

Narine Zakaryan was born in Byureghavan in the Kotayk Region of Armenia. Both her parents were teachers in the Byureghavan school system. She studied kanon and piano while attending elementary and high school. In 1989 graduating from Arno Babajanian school of Music she was accepted at Komitas Conservatory which she completed with honors in 1993. During her student years at conservatory she had the opportunity to perform in numerous concerts in Armenia and Europe with her department head, renowned composer Khachatur Avetisyan.

Ms Zakaryan went back to Kotayk in 1998 to join the Traditional Instruments Ensemble of Kotayk Youth Dance Group as the director of composition and arrangements and traveled with the group in Armenia, Artsakh and Europe (Italy, France, Netherlands and Greece). In 2005 she joined the National Orchestra of Traditional Instruments, under the direction of Prof. Norayr Davtyan, while teaching at Byureghavan Music School.

In 2007 she joined the Sayat Nova School of Music as head of department of Traditional Instruments and kanon instructor

One of the oldest music schools in Armenia, **Sayat Nova School of Music** started as a small music studio in Yerevan, in 1934 with the efforts of Varduhi Zaqaryan who became the schools first Director. Six years later, in 1940, the studio had grown into the third largest music school in Yerevan, with over 200 students.

In 1944, ten years after its founding, the school took the name of the greatest Armenian poet-composer, Sayat Nova. In the next few years, a string ensemble and a department of wind instruments were added. These were followed by the introduction of music composition curriculum headed by composers Edgar Hovhannisyan, A. Satyan and others. The school choir and the violin ensemble started performing in 1970, conducted by such musicians as Emma Arzumanyan, Hovhannes Veranyan, Artur Veranyan, Maria Galstyan and others.

For over 65 years Sayat Nova School of Music has produced 5000 graduates including celebrated musicians, artists, laureates of international contests such as Yuri Davtyan, Svetlana Navasardyan, Barsegh Tumanyan, Hasmik Papyan, Tigran Hekekyan, Sergey Babayan, Susanna Martirosyan, Karine Ohanyan, Konstantin Petrossian, Emin Aristakesyan, Vardan Achemyan, Yuri Galstyan, Svetlana Aleksanyan, Davit Azaryan, Ruben Matevosyan, Raisa Mkrtchyan, and conductors Harutyun Arzumanyan and Eduard Topchyan.

Since 2003 Professor Tigran Hekekyan has served as the school's head master. Under his leadership Sayat Nova School of Music has grown and expanded its performing ensembles and choirs. Today with over 500 students, the school has a functioning symphonic ensemble, violinist's ensemble, ensemble of traditional instruments, percussion ensemble, and choirs of secondary, intermediate and high school levels under the direction of Ruben Asatryan; and departments of piano, string, traditional, wind, and percussion instruments under the direction of Narine Zaqaryan