, N.Y. In May 2010 he graduated from the Medzn Nersess (St. Nersess the Great) Program of St. Nersess Seminary- two-year program specially designed for students who enter seminary with advanced standing, and was ordained to the Holy Priesthood on July 11, the Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord.

Fr. Hovhan is the of St. James Armenian Church in Evanston, IL since 2011. He also serves on the Diocese's Sacred Music Council.

### **DEACON RUBIK MAILIAN**

Dn. Rubik Mailian is the Artistic Director and Conductor of the Detroit Armenian Chorale, and the Komitas Choir at St. John Armenian Church in Southfield, Michigan. He holds graduate level music and theology degrees from the University of Houston, St. Nersess Seminary, and St. Vladimir's Seminary. An accomplished vocalist, he has performed with numerous nationally recognized opera theaters and symphony orchestras. Rubik has presented many articles and lectures on the subject of Armenian Music especially history, practice and the performance of early Armenian Church Music in the Eastern and Western Diocese of Armenian church in the United States and in Europe. He is an active member of American Choral Directors Association, and has served on the Diocesan Liturgical committees for the publication of new books, and as a Chairman of the Sacred Music Council at the Eastern Diocese in New York for many years.

### **SOLANGE MERDINIAN**

Acclaimed for her “smoldering stage presence,” (The New York Times) her “richly-hued voice” (BBC Music Magazine) and how she “brought many to tears” (The New York Times), the New York-based American-Argentinean mezzo-soprano Solange Merdianian has garnered an international reputation for her versatility and interpretation as a recitalist, chamber musician, and opera singer in repertoire ranging from baroque to contemporary, folk, tango, cabaret and world music. She is the Co-Founder and Co-Artistic Director of the non-for profit organization, New Docta, and the New Docta Festival in Argentina.

Highlights include critically praised “tour de force” principal role in Maria de Buenos Aires, Opera Tango by Piazzolla; Amor Brujo by de Falla; singing at Madison Square Garden in NYC, representing Argentina with the National Anthem; and French pop debut for the Hollywood movie The Hundred-foot Journey: “My mind is a stranger without you”; she sang as a special guest performer at the UN General Assembly for India's 70th Independence Day with renown multi-award winner composer and singer AR Rahman, and she sang for the World Tour of the acclaimed opera "Einstein on the Beach" for 4 years with the Philip Glass Ensemble.

Solange Merdianian graduated with a Master in Voice and Vocal Performance from Bard College Conservatory and she received her Bachelor of Music degree from The Juilliard School. She is an effective advocate for social, educational, and cultural programs through music. In spring 2019, she will release her debut solo album entitled “Composing Roots” with guitarist Federico Diaz and pianist Pablo Zinger, featuring compositions by Komitas Vartabed, Carlos Guastavino and Richard Rodgers.

## **SEVAG DERDERIAN**

Sevag Derderian an accomplished baritone, pianist and organist, is the founder and director of the Music Education Department of the Association of Armenian Church Choirs of the Western Diocese (AACCCWD) and current chairman. During his time as Chairman, the AACCCWD has launched two music scholarship funds, developed a music curriculum for the Christian Education Council & HyeCamp, held masterclasses, workshops, trainings, and expanded the online sacred music library. Recently, he has published a modern engraving of the Sunrise Service Music (Sarxian) with individual vocal parts as well as a conductor/organist score. Presently, he is leading a project for the first comprehensive collection of Armenian Apostolic Church Hymns and variable compositions.

Derderian also serves as Chairman of the MS & HS Clinic of the California State University Los Angeles Gohar & Ovanes Andriassian Classical Guitar Festival & Symposium. Under his direction, hundreds of youth have attended the university's annual clinic from schools across the western United States. A native parish member of Saint Peter Armenian Apostolic Church ( Van Nuys, CA), Derderian served as a guest musical conductor and artistic director at his home parish where his concerts have attracted thousands of parishioners with ever-expanding orchestral and choral works. Derderian pursued his vocal training with Professor Juliana Gondek of UCLA as well as Leslie Delehanty and Howard Austin. During his non musical-time, Derderian is furthering his collegiate education with a degree in Political Science at Pennsylvania State University, and serves as a Teaching Assistant with Los Angeles Pierce College.