



## **BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2018**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Friday 2 November 2018**

## Georgia

Our second day of the Black Sea region Month of Culture will start with the breathtaking views of the Upper Svaneti, UNESCO World Heritage Site located in #Georgia.

The mountain landscape of the region has been preserved for centuries due to its long-lasting geographical isolation. Svaneti is also a home both to Mt. Shkhara (5068 m), the highest mountain in Georgia, and Ushguli village, the highest permanent settlement in Europe, built at an astonishing 2400 m above sea-level. Mystique tower-houses, which one can see all over #Svaneti, were constructed back in medieval times and were used both as dwellings and as defence posts.

#MoC2018 #CultureBSEC #ICBSS20 #blacksea #monuments #Georgia



*Photo: Courtesy of the Georgian National Tourism Administration, Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development of Georgia*

## Ukraine

DakhaBrakha is a world-music band from #Kyiv that is now famous both in #Ukraine and abroad. At the crossroads of Ukrainian folklore and theatre their musical spectrum unites contemporary rhythms with fundamental elements of sound and soul. Even the name of the band serves as the bridge between present and past, as 'DakhaBrakha' means «give/take» in the old Ukrainian language. Accompanied by Indian, Arabic, African, Russian and Australian traditional instrumentation, the quartet's astonishingly powerful and uncompromising vocal range creates a trans-national sound rooted in Ukrainian culture.

Watch the latest DakhaBrakha video 'Monk' filmed in the capital of #Ukraine:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFJ717atqaw>

#MoC2018 #ICBSS20 #CultureBSEC #blacksea #music #Ukraine



Photos: [www.dakhabrakha.com.ua](http://www.dakhabrakha.com.ua)

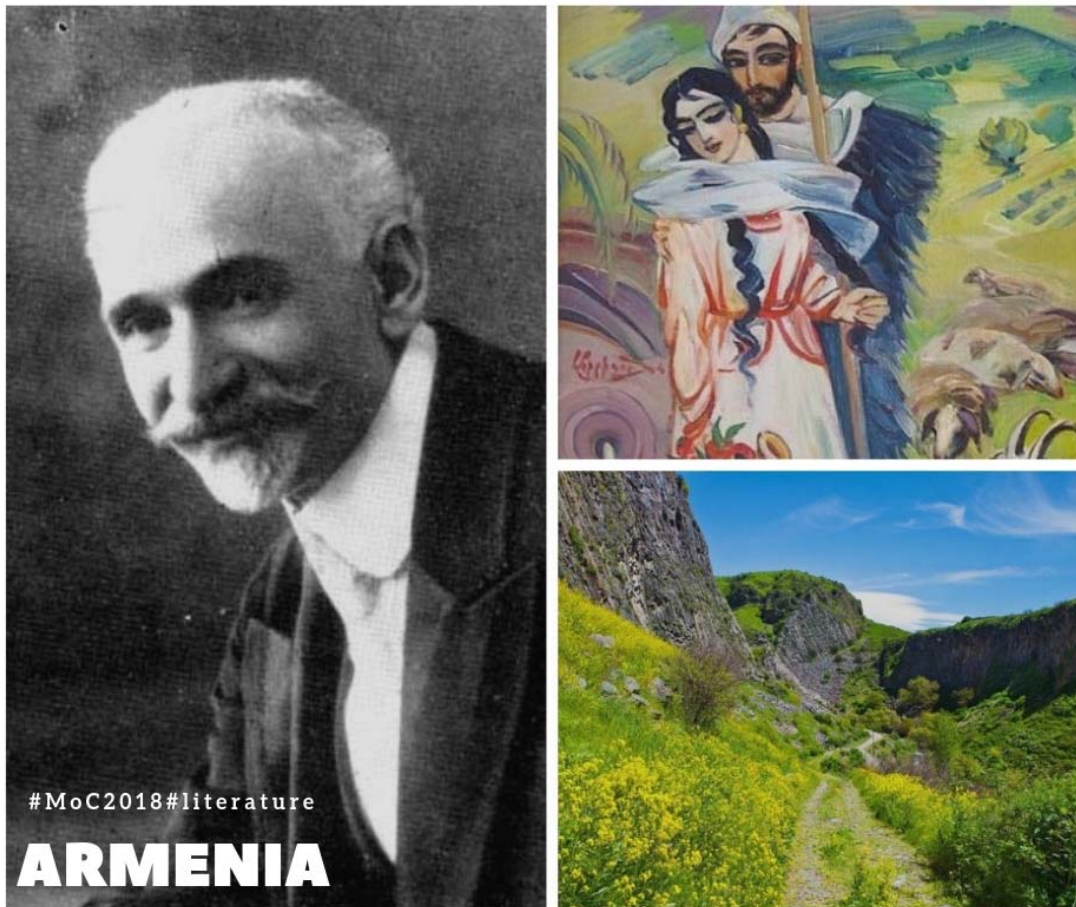
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## Armenia

Hovhannes Thumanian, a “poet of all Armenians”, was born in 1869 in the little village of Dsegh in the Lori Province of #Armenia. He started writing his first poems as early as at the age of 11 and became famous immediately after the first book was published in 1890, when the poet was just 21. The unique manner of Thumanian was in his ability to find inspiration in the daily life of Armenians, thus he accurately transferred the traits of the national character, beauty and variety of feelings of the everyday folk life. The most prominent poem of Hovhannes Thumanian is called ‘Anush’. This masterpiece describes the tragic love of a beautiful girl called Anush with a young shepherd called Saro. It has also become an opera, first introduced to the public in 1912.

#MoC2018 #ICBSS20 #CultureBSEC #blacksea #literature #Armenia



*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 November 2018 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 20th Anniversary of the International Centre for Black Sea Studies, the ICBSS is launching the 2nd “**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 launches the 2nd “BSEC Month of Culture”**, from **1<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> November 2018**, 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, theatre & performance art, painting/sculpting, monuments* 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.

**For further information** please contact us at email [icbss@icbss.org](mailto:icbss@icbss.org) or tel.: 210 3242321

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