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Georgian, Ukrainian and Moldovan PMs Hold High-Level Meetings in Brussels

BY KHATIA BZHALAVA

A Georgian delegation led by Prime Minister Irakli Gharibashvili held a top-level meeting in Brussels yesterday. Within the framework of the visit, Gharibashvili together with his Ukrainian and Moldovan counterparts, Denys Shmyhal and Natalia Gavrilita met with European Council President Charles Michel, European Com-

a working dinner yesterday, where the sides discussed the important directions in terms of deeper cooperation between the three countries and the EU. It was also stressed that the upcoming Eastern Partnership Summit should offer the partner states new opportunities on the path toward further EU integration.

According to the Government Administration of Georgia, PM



President of the European Council Charles Michel hosted a working dinner in honor of Irakli Gharibashvili, Denys Shmyhal, and Natalia Gavrilita yesterday.



The PMs of the Associated Trio met with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen.

mission President Ursula von der Leyen, and European Parliament President David Sassoli. The PMs of the Associated Trio (Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova) discussed the key directions and expectations for the upcoming December 15 Eastern Partnership Summit. They expressed their desire to have access to the common EU economic space, also intensifying sectoral cooperation, to ensure the physical integration of the Associated Trio Countries into the EU.

"Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova are united by European aspirations and shared values to advance political, economic, and sectoral integration with the EU," Gharibashvili said.

The Associated Trio was hosted by President of the European Council Charles Michel at

Garibashvili underlined the country's goal to apply for full EU membership in 2024. According to him, the summit's final declaration needs to reflect Georgia's European choice and European aspirations, also firm support for the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity. He also noted that one of the priority directions for Georgia is transport and communications ties to the EU.

Georgian, Ukrainian, and Moldovan PMs also met with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen. The parties discussed sectoral integration implying bringing various sectoral policies closer to EU standards and norms, especially in the fields of environmental protection and climate, digital transformation, transport,

and energy. According to the government's press service, the Associated Trio proposed to the European Commission President to organize regular ministerial meetings between the sectoral institutions of the three countries, with participation from European Commissioners.

As part of their visit to Brussels, the PMs also met with President of the European Parliament David-Maria Sassoli and emphasized the role of the European Parliament's support for the establishment of the Associated Trio format. Sassoli stated that European Parliament will continue supporting the partner countries on the path to European Integration and in the process of implementing democratic and economic reforms. The meeting focused on the countries' common challenges such as occupation, and hybrid threats.



Prime Ministers of Georgia, Ukraine, and Moldova and President of the European Parliament David-Maria Sassoli.

Exchange Rates: US Dollar - 3.1179; Euro - 3.5451; GBP - 4.1636; 100 Russian Ruble - 4.1660; Swiss Franc - 3.3990

BY NATALIA KOCHIASHVILI

Prosecutor's Office Says Release of Judoist Zviadauri on Bail Is Unjustified

Georgian Olympic champion and former MP Zurab Zviadauri, charged with pre-meditated murder in Tsinandali forest in August, has been released on ₾ 50,000 bails by a Telavi district court in the eastern Georgian region of Kakheti on November 29.

The General Prosecutor's Office has released a statement, saying that during a pre-trial hearing in the criminal case against Zviadauri and Jangirashvili, Judge Mamuka Tsiklauri considered the imprisonment as a measure of restraint and all of a sudden, changed the detention measure applied to them to bail.

It is unclear for the Prosecutor's Office of Georgia what was founded and under what circumstances, Judge Tsiklauri of the Telavi District Court was guided.

The prosecution, at the trial, fully sought to uphold detention as a measure of restraint and appealed to the real dangers posed by the defendants' possible new offenses and influence on witnesses while at large.

However, the above circumstances were not taken into account by the judge, which is why the defendant in the case of pre-meditated murder was sentenced to imprisonment with a bail of ₾ 50,000, and the second defendant was replaced with a ₾ 5,000 bail.

"It should be noted that the



The winner of the Olympic gold medal in judo back in 2004 and ruling Georgian Dream party MP between 2014 and 2016, may be sentenced to up to 15 years in prison.

decision made at the pre-trial hearing cannot be appealed and therefore we are deprived of the opportunity to appeal the decision to a higher court."

The prosecution considers that the decision of the judge is unreasonable and the measure of restraint applied by him does not serve the purposes of the measure of restraint.

One of the accused has been charged under Article 108 of the Criminal Code of Georgia (pre-meditated murder), which envisages imprisonment from 8 to 15 years, and the other under Article 238 (negligent possession of a firearm, thus Conditions have been created for its use by another person, which has had serious consequences), which en-

visages imprisonment for up to 3 years.

The murder took place on August 16 in Tsinandali forest. 5 people were injured during the two-way shootout. 3 of them died. One of the dead was Zurab Zviadauri's brother - Zviad Zviadauri. The prosecution says Zurab Zviadauri shot and killed 27-year-old Nika Kenchoshvili

after the latter killed Zviadauri's brother.

Zviadauri's lawyers do not agree with the accusation and say that the former MP acted within the necessary repulsion. Zviadauri himself is in the same position and he does not plead guilty.

The trial will be resumed with a substantive hearing of the case.

The News in Brief

PREPARED BY
THE MESSENGER STAFF

Melia: We Have to Gather in the Court Yard on December 2

According to the chairman of the United National Movement, Nika Melia, on December 2, a rally in support of Mikheil Saakashvili will be held in parallel with the trial. Melia said this on the main channel and called on the supporters to come to the rally.

"We have to gather in the court yard on December 2, despite the violence, we have to go

even further, but we have to do everything so that we do not follow their provocations. These protests will not be delayed. "We must come out and say that we are leaving Mikheil Saakashvili in captivity and we are also embracing Bidzina Ivanishvili's regime," Melia said.

On December 2, in the Tbilisi City Court, the so-called Mikheil Saakashvili will be tried in the case of jackets. The government accuses Mikheil Saakashvili of embezzling state-owned property.

According to the prosecutor's office, in the period from September 2009 to February 2013, the President of Georgia, Mikheil Saakashvili, secretly embezzled ₾ 8,837,461 from the state budget for his services to him and various individuals in Georgia and abroad. The prosecutor's office filed charges against Saakashvili in 2014.



Weather

Wednesday, December 1

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 10°C
Night Light Rain
Low: 3°C

Thursday, December 2

Day Partly Cloudy
High: 10°C
Night Clear
Low: 1°C

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Highlights from Night Serenades — Classical Music Festival: Interview with Artistic Director Giorgi Issakadze



Artistic Director Giorgi Issakadze and German Ambassador to Georgia Hubert Knirsch discussing Abkhazia and the festival's future

BY MARIAM CHANISHVILI

With the support of the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia and Tbilisi City Hall, the final concert of the Batumi–Tbilisi XIII International Festival Night Serenades took place at the Tbilisi V. Sarajishvili Conservatoire Grand Hall on November 21.

The concert program featured Sandro Nebieridze – premiere of Fantasy on Zakaria Paliashvili Opera Themes (piece dedicated to the 150th anniversary of the composer), Vakhtang Matchavariani – Dedication to Ludwig Van B for Strings, Timpani and Piano - premiere - (based on themes of Beethoven's nine symphonies), Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart – Clarinet

The festival was founded by the great Georgian violinist and conductor Liana Isakadze in 1982 in Bichvinta, Abkhazia, Georgia. Back then, the festival was held in the wonderful nature of Bichvinta, accompanied by the organ in the Bichvinta church – all of this created a special mood and atmosphere.

The Messenger had a chance to interview the artistic director of the festival, Giorgi Issakadze, who thanked the sponsors and supporters of the festival.

The festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sport and Youth of Georgia; Tbilisi City Hall; Batumi City Hall; the Ministry of Education, Sport, and Culture of Adjara; The Embassies of Italy and Germany in Georgia;

above all from the endeavor to give children (but also their parents) a wide range of opportunities for self-development.

- Tell us about this year's festival and the challenges you've encountered.

-This year's festival has been a great success. Even though we had a lot of trouble inviting the artists from different countries and taking into consideration all the COVID regulations, we managed to finalize the festival successfully. We had to postpone and change dates twice of the concert taking place in Tbilisi.

especially for the festival, by my request.

Great composer and conductor, Vakhtang Matchavariani's - *Dedication to Ludwig Van B for String* was performed for the 1st time. It can be considered as a kaleidoscope of Beethoven's all nine symphonies, a modern conversation with Beethoven.

Maestro Nikoloz Rachveli's piece was premiered live in Batumi, performed by Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi. The concert was finalized by this piece, dedicated to the Italian people and Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi. Singer Sopho Khalvashi also performed at the concert held in



Last year, we conducted the festival online and more than 20 000 people saw the live broadcast, including international and Georgian people. I am very thrilled that this traditional festival continues its successful existence.

As you know, the festival was founded in Bichvinta (Abkhazia) in 1982. Liana's major desire was to bring back the festival to its initial location – to Bichvinta. We hope to be able to do so.

I am very thankful for our supporters and sponsors. At the end of the concert, with the initiative of the German Ambassador to Georgia Hubert Knirsch, I had a chance to have a talk with him about a very painful topic of Abkhazia and the festival's future. Hubert Knirsch noted that this issue is of utmost importance for our German partners.

- It is well-known to us, that various pieces have been created for the festival throughout the years. Which pieces premiered in 2021?

- Indeed, several compositions and pieces have been created for the festival throughout the years (by Giorgi Shaverzashvili, Sandro Nebieridze, and others).

This year, the premiere of Sandro Nebieridze's - *Fantasy on Zakaria Paliashvili Opera Themes* took place on November 21. The theme was created

Batumi.

Nikoloz Rachveli highlighted that regardless of the tough pandemic reality, this year's festival was held successfully. He mentioned that this festival is very special to him because it is connected to Abkhazia.

-As you mentioned, due to COVID-19, it has been difficult to invite international artists, but you still managed to. Tell us about these artists.

- Sabine Grofmeier, one of the world's famous and amazing clarinetists, performed in Tbilisi. She performed Mozart's concert and other interesting pieces. As soon as one hears her playing, one can recognize the European sound. The Western school of woodwind instruments is very different from the Russian school, which is connected to Georgia as well. The Western traditional sound is refined, exquisite, and subtle.

Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi is a phenomenal Italian accordion and bandoneon player. Pietrodarchi has given concerts all over the world, including across Europe as well as in Canada, China, and Korea. He was also a guest at festivals such as the 2006 Montreal Jazz Festival and 2008 the Sanremo Festival. As mentioned above, Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi performed along with Nikoloz Rachveli; as usual, he astonished the audience, as if his sounds were from another universe.

-What were the festival's innovations and special activities in 2021?

- This year, we have expanded our activities, by offering Georgian students and schoolchildren a vast educational program.

A master class was held on November 2, where artist-designer Nino Mirianashvili visited the children with disabilities (18-25). Bridge beneficiaries were taught collage techniques.

On November 10, a master class of the wind instrument orchestra was held by Giorgi Shaverzashvili, Professor of Tbilisi State Conservatory and the Chairman of the Composers' Union.

Masterclasses were led by Vakhtang Matchavariani, Sabine Grofmeier, Mario Stefano Pietrodarchi, Giorgi Shaverzashvili, and Nino Khutsishvili.



Night Serenades Classical Music Festival 2021

Concerto for Strings in A Major, K. 622.

The annual festival featured orchestras and musical artists performing shows, including Orchestra Georgian Virtuosi conductor Vakhtang Matchavariani, Sabine Grofmeier – clarinet (Germany), Sandro Nebieridze – piano.

The clarinetist Sabine Grofmeier is one of the most outstanding and diverse artists of her generation. Her warm tone, her gripping musicality, and expressiveness, her confident mastery of the technical means inspire every audience. Sabine Grofmeier is the recipient of numerous sponsorship awards and grants.

The festival was organized by the company - Art Alliance, officially insured by Ardi.

Giorgi Issakadze founded Isakadze Music School (Musikschule Issakadze) in 1999. Liana Isakadze is the Honorary Artistic Director. In 2006, he also funded the Academy of Music and Dance in Ingolstadt (Musik- und Tanzakademie Issakadze & Lukashevich). In 2017 Academy of Music and Ballet (Musik- und Ballettakademie Issakadze & Bejuashvili) opened in Munich.

The idea of the Music & Dance Academy with a wide range of events arose

