

HALF-YEAR REPORT 2026

JANUARY – JULY

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1. WHAT WE DO

The Primavera Charitable Foundation is a non-profit Armenian organization which was founded in 2022 and is focused specifically on supporting classical music education in Armenia and strengthening the visibility of Armenia's artists and repertoire on the world's major music platforms, both online and offline. Since its launch in 2022, the foundation has strengthened Armenia's classical music landscape through more than 90 cultural and educational events reaching nearly 10,000 people across Armenia and abroad.

Informed by the findings and results of our first two years of work (2022–2024), we designed and implemented a three-level work model and started prioritizing consistent system-wide projects over stand-alone activities. The model is comprised of the following levels:

Level 1. Direct Support: targeted support to the foundation of fellows and teachers, from career development consultancy and teaching material giveaways to direct financial support.

Level 2. Artistic Infrastructure Development: production and distribution of online and offline educational materials, organization of annual in-person classes, supplementary courses on subjects such as Intellectual Property Rights, Digital Stage Development, Career Building, as well as courses on musical disciplines, and translation and publication of books for academic music teachers.

Level 3. Globally Acknowledged Projects: projects that either bring Armenia onto the radar of the global classical music scene or bring Armenian music / music performed by Armenian artists to global audiences.

We aim to help Armenia be heard worldwide by building cultural bridges between Armenia and other nations, supporting young Armenian musicians, developing educational activities and artistic infrastructure, and organizing events to celebrate Armenian cultural heritage internationally.

The Foundation's flagship achievements include Armenia's first-ever translation and publication of Carl Flesch's landmark pedagogy book on violin playing and a recording program that brings Armenian musicians to global audiences across 95+ streaming platforms. The Foundation's Annual Chamber Music School advances ensemble training and youth music education while creating new opportunities for young musicians in Yerevan and Armenia's regions.

Maestro Vasily Petrenko's Armenian International Academy for Conductors in Yerevan brings young conductors from around the world to Armenia for intensive, in-person training with a symphony orchestra, putting the country on the international classical music map.

In partnership with Armenian national and regional institutions, such as the Yerevan Komitas State Conservatory, Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall, State Philharmonia — Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall, Kapan State College of Arts (Syunik), Ijevan Music School (Tavush), Viva Charitable Foundation, Keystone Consulting, Amaryan Charitable Foundation, as well as its international partners: record label Prima Classic (USA/Spain), Ries & Erler Musikverlag (Germany), among others, the Foundation strives to provide education, publicity, and career opportunities and support local talents and their teachers.

The Foundation's launch was officially announced on November 17, 2022, in a historic concert at the Aram Khachaturyan Concert Hall: pianist Mikhail Pletnev performed with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of the legendary maestro, People's Artist of the USSR Vladimir Fedoseyev.

Learn more on our website <https://primavera-foundation.am>.



2. JANUARY-JULY HIGHLIGHTS & FEEDBACK

2.1 ACTIVITIES OVERVIEW

	Events & Performances	Master Class Participants	Special Projects	Audience
Total	15	29	1	> 990
Armenia – Yerevan	7	23	0	> 500
Armenia – Marzes	7	6	0	> 210
Great Britain – London	1	0	1	> 280

From January to July 2026, the Primavera Charitable Foundation delivered a dynamic program of concerts, education and international collaborations that enriched Armenia's professional music ecosystem.

The Armenian edition of Carl Flesch's iconic violin teaching book *The Art of Violin Playing* (Primavera Charitable Foundation, 2025) has become the first violin teaching book in Armenian ever published in the country. Professor Irina Krasotina's *Chamber Ensemble Toolkit* (Primavera Charitable Foundation, 2025) was translated and published in Armenian, and both books have been freely available to music schools and teachers since **January**, expanding access to high-quality teaching materials in the field of classical music education.

In **February**, we organized a charity concert in London entitled *Together We Celebrate Armenian Culture & Spirit*. It saw internationally acclaimed violinist Ilya Gringolts and distinguished Armenian musicians come together to promote Armenian musical excellence and advance the Foundation's cultural and educational initiatives.

In **April-May**, the Annual Chamber Music School was held under the direction of Professor Irina Krasotina, featuring in-person master classes, workshops for teachers, gala concerts, and opportunities for young Armenian musicians to tour and perform for regional communities. This year, we also launched the first regional edition of the Chamber Music School — in Syunik marz, and one of the ensembles was invited to Yerevan.

July was marked by the 2nd Armenian International Academy for Conductors by Maestro Vasily Petrenko, bringing emerging conductors from around the world to Armenia for advanced training with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Eduard Topchjan) under the supervision of Maestro Vasily Petrenko. The Academy culminated in a gala concert with free entry at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall in Yerevan.



2.2 WHAT DID THEY SAY?

At the end of every major educational event or project, we distribute feedback forms among active participants. This consistent practice helps us maintain constructive and effective two-way communication with our participants and the project's experts and teachers. It is also a way for us to identify activities to prioritize and areas of our work that need improvement.

We carefully review all the feedback that we receive. For example, we will be searching for financial support to organize additional educational activities focused on understanding artistic career development tools since this area was highlighted by our participants as one that requires more attention.

a) The 3rd International Chamber Music School in Yerevan & 1st Chamber Music School in Kapan by Professor Irina Krasotina:



"It was a wonderful experience — both for our students and our teachers. I sincerely hope that this initiative will continue to grow and eventually become an annual tradition."

Ashot Khachatryan
Director of the Kapan State College of Arts



"It was a wonderful experience. During the master classes, we gained a great deal of valuable knowledge and skills in the field of musical performance. I would very much like to see similar projects continue, as they provide us, the residents of Kapan, with a unique opportunity to interact with internationally recognized professionals and receive invaluable knowledge firsthand."

Shahane Gasparyan
Participant of the Chamber Music School in Kapan, Syunik



"I appreciated the most the opportunity we had during the program to meet and perform together with other young musicians. I also greatly enjoyed the Professor's teaching methods, especially the way she paid attention to the nuances related to specific elements of the performed works."

Arshavir Gasparyan
Participant of the Chamber Music School in Yerevan



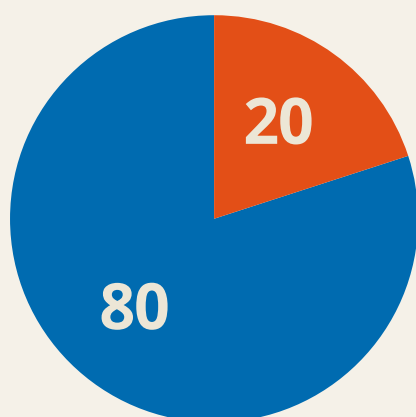
"Irina Viktorovna taught us how to properly interpret musical works and listen to each other attentively, conveying musical ideas and melodies. Thank you for bringing outstanding musicians to Armenia and giving us the opportunity to participate in their master classes."

Arusyak Arevshatyan
Participant of the Chamber Music School in Yerevan

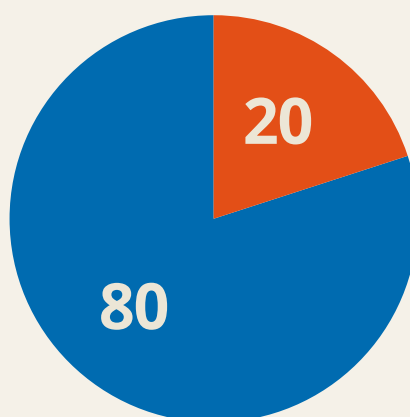
b) Feedback from Active Participants of the 2nd International Academy for Conductors by Maestro Vasily Petrenko (July 2026):

The Academy's participants expressed overall satisfaction with its organization. They commended its administration and coordination, noting that "the event was a great experience that not only helped them hone their skills but also created a supportive and inspiring environment for their growth".

1. Did the educational process of the Academy meet your expectations and professional development needs?



2. Did the administration and teamwork meet your expectations and professional needs?



● Yes, completely
● Yes, to a very high extent



"I am still deeply moved by everything I have experienced in Armenia over the past few days. The master classes were truly special not only because of everything we learned from Maestro Vasily Petrenko and the musicians of the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, but also because of the incredible atmosphere that was created among all the participants and organizers."

Bernat Quetglas
Spain



"What an unforgettable week in Yerevan — filled with music, new connections, and wonderful memories. My sincere gratitude to the Primavera Charitable Foundation for creating such an incredible opportunity for young conductors and for bringing us together in such a special atmosphere."

Ana Spasovska
North Macedonia



"What a joy it was to return to Yerevan for the third time and take part in Vasily Petrenko's 2nd Academy for Young Conductors! A big thank you to Maestro Petrenko for his kindness, generosity, valuable feedback, and guidance."

Fernando Gaggini
Argentina

2.3. ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

A. International exposure

- In partnership with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, the Primavera Charitable Foundation organized the second edition of **Vasily Petrenko's International Academy for Conductors**, bringing together six talented young conductors from around the world for an intensive training program led by Maestro Vasily Petrenko. The 2026 edition attracted over 60 applications from 22 countries, reinforcing Armenia's position as an international hub for conducting excellence. The Academy culminated in a gala concert with free entry at the Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall.
- The concert ***Together We Celebrate Armenian Culture & Spirit*** in London (UK) was organized under the auspices of the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Featuring performances by Armenian and international musicians, the evening attracted over 240 people and was filmed to ensure longer-term resonance. Maestro Vasily Petrenko attended the evening as the guest of honor.
- In partnership with the **Prima Classic** record label, Primavera launched the **Recordings & Releases for Armenian Musicians** initiative, enabling Armenian musicians to professionally record their performances in Armenia and release them on over 95 global streaming platforms. The debut single of the program was released on July 7, 2026. The other releases are scheduled for the next season. The program not only supports artists' international career development but also increases worldwide visibility of Armenian musicians and repertoire.

B. Educational and professional development

- The **Annual Chamber Music School** was organized for the 3rd year in Yerevan and for the 1st time in Kapan (Syunik), providing an intensive five-day training program led by Moscow State Conservatory Professor Irina Krasotina. The program brought together a total of 31 young musicians in 16 chamber ensembles, and was enriched through workshops for educators, repertoire guidance, and the free distribution of educational materials. Both weeks of training concluded in gala concerts. An ensemble from Kapan was invited to perform in Yerevan. Selected ensembles will be invited to become part of the **Armenian Musicians for Armenian Communities** concert program.

C. Teaching Materials

- Between January and July 2026, Primavera strengthened Armenia's music education system by distributing over **200 free copies** of the Armenian editions of Carl Flesch's iconic ***The Art of Violin Playing*** and Irina Krasotina's ***Chamber Ensemble Toolkit for Teachers*** to music school libraries, individual teachers, and performing artists across Armenia.

By making internationally acclaimed pedagogical literature widely accessible, we aim to support professional development and contribute to the long-term advancement of music education in Armenia.

D. Focus on support for Armenia's regions

- In a special effort to support Armenian marzes, this April we brought the Annual Chamber Music School to **Kapan**, providing young musicians in Syunik with an intensive educational program led by a Moscow State Conservatory professor.
- In addition, we extensively travelled to marzes to distribute copies of the Armenian editions of the iconic **Carl Flesch's *The Art of Violin Playing*** and **Irina Krasotina's *Chamber Ensemble Toolkit for Teachers & Musicians*** free of charge to music schools' libraries, music teachers, and musicians.

3. OUR TEAM & PARTNERS

- Our team expanded, welcoming Digital Marketing Associate Ms Tatevik Eligumyan.
- Among our partners and supporters were the Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland, AGBU London, Avobar (London), John Bly Antiques (UK), Jakobs Catering (London), London Visitors Hotel, the Manoukian Charitable Foundation & St Yeghiche Parish (London), Mr Sirak Chobanyan & family, Mr Grigor Melkonyan & family, Mr Artur Tovmasyan, Mr & Mrs Beatriz & Vasily Pasetchnik, Ms Lusine Danielyan, Ms Elena Yakovleva, Kapan State College of Arts, Mr Vyacheslav Simonyan, Ms Natalia Tsivilyuk, Three Ways Hotel & Restaurant, Roi du Lac & Antea Brugnoli Alliata, Mr Arshak Karakhanyan, Mr Dmitry Gudzenko, Am-aryan Charitable Foundation, Apricot Capital, Balchug Capital, Mr David Poghosyan, Mr Alexey Polyakov, the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall, Primavera Consulting (USA), Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall, record label Prima Classic (Spain/USA), Ries & Erler Musikverlag (Germany), CBonds, Keystone, Armenopole (France), and Manmarty.



The Primavera Charitable Foundation is also grateful to **Mr Bernard Nazarian**, and **Ms Nvard Stepanian**, whose winning bids at the London charity auction directly supported **Vasily Petrenko's Academy for Conductors** (2026), as well as to **Dr Nomy Ahmed**, **Mr Puzant Merdinian**, **Vardan & Taguhi**, and numerous anonymous donors whose generous individual contributions further strengthened the Primavera Charitable Foundation's programs.

For information on the previous year, please refer to the [2025 Annual Report](#).

4. SPECIAL PROJECTS

FEBRUARY: TOGETHER WE CELEBRATE ARMENIAN CULTURE & SPIRIT EVENT IN LONDON (UK)

Based on the outcomes of the program and the feedback we received from participants, audiences, and partners, we believe that our event ***Together We Celebrate Armenian Culture & Spirit*** generated the following mutual benefits:

- The program created an international platform for Armenian musicians to present their artistry and connect with wider audiences. By bringing together Armenian performers and internationally recognized artists, the project strengthened cultural dialogue and highlighted the richness of Armenia's musical heritage.
- The concert provided Armenian musicians with valuable performance experience in an international setting, allowing them to collaborate with renowned artists, perform in front of diverse audiences, and gain greater visibility within the cultural community. Such opportunities contribute to the development of artistic confidence, professional networks, and future career prospects.
- The initiative supported the preservation and promotion of Armenian cultural identity through music, demonstrating the power of classical and traditional repertoire to unite communities and create meaningful connections between Armenia and the global Armenian diaspora.



Date	Format	Audience	Terms of participation	Comments	Partners
6 February	Concert	>240	Free entrance	Venue: St. Yeghiche Armenian Church, London Performing artists: Ilya Gringolts, <i>violin</i> Ruben Kozin, <i>piano</i> Mery Musinyan, <i>qanun</i> Luys Vocal Quintet Guest of Honor: Maestro Vasily Petrenko	• Diocese of the Armenian Church of the United Kingdom and Ireland • AGBU London • Avobar • John Bly Antiques • Jakobs Catering • London Visitors Hotel • The Manoukian Charitable Foundation & St Yeghiche Parish • Mr Sirak Chobanyan & family • Mr Grigor Melkonyan & family • Mr Artur Tovmasyan • Mr & Mrs Beatriz & Vasily Pasetchnik • Ms Lusine Danielyan • Ms Elena Yakovleva Winning bidders of the charitable auction: • Mr Bernard Nazarian • Mr Vasily Pasetchnik • Ms Nvard Stepanian • Mr Grigor Melkonyan



Additional information

<https://primavera-foundation.am/en/together-we-celebrate-armenian-culture-spirit/>

APRIL–MAY: 1ST CHAMBER MUSIC SCHOOL IN KAPAN & 3RD INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER MUSIC SCHOOL IN YEREVAN BY PROFESSOR IRINA KRASOTINA

In 2026, we expanded the geography of our annual educational initiative International Chamber Music School, organizing it for the first time in one of Armenia's marzes — in Kapan, Syunik. The School was organized in collaboration with the Kapan State College of Arts. One of the ensembles from Kapan was invited to perform in Yerevan.

The project was received very warmly in Kapan and provided artists with an opportunity for professional artistic growth and teachers with methodological support. Seeing the high demand for the Kapan edition of the School, similar to that enjoyed by its counterpart in Yerevan, a decision was made to make it an annual initiative as well.



A. Young musicians from Armenia received intensive daily in-person training in chamber music performance from Professor Irina Krasotina, strengthening their ensemble skills, stage collaboration, and professional performance experience.

- The program reinforced the importance of chamber ensemble practice as one of the most important pillars of professional growth and artistic development as it promotes collaboration, trust, and musical communication and fosters long-term artistic relationships.

Ensemble music plays a vital role in an artist's development: it provides a safe and collaborative space for musicians to enhance their skills, explore chamber repertoire for future collaborations, and prepare for a potential career as a chamber musician.

B. The gala concert at the Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall in Yerevan and at the Organ Hall of the Kapan State College of Arts in Kapan provided participants with real stage experience, enabling eleven ensembles in Yerevan and four in Kapan to present diverse repertoire.



Date	Place	Audience	Terms of participation	Comments	Supporters
April 28–May 2	Kapan State College of Arts	>140	Free	4 ensembles with 8 participants in total Special guest at the Gala concert: Ruben Kozin, piano Partner: Kapan State College of Arts	Kapan • Kapan State College of Arts • Three Ways Hotel & Restaurant
May 5–9	Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall	>130	Free	12 ensembles with 24 participants in total Partner: State Philharmonia of Armenia / Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall	Yerevan • Arno Babajanyan Concert Hall • Mr Vyacheslav Simonyan • Ms Natalia Tsivilyuk



Additional information

<https://primavera-foundation.am/en/chamber-music-school-by-irina-krasotina-2026/>



Media coverage:

[Syunik TV](#), [Armenian Public Radio](#), [Armenian National Music](#), [Golos Armenii](#)

JUNE: MAESTRO VASILY PETRENKO'S 2ND ARMENIAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY FOR YOUNG CONDUCTORS

The week-long Academy in Yerevan led by Maestro Vasily Petrenko combines working sessions with an orchestra, individual consultations, a workshop by Maestro Petrenko entitled *The Secrets of a Conductor's Job Beyond Music*, and a closing gala concert with free entry. This year, the project provided emerging conductors from North Macedonia, Spain, Argentina, France, Germany, and Russia with intensive training focused on developing professional skills and mastering the repertoire. It was comprised of daily working sessions with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Eduard Topchjan).

- During five-day mentorship program and orchestral working sessions, with Maestro Petrenko, Participants developed their conducting technique, refined their musical interpretation skills, and gained valuable insights into the role of a conductor.
- Collaboration with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra created a unique opportunity for young conductors to work with a professional orchestra, receive direct feedback from Maestro Petrenko, and communicate with experienced orchestra musicians.
- Through the leadership of a world-renowned conductor, collaboration with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra, and a sightseeing program that showcased Armenia's cultural heritage, the Academy successfully enhanced the visibility of Armenia's classical music scene and demonstrated the country's potential in hosting high-level international artistic initiatives.
- The positive response from the audience confirmed the demand for long-term cultural initiatives in the region and the need for continuation of the project: *"I would like to thank the organizers, the orchestra and Maestro Vasily Petrenko for this wonderful initiative! I'm looking forward to the next edition of the Academy in two years and I hope that conductors from Armenia will be more present next time. This was an amazing evening!"* — Noka Petrossyan, gala concert guest.



Date	Format	Audience	Terms of participation	Comments	Partners
June 23–26 & 28	Educational Academy	>350	Participation fee for Active Participants, free for audience	Applications received from 22 countries worldwide Active participants: 6 Ana Spasovska (North Macedonia) Bernat Quetglas (Spain) Fabian Grunkorn (Germany) Fernando Gaggini (Argentina) Ivan Shinkarev (Russia) Jeanne Cousin (France)	Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra (Artistic Director and Principal Conductor Eduard Topchjan) Aram Khachaturian Concert Hall



Additional information

<https://primavera-foundation.am/en/vasily-petrenko-academy-for-conductors-2026/#photoreportage>



As part of Vasily Petrenko's International Academy for Young Conductors, on June 28th we organized a special educational workshop led by Maestro Petrenko entitled *The Secrets of a Conductor's Job Beyond Music*. The workshop provided young conductors and music professionals with a unique opportunity to explore the broader aspects of a conductor's role, including leadership, communication, rehearsal techniques, and artistic decision-making.

The session was highly interactive, with Academy participants actively engaging in discussions and asking questions. The audience also had an opportunity to address Maestro Petrenko directly. Provided free of charge, the workshop opened access to valuable professional knowledge and experience, allowing a wider community of musicians, students, and classical music enthusiasts to benefit from Maestro Petrenko's expertise.

Date	Format	Audience	Terms of participation	Comments
June 28	Q&A Session	>15	Free upon registration	In collaboration with the Armenian National Philharmonic Orchestra



Media coverage:

[Orchestra Plan.com](#), [Conducting Master Classes.com](#), [Planet Hugill.com](#), [Arm Radio](#), [Golos Armenii](#), [Armenpress](#), [FreeNews](#)