



...Culture, arts, & heritage of Azerbaijan & the Caucasus

For Immediate Release

Contact: Rachel Mauro

rachel@karabakhfoundation.org

202-349-3796

Washington, D.C. March 30, 2011 -- Over 1,200 Washingtonian music aficionados and VIP guests packed the historic Lincoln Theatre full for the TURKSOY Nevruz concert, which featured 140 performers from 10 different Turkic nations spanning across eight countries.

The two hour-long concert mesmerized the audience with incredible performances from Azerbaijan, Bashkir Republic of the Russian Federation, Crimean Tatar Autonomy of Ukraine, Gagauz Autonomy of Moldova, Kazakhstan, Khakassia Republic of the Russian Federation, Kyrgyzstan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Tuva Republic of the Russian Federation. This was the first ever TURKSOY concert in the nation's capital, days before similar concerts were held by TURKSOY in the United Nations General Assembly Hall in New York, as well as Nevruz lectures by the Secretary General of TURKSOY Mr. Dusen Kaseinov at Columbia University, Georgetown University, and Harvard University.

All Turkic people spanning across the Eurasian continent celebrate Nevruz and the coming of the Spring - a wonderful tradition going back several millennia. Nevruz (Novruz) generally falls around March 21, corresponding to the vernal equinox, when the day and night are of equal length. Nevruz is an official holiday in Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and a public holiday in Turkey. Other Turkic peoples such as the Uyghurs, Yakuts, Tuvans, Karakalpaks, Volga or Kazan Tatars, Bashkirs, and Crimean Tatars, and others also participate in Nevruz celebrations.

Throughout the Turkic world, the arrival of spring is celebrated under different names: Navruz, Navriz, Novruz, Nooruz, Noruz, Sultan Nevruz, Mart Dokuzu (Ninth of March, corresponding to the vernal equinox in Rumi calendar), Yil Basi (New Year), Yeni Gün (New Day), Ulusun Ulu Günü (Great Day of the Nation) and Ergenekon Bayrami (Ergenekon Holiday). In the pre-Islamic Turkic calendar, the Twelve Animal Calendar, the new year began in March. Hence the association of Nevruz with the New Year. Nevruz is also regarded by some Turkic groups as a celebration of independence, a tradition rooted in the Ergenekon Destan (Epic). According to it, the forefathers of the Turkic people managed to set themselves free on the day of Nevruz and left the valley named Ergenekon.

Thus, the most important significance of Nevruz, irrespective of its undoubtedly ancient origins, is the celebration of Spring, of a New Year, new beginnings and re-birth. Therefore, the Karabakh Foundation, which is a charitable nonprofit promoting the history, arts, culture, and heritage of Azerbaijan and the wider region, cosponsored the TURKSOY concert together with the U.S. Turkic Network (USTN) and the U.S. Azeris Network (USAN). TURKSOY is an international organization promoting Turkic culture. The Karabakh

Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) cultural charitable foundation promoting the culture, arts, history, and heritage of Azerbaijan and the greater region, based in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Azeris Network is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit engaged in grassroots advocacy for all Azerbaijani-Americans, based in Washington, D.C. The U.S. Turkic Network is a 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit promoting Turkic-American heritage, and also based in Washington, D.C.

The TURKSOY concert was featured in [The Washington Post](#) and [CNBC](#), among other publications, as well as by [Cultural Tourism DC](#), whose more than 230 member organizations develop, deliver, and celebrate real experiences for Washington area residents and visitors. The Karabakh Foundation is especially proud that *The Washington Post* designated the March 28 TURKSOY concert as it's [Editor's Pick](#).

The TURKSOY concert was attended by ambassadors of Turkey, Kyrgyzstan, high ranking embassy officials of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Russia, Moldova, and Ukraine, several visiting members of Parliaments of Azerbaijan and Mongolia, Congressional staff, representatives of several mayor and county offices, leading newspaper and TV journalists from U.S. and Turkic media outlets. The event coincided with Azerbaijani Heritage Week (March 21-28), spearheaded by the Karabakh Foundation. In line with this initiative of the Karabakh Foundation, proclamations from the Governor of Maryland, the Montgomery County, MD, the Mayor of the City of Alexandria, VA, and the Arlington County Board, VA, as well as congratulations from Chairman Kwame Brown of the D.C. Mayor's Council, and U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan were received for the concert.

Photos of the concert are becoming available via the Karabakh Foundation's Facebook page. Video of the concert in high definition (HD) will also be available soon. The Karabakh Foundation, as well as its partners the U.S. Azeris Network and the U.S. Turkic Network, are looking forward to holding an even bigger Nevruz concert next year in Washington, D.C. Subscribe to the Foundation's newsletter for all the latest updates.

POST-CONCERT ACTION PLAN FOR ALL FRIENDS OF THE KARABAKH FOUNDATION

If you liked our concerts, we urge all of our donors, supporters, and friends to do the following:

- 1) "Like" us on Facebook, and leave your comments: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/KarabakhFoundation>
- 2) Follow us on Twitter, and re-tweet us: <http://twitter.com/KarabakhFound>
- 3) Subscribe to our YouTube channel, and leave your comments: <http://www.youtube.com/user/kfoundation1>
- 4) Leave your reviews on *The Washington Post's* Editor's Pick: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/gog/performing-arts/turksoy-music-and-dance,1206559.html>
- 5) Please alert the Karabakh Foundation about any stories you might see about the TURKSOY concert in the media, as well as help us spread the word about this wonderful concert and Nevruz in your local media outlets.
- 6) Help us sustain our mission by making a tax-exempt donation: <http://karabakhfoundation.org/pages/donate/>





About the Karabakh Foundation

The Karabakh Foundation is a U.S. 501(c)(3) cultural charity foundation based in Washington, D.C., that seeks to increase awareness and understanding in the United States of the cultural heritage and traditions of the country of Azerbaijan, the Caucasus area, and the Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. While coalescing significant artistic and scholarly talent, the Foundation is nurturing a new generation of artists and scholars toward important accomplishments.

The Foundation serves as a dynamic facilitator and clearinghouse raising the public profile of Azerbaijan, its Karabakh region, and the Caucasus region in general. Main activities include preserving and disseminating cultural content via archival collecting, public programs, publications, exhibitions, speaking forums, international collaborations, scholarly exchange, artistic sponsorship, and related venues.

Foundation support comes primarily from Khazar University, the first private university in Azerbaijan and one of the country's leading institutions of higher learning. Support also comes from the U.S.-based Allaverdy Foundation. Additional information about the Karabakh Foundation may be found at www.karabakhfoundation.org.

###

[Unsubscribe](#) <<Email Address>> from this list | [Forward to a friend](#) | [Update your profile](#)
Copyright (C) 2011 Karabakh Foundation All rights reserved.

MailChimp