



The Armenian Weekly

VOLUME 75 | NUMBER 15

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009

PRICE: \$1.25

Piano Concert by Zabelle Hartounian Chali



Photo by Karoun Chrkoudian

On a cold and rainy evening in February, folks found warmth and camaraderie at the home of Peter Bilezikian of Newtonville, MA. Smiling faces entered the living room, greeting Peter with hugs and kisses. They had come to hear a piano concert by once well known west coast concert pianist Zabelle Hartounian Chalian, Peter's first cousin of 92 years. Best friend and 1st cousin Peter, born in Marash, Turkey, met Zabelle in Newtonville, when he first arrived in the United States in 1921 having survived the Armenian Genocide of 1915.

The Thursday soiree sponsored by Amaras Arts Alliance welcomed an audience numbering upwards of 30 people ages 9 to 96, who heard compositions played on a Steinway piano, among them a Chopin Nocturne, a movement from the Beethoven Appassionata Sonata, and two unpublished pieces composed by Zabelle Chalian herself. The audience expressed its admiration for Zabelle's music with a standing ovation.

Cass Flowers and Amaras Arts Alliance presented Zabelle with large bouquets of flower. Visiting for three weeks, 92 year old Zabelle Hartounian Chalian returns home at the end of February, hopefully to prepare for another piano concert for her admirers in her now hometown of Arvata Colorado. Zapaharoutioun, Zabelle!