



## **BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2017**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Friday 9 June 2017**

## Albania

What do you know about Butrint?

### Butrint

Inhabited since prehistoric times, Butrint has been the site of a Greek colony, a Roman city and a bishopric. Following a period of prosperity under Byzantine administration, then a brief occupation by the Venetians, the city was abandoned in the late Middle Ages after marshes formed in the area. The present archaeological site is a repository of ruins representing each period in the city's development. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

**#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Monuments #Albania**



## Armenia

What do you know about the author Raffi?

### Hakob Melik Hakobian

Best known by his pen name Raffi, Hakobyan was a leading figure in Armenian literature of 19<sup>th</sup> century. He wrote historical novels, ethnographic essays and poems. In many of his works the patriotic spirit was very apparent. One of his greatest books is *The Princedoms of Khamsa*. He was buried in the Pantheon of Armenian Writers and Public Leaders. His works has been translated in many languages.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Literature #Armenia



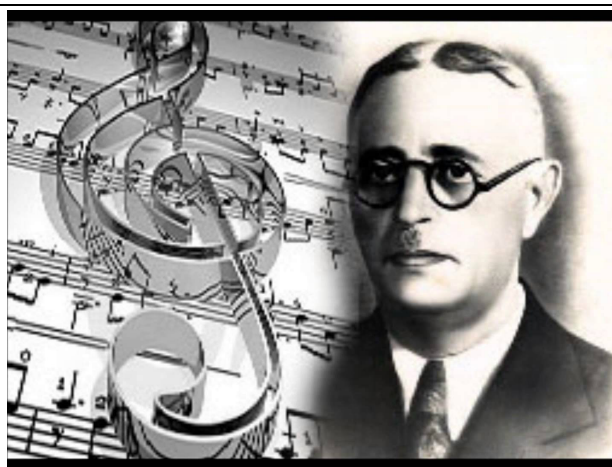
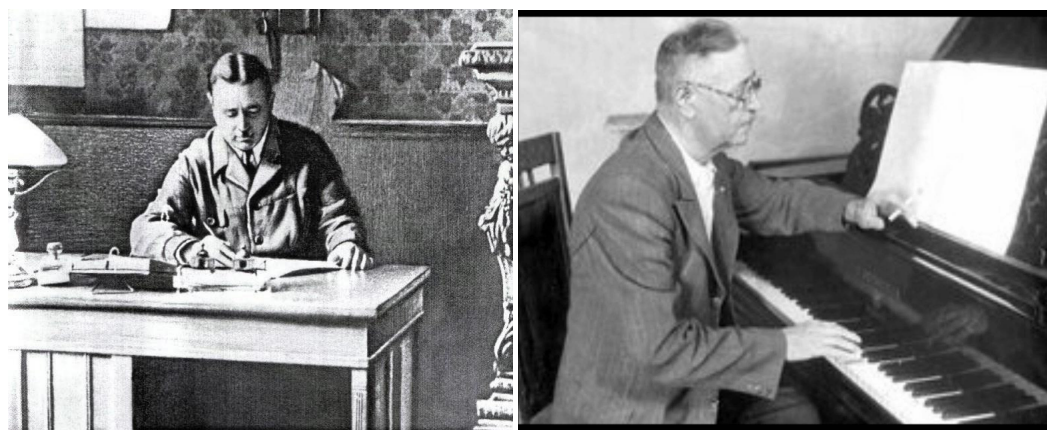
## Azerbaijan

Who composed the national anthem of Azerbaijan?

Uzeyir Hajibeyov

Uzeyir Hajibeyov, born in 1885 and died in 1948, was an Azerbaijani composer, conductor, publicist, playwright, teacher, translator, and social figure from Azerbaijan. Uzeyir Hajibeyov composed the music of the national anthem of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. In 1908, Hajibeyov wrote his first opera, *Leyli and Majnun*. His second opera *Sheikh Sanan* was written in 1909. Hajibeyov's operas *Rustam and Sohrab* (1910), *Asli and Karam* (1912), *Shah Abbas and Khurshid Banu* (1912), and *Harun and Leyli* (1915) were entirely based on Azeri folk music elements. One of Hajibeyov's greatest legacies was bringing forward the idea of establishing a professional music school. September 18 is celebrated as "Uzeyir Music Day".

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Music #Azerbaijan





## Bulgaria

Have you ever attend the International Film Festival of Sofia?

### Sofia International Film Festival

Sofia International Film Festival is a major cinema event held annually since 1997. The festival started as a thematic music film festival and went through 18 previous editions to become the cinema event of the year, bringing the current world cinema trends to the domestic viewers in Bulgaria and the latest in Bulgarian cinema to the rest of the world. This year the festival was held from 9th until 31st March 2017.

#BSEC25 #CultureBSEC #Cinema #Bulgaria



*Interested in learning more about the fascinating culture of the BSEC Member States?*

Join the BSEC Month of Culture, organised by the ICBSS from 1-30 June 2017 and learn about the remarkable and rich cultural heritage of the BSEC region.

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*About the BSEC Month of Culture:*

On the occasion of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the BSEC Organisation, the ICBSS is launching a new initiative, the “BSEC Month of Culture”, a month long programme of cultural highlights from the 12 BSEC Member States (Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Greece, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Turkey, Ukraine).

Being aware of the rich, diverse cultural heritage of the BSEC region, the ICBSS will launch the “BSEC Month of Culture”, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017, with the aim to promote the cultural identity of the region and enhance its visibility to the wider public.

The programme will feature online tributes on literature, music, cinema, archaeological sites and gastronomy, including short videos and photos.

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**About the ICBSS:** The International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS) was founded in 1998 as a non-profit organisation. It has since fulfilled a dual function. On the one hand, it is an independent research and training institution focusing on the wider Black Sea region. On the other hand, it is a related body of the Organisation of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC) and serves as its acknowledged think-tank. Thus, the ICBSS pursues applied, policy-oriented research, promotes knowledge on the Black Sea region both within and outside its boundaries, and offers policy advice with the aim to foster multilateral cooperation among the BSEC member states as well as with their international partners.

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