

# State Ensemble of Georgian Folk Song

## Basiani



Artistic Director: Giorgi Donadze  
„Stole the main show at Lincoln Center“ -The New York Times

Georgian Folk Song Ensemble Basiani was created in 2000 at the Georgian Patriarchy. Later, in 2013 Basiani was conferred the status of State Ensemble of Georgia. Since the day of its inception Basiani actively popularizes Georgian traditional polyphony - revives a large number of traditional music samples, holds concerts and organizes expeditions to different regions of Georgia, participates in many internationally acclaimed festivals and events and performs around the world, leads masterclasses and workshops, releases CDs (till this day Basiani has released up to 300 folk songs and chants. The albums are spread worldwide and also available online).

The Ensemble's successful performances have repeatedly been mentioned in various international media, where Georgian Polyphony is considered as "the sound from Heaven" and performances of Basiani as "an otherworldly mesmerizing performance"! Here are some quotes:

"But it was the male Ensemble Basiani from the Republic of Georgia, singing two sets of Georgian polyphony descended from an ancient tradition that stole the main show at Tully (Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall) against strong competition!" - The New York Times (2010)

"Stepping into formation, the men abruptly began singing in bright, crisp voices. With minimal vibrato and a strong semblance to three-voiced polyphonic folk music, Ensemble Basiani completed five songs before the intermission, each markedly different from the last. Singing, chanting and yodeling, the members rearranged themselves onstage before every song, each of which exposed a different facet to the polyphonic texture." - The Wall Street Journal (2010)

"However, that superficial concept was blown out of the water as this troupe of 12 men with strong voices and amazing lung capacity launched into a near psychedelic groove of unusual harmonies, rhythmic intensity and sheer beauty. Singing without accompaniment... Ensemble Basiani flawlessly illustrated the diversity of the rich polyphonic vocal tradition of Georgia. In fact, scholars now propose that true polyphony, the weaving of many voices or melodic lines, was first sung in this region before spreading across Europe." - Herald-Tribune (2012)

"Music from the Republic of Georgia is instantly recognizable - there's nothing like it anywhere in the world... Much of the material in their (Basiani's) repertoires dates back hundreds, maybe thousands of years, yet those harmonies are so strangely sophisticated that they're avant garde: music that old suddenly becomes new again." - New York Music Daily (2016)

Background  
important concerts:

- Concertgebouw (Amsterdam) - 2007
- Auditorio Nacional de Musica (Madrid) - 2008
- Aldeburgh Music Festival since 1968 (EN) - 2009
- Gulbekian Concert Hall (Lisbon) - joint concert with Georgian pianist Aleksandre Toradze - 2009
- Lincoln Center's Mostly Mozart Festival, Alice Tully Hall (NY) - 2010
- Festival "Autumn Tbilisi" at Jansug Kakhidze Music and Culture Center (Georgia) - 2011, 2015
- Lincoln Center's White Light Festival, Church of St. Mary the Virgin (NY) - 2012
- Historic Asolo Theater, Ringling International Arts Festival (FL, US) - 2012
- Crannert Center For Performing Arts (IL, US) - 2012, 2016

- Saint-Petersburg Philharmonic Hall - 2013
- Kilkenny Arts Festival (Ireland) - 2014
- Foundation Juan March (Madrid) - 2015
- Grand concert hall "Oktiabersy" (Saint-Petersburg) - 2015, 2016, 2017
- Stanford Live's Bing Concert Hall (CA, US) - 2016
- The Town Hall (NY) - 2016
- Cal Performances (CA, US) - 2016
- The Broad Stage (LA Santa Monica, Ca) - 2016
- Williams Center For the Arts (PA, US) - 2016
- Texas Performing Arts, University of Texas (Austin, US) - 2016
- Konzerthaus Berlin - 2017
- Conservatory of Music of China, Beijing - 2017
- International Music Symposium "Belt and Road" at Shenyang Conservatory of Music, China - 2018
- Kazan Philharmony (Russia) - 2018
- UNESCO head office (Paris) - 2018
- Portogruaro Music Festival (Portogruaro-Venezia) - 2018
- Frankfurt radio "hr2kultur" - 2018
- Solemn opening of the exhibition "Georgia - homeland of wine" - Tokyo, Japan - 2019

editions:

- CD album - 2000
- CD album - 2005
- Special CD released by Ocora Radio France - 2012
- 4 CD album with 102 songs and chants - 2013
- 2 CD album with 50 songs and chants - 2016
- Special CD released by Georgian Composer Giya Kancheli to spread on Frankfurt book fair - 2018

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<https://www.facebook.com/Basiani/>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/BasianiEnsemble>