



BSEC MONTH OF CULTURE 2019

PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday 26 November 2019

ARMENIA

2019 marks the 150th anniversary of the birth of two significant Armenian scholars.

Hovhannes Tumanyan (born 19 February 1869), was called the “pan-Armenian poet” due to his work, which depicts the life and the history of Armenia. “Anush”, often called the pinnacle of Tumanyan’s poetry, tells about the tragic love of a young shepherd boy (Saro) for a girl (Anush).

Komitas (Sghomon Sghomonian) (born 8 October 1869) was an Armenian priest, musicologist, composer, singer, who created the basis for a distinctive Armenian music style. Komitas was the most important collector of Armenian folk songs, and his exact and detailed researches established Armenian musicology on a scientific basis.

#CultureBSEC #MoC2019 #ICBSS #BlackSea #Armenia #Poetry #Music



Info at: <http://www.armenianhouse.org/tumanyan/bio-en.html> and
<https://www.britannica.com/biography/Komitas>

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BULGARIA

The Bistritsa Babi band is a traditional group of elderly women from the Shoplouk region of Bulgaria.

They carry on the traditional dances and polyphonic singing which includes diaphony, ancient forms of the horo chain dance and the ritual practice of lazarouane, an initiation ceremony for young women.

In 2008, the group was inscribed on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity #UNESCO.

#CultureBSEC #MoC2019 #ICBSS #BlackSea #Bulgaria #Music



Info at: <https://ich.unesco.org/en/RL/bistritsa-babi-archaic-polyphony-dances-and-rituals-from-the-shoplouk-region-00095>

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GEORGIA

The Georgian Cinema emerged early in the 20th Century; the first movie was made in 1912.

The past decade, and after spending a lengthy period of creative standstill, Georgian filmography has returned with two films short-listed for an Oscar, one of which also up for a Golden Globe.

#CultureBSEC #MoC2019 #BlackSea #ICBSS #Georgia #Cinema



Info at: <https://www.advantour.com/georgia/culture/cinema.htm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jacVXsA-CMs>

RUSSIA

Have you ever heard about the tradition of the Russian puppet theatre?

The earliest Russian puppets originated back to the 15th century, probably animated by the skomorokhi (travelling players), were discovered in Moscow's Red Square by archaeologists.

The first professional puppet theatre appeared in the reign of Peter the Great (1672-1725). Fyodor Volkov (1729-1763), founded his own puppet theatre and is considered as Russia's first professional actor.

#Petrushka, a comic hero, is the protagonist of the traditional Russian puppet theatre whose name is used generally to denote glove puppets.

Currently, there are a number of museums about the puppet arts in Russia.

#CultureBSEC #MoC2019 #ICBSS #Russia #Theatre



Info at: <https://wepa.unima.org/en/russia/>

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**Join the BSEC Month of Culture, organised by the ICBSS from 1-30 November 2019
and learn about the remarkable and rich cultural heritage of the BSEC region.**

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About the BSEC Month of Culture:

Being aware of the rich, diverse cultural heritage of the BSEC region, the **International Centre for Black Sea Studies (ICBSS)** launched the **BSEC Month of Culture (MoC)**, in 2017, with the aim to promote the cultural identity of the Black Sea region and enhance its visibility to the wider public.

The MoC is a month long programme of diverse cultural activities related to the rich cultural heritage of the 12 BSEC Member States. Our aspiration is to establish the 'BSEC Month of Culture' as an annual event that will include more cultural activities each year.

The 1st edition of the BSEC Month of Culture was held successfully on 1-30 June 2017, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the BSEC Organisation. The 2nd edition of the BSEC Month of Culture was launched from 1 to 30 November 2018, on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of ICBSS.

The 3rd Edition of the BSEC Month of Culture will be launched from 1 to 30 November 2019.

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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 or tel.: 210 3242321

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