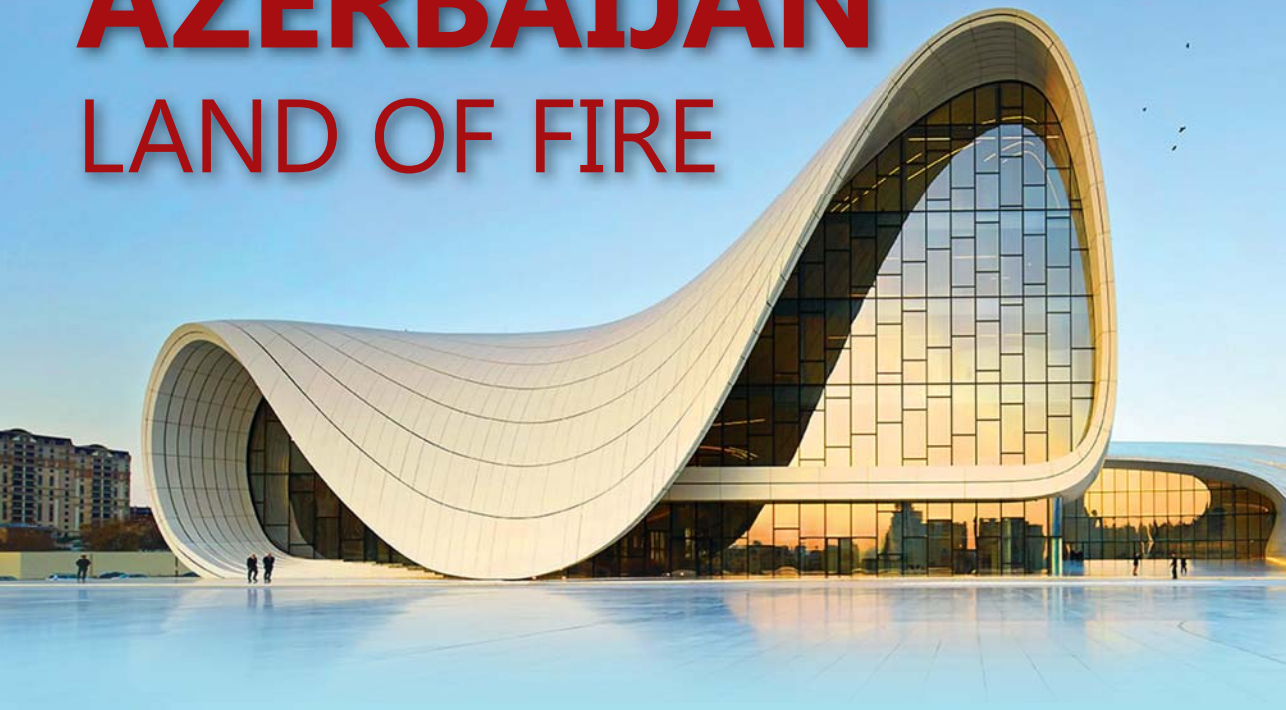


AZERBAIJAN LAND OF FIRE



This part of our magazine is dedicated to our homeland-Azerbaijan. It is natural that we touch upon this issue in our magazine. It is just not only because it is our homeland but also because this area is one of the marvelous places of the world. We do not make mistake when we refer this expression to Azerbaijan. This land is really one of the marvelous places of the world with its underground and above-ground natural resources; famous forests with its rich fauna and flora; pure, therapeutic springs and fresh air which gives extra life to people. We will prove it to our readers in each issue of our magazine. There is a quote among people: "Azerbaijani stands at the end of the queue and takes the best place when God shares areas of the earth among nations."



History of Azerbaijan that based on the Guruchay culture (1,5 million years ago) takes 3rd place for its antiquity. Findings in the cave “Azikh” proves it.

There were different khanates, sultanates and states in the territory of Azerbaijan during large time frame. Tribal states, Aratta, Kuti, Lullubi, Manna, Athropatena, Albania, Shirvanshahlar, Girdiman, Saji, Salari, Revvadi, Sheddadi, Eldeniz-Atabeg, Jalali, Garagoyunlu, Aggoyunlu, Safavid states, Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, Azerbaijan USSR, and Republic of Azerbaijan. All of these prove that history of our statehood goes back to ancient eras. We did not build up our state in others’ territories and this land is a legacy of our ancestors for us. Unfortuna-

tely, our leaders were not able to unify tribes and khanates and build up united and eternal independent state though they made repeatedly effort to do it. Only in 20th century we achieved our independence which is the greatest wealth of our nation. Great states periodically try to misappropriate the territories of Azerbaijan and it has been under occupation for long years.

There are 9 climatic zones in Azerbaijan. Rare tree species, animals, various plants grow up in our country. For instance, *Pinus eldarica* (known as Eldar shami in Azerbaijan) is the only tree specie that does not sink in water. This tree can be used in surgery as well. Azerbaijan’s natural resources- oil, gold, mineral waters are famous all over the world. Azerbaijan is known as an oil country in the world. Such natural resource is not granted to any nation. Azerbaijan was called “land of fire” for its natural gas and oil even before Christ. For the first time since 1847 production of oil from wells mechanically drilled had been applied in Azerbaijan. In 1901, 11 million ton oil was produced in Azerbaijan and it covered more than 50% of world oil production. The mankind thanks to Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan’s oil for the victory on fascism in World War Two. Unfortunately, Baku has not been called as “Hero-city” by international organizations yet. This is the desire of each of us.

Azerbaijan is famous with its music, literature as well. It is natural that this country is famous for its music and culture because it has beautiful nature. We should not forget Uzeyir Hadjibeyov, Gara Garayev, Tofig Guliyev in our music, Nizami, Fuzuli, Nasimi, Khatai in our literature, Settar Bahluzade, Tahir Salahov in our art when we bow in front of world music geniuses-Bakh,



Chopin, Shubert, Rakhmaninov, Tchaikovsky; world literature geniuses- Shakespeare, London, Goethe, Drayzer, Servantes, Jul Vern, Pushkin, Tolstoy and so on; world art geniuses – L. Da Vinci, Michel Angelo, Picasso etc; world science geniuses– Isaac Newton, Pascal, Mendeleyev etc.

In 2003 mugam (music) and in 2009 ashug music was included to the Representative list on non-material cultural heritage of UNESCO as the result of activities of Mehriban Aliyeva, first lady of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Goodwill Ambassador of UNESCO and ISESCO, deputy of Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the direction of protection of mugam and ashug music.

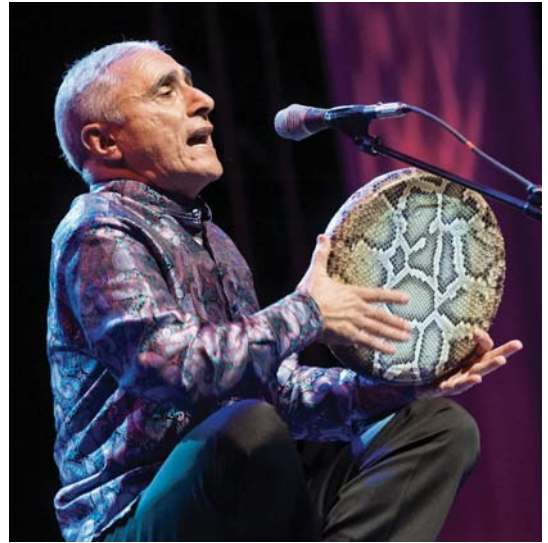
Mugam music – is a music genre which has strong psychological-emotional influence on the musical activities by widely spreading in welfare of nations situated in Eastern, Asian and several European territories. It is natural that people of Azerbaijan, Turkey, Iran, Arabic countries, Uzbekistan and other nations claim that mugam is

their own music. However there are some mugams that they belong to only Azerbaijan. It is worth to note that 7 of basic world music modes take place in our mugam. It means that music composed on these modes can be accompanied by mugam. For instance, famous “Tocatta and Fugue in D minor” of Bach was composed on famous Azerbaijani mugam “Bayati Shiraz”. Everyone listening to both musics can feel the similarity.

Ashug music is widely spread among Turkish nations and still keeps its leading position in musical activity of these nations. This proves that historical origin of mugam music closely links to origin of Turkish tribes.

It should be noted that first opera in East (“Leyli and Majnun”, 1908) was composed by great Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyov and first woman opera (“Gelin gayasi”, 1971) composer in East is Shefige Akhundova.

When we talk about literature of Azerbaijan it should be noted that “Leyli and Majnun” which



is considered similar to “Romeo and Juliette” of Shakespeare was written 4 centuries before by genius Nizami.

Science. There is a probability based on scientific facts that specialists working in observatory of N.Tusi was aware of a continent called later as America in western hemisphere before Columbus.

Azerbaijani carpets are divided into 7 carpet-weaving schools for geographical position, for their composition, color, carving and technical features: Guba, Absheron, Shirvan, Ganja, Gazakh, Garabag, Tebriz schools. Even Herodotus,

Claudius Elian, Csenofont and other ancient world historians reported about development of carpet-making in Azerbaijan. Carpet-making was developed during Sassanian era (III-VII) in Azerbaijan; carpets were crocheted by silky, gold and silver threads. In XIII – XIV centuries carpets and were exported from Azerbaijan to foreign countries. These carpets which attracted people’s attention with their delicate ornaments, exquisite carvings were reflected on artifacts and miniatures of famous European artists. In XV century artists of Netherland Hans Memling’s painting “Holy Mary with her baby” reflects the Shirvan’s carpet, Jan Van Eyck’s picture “Holy Mary” reflects “Carpet of Zeyve” and on German artist Hans Holbein’s painting “(XV century) “The Ambassadors” was reflected “Carpet of Gazakh”. Azerbaijani carpet will be included to the list of non-material cultural heritage of UNESCO in the near future.

In conclusion we would like to emphasize that only one part of the magazine is not enough to describe Azerbaijan completely. This article can be considered just an introduction of a big report about Azerbaijan.

Ülkər Mirzəyeva