



## Narek Arutyunian, *clarinetist*



### Narek Arutyunian Shines in New York

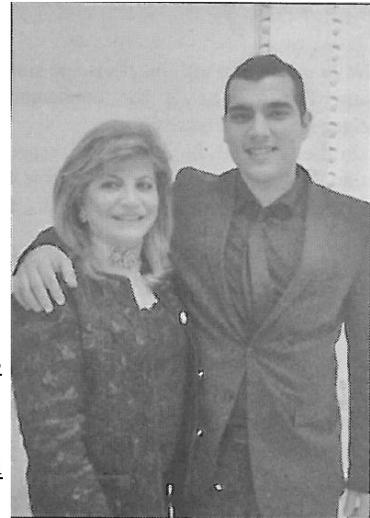
The Armenian Mirror Spectator

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Earlier this April, Armenian clarinetist Narek Arutyunian gave an audience at The Morgan Library and Museum in New York City a great treat. This astoundingly exciting noon-time recital, presented by Young Concert Artists, was sponsored by Annie Totah and Irene Roth of Washington, DC.

Though he is only twenty, the young clarinetist is a consummate musician and confident performer. There was an undeniable energy in the air the moment Arutyunian walked on stage. From the first phrase, it was clear that Arutyunian performs with charm, flair and sensitivity. Every gesture was expressive and poised; every note was rich and smooth. The concert was bound to be exceptional.

The first two pieces were Leonard Bernstein's Sonata for Clarinet and Piano and Brahms's Sonata No. 1 in F minor, Op. 120. Arutyunian, along with his accompanist Solon Gordon, played them with verve and passion.



Annie Totah and Narek Arutyunian

The second half of the program allowed Arutyunian to really let loose and show the audience his technical prowess. Marius Constant's For Clarinet (solo) was performed with infectious energy. Arutyunian alternated between the higher and lower registers of the instruments with ease, allowing a potentially uneven piece to grip one's attention from beginning to end.

Paul Schoenfield's Sonatina for Klezmer Clarinet and Piano, the final piece on the program, proved a crowd favorite, a funky blend of Old World and New. The audience wasn't ready for the recital to end, and neither was Arutyunian. In a strong voice, Narek announced that he would perform an encore by Adolf Shreiner, entitled Always Smaller. An utterly charming bon-bon, the piece had Arutyunian disassembling his instrument bit by bit, proudly displaying each removed section of the clarinet to the audience until finally he played only on the bare reed. It brought down the house - the perfect way to end an outstanding recital.

A special luncheon with the musicians and the sponsors followed the recital where Narek was warmly toasted by Annie Totah.