

A little help—a big difference



Support for Kids Organization, Inc

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Dear readers and supporters,

I would like to thank you all for your thoughts and well wishes for my recovery. I am so touched by the amount of cards and flowers you have sent to me! It's been almost 2 months since my accident, but my room is still filled with flowers and I am still receiving your prayers and 'get well' wishes. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

I, for my part, am trying my best to obey doctor's and Mike's orders. It's not always an easy task especially after being restrained from any movements for such a long time. My foot is doing better than my back at least pain wise, but unfortunately not much can be done with my back since my one vertebra is compressed to a half it's size. I have to wear my body armor for at least 2 more weeks.

I move around the house with a walker (I still can not use the crutches because my body cast is in the way and I still can not put a pressure on my foot and step on it). But overall, my recovery is going well.

You might wonder if my accident affected my decision to stay on San Diego Redistricting Commission. The accident definitely slowed me down but I am not a quitter. Even though it is not recommended for me to be seated for more than 1 hour and it is very hard to move me around, I make every effort to attend and not miss the meetings so I can fulfill the duties I agreed to.

Once again, thank you for your continued support, your interest and all your well wishes for my speedy recovery.

I hope you have a great 4th of July celebration to honor our great country.

Sincerely,

Ani Mdivani-Morrow



Upcoming Trip

The accident might slowed me down but I am making every effort so that my condition will not affect our work and our plans. As you all know my September trip was planned a few months ago and I have no intention canceling it. I do realize that the lengthy overseas flight with associated lay-over might not be an ideal scenario in my case, but I have made all necessary arrangements to ease my travel. I have already called the airlines requesting assistance with a wheelchair and a seat where I can stretch my leg. Hopefully they will fulfill my request.

Once again our gratitude to the incredible support and generosity of the Honorary Council of Georgia in USA Mr. Lasha Darbaidze, who took care of this shipment

During my trips I always carry at least one big box filled with the presents for the kids. But this time maybe it was some kind of prediction that I shipped 3 huge boxes in addition to the shipment of winter coats just a few days prior to my accident. I feel so good that at least this part was taken care of and I don't have to carry extra weight.

Hopefully by the time of my arrival, the shipment will clear customs in the port city of Poti and will be delivered to my house in Tbilisi.

And then will start the fun part—delivering the presents to the kids and see their happy faces!

I hope to get to some orphanages by car and that the ride will not be too hard on my back. But the one place that I wanted to visit the most - Mestia orphanage - might be impossible to reach by a car in my condition. The only way for me to go there would be by a plane, which is very expensive and also not very reliable because of the unpredictable weather conditions (constant fog).

Right now our shipment of almost 100 winter coats, brand new clothes and toys is crossing the Atlantic Ocean and is scheduled to arrive in Georgia on July 15th

I will be in Georgia for 20 days which is much shorter than my usual trips, but I hope to accomplish certain things - first of all visit the kids, meet with the government agencies who are in charge of the future of these kids, find out what exactly are they planning and the progress of their reform.

Another thing I am planning to do is to find another candidate for the scholarship program. We are so fortunate to have a sponsor for Levan. He is an absolutely amazing kid and I am so happy that I found him and that we are able to support him. I realize that funding and also finding another "Levan" might be hard, but I am certain there are a lot of kids who deserve a little help (you can view the article about Levan in our April 2011 newsletter issue number 15).

Preparation for the 3rd Fundraiser

July has just started, but I am already worrying about our upcoming Fundraiser at the end of October. You might think, “what’s the rush to worry about the event which is in the fall?”, but in order to receive donations from certain companies, you have to comply with their requirements and submit the requests in a certain time frame. So we have sent at least 3 dozen of donation requests to the various companies. Unfortunately only few of them replied with favorable decisions. Maybe some of them are waiting to answer closer to the event? In any other normal circumstances, I would be running around, knocking on doors of various businesses to collect items for our opportunity drawings, live and silent auctions. But since I am stuck in my chair, I have to do it by mail which sometimes is not as effective as personal encounter.

Besides collecting the prizes and donations I need a few volunteers to help us during the event. 2 people registering guests, 2 people selling raffle tickets, at least 1 person recording the live auction results and 2 people at check out of the auction. I guess people registering the guests can do one of the tasks as soon as they done with registration. I do realize that I am asking for too much, that it’s not an easy job and requires a lot of patience for a minimum amount of irritation. So if any of you can help, please let me know.

But for now, just please mark your calendar for our **Third Annual Fundraiser Brunch on Sunday October 30th, 2011** in Marina Village (Catalina Room) in Mission Bay.

New member of our Team



We are so happy to welcome a new member in our team - Ms. Natia Pirashvili as our Georgian Project Manager. Most of you probably remember her name from my previous newsletters and from the last fundraiser’s presentation. She was a head of the department with the relations with donors in the Child Care Agency and she was a tremendous help to Support For Kids Organization Inc. for the last 2 years. Being so passionate about our cause, so knowledgeable and having a great ideas for our future projects, we were delighted when she expressed her desire to be more involved in our organization and she joined us on volunteer basis. She will team up with our Georgian manager, Manana Sikharulidze (aka ‘Little Doll’) to take care of the things I can not control from here. Natia, as rest of us, is doing this job for free, for a love for the kids and for their better future.

Natia, welcome to Support For Kids Organization Inc!



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A LITTLE HELP—A BIG
DIFFERENCE

Your tax-deductible financial gift is the most important action you can take to help this great cause. Please visit our site www.supportforkids.org donation page

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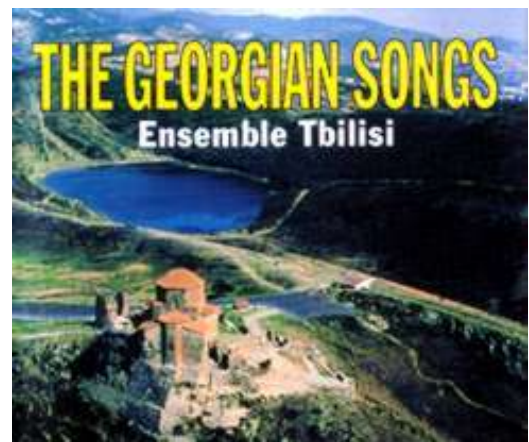
Georgia up-close : Georgian Music

In this age of world music and global beat, it's no surprise that the music of Georgia speaks powerfully to anyone who has heard it. Musicologist Ted Levin recalls his introduction to the form: "My first impression was that it sounded at once Eastern and Western, ancient and contemporary, sacred and worldly. Georgian music still sounds that way to me, and I believe now that its protean quality reflects the geography and cultural history of Georgia."

Traditional Georgian music is sung by male choirs, and has its roots not only in liturgical music but possibly in an ancient "science of voice study," dating from the 12th century and possibly much older. It is polyphonic, with two or more independent music parts sung together, and characterized by special voice techniques and near-harmonies. The songs and music pass from one generation to the next, and thus songs can be hundreds of years old, if not older. Yet singing is still part of the texture of daily life: at the feasts of the Georgian table, it's not uncommon for the men present to break into spontaneous song during a lag in conversation.

'Georgian polyphonic singing betrays its origins on the periphery of Europe,' Levin observes. "While its textures and vocal timbres sound European, much of the music defies the conventions of harmony, counterpoint, and voice-leading that were common to polyphony in Europe's central regions as early as the end of the fifteenth century. ... At the same time, these unconventional sounds seem to be harbingers of musical modernism." That modernism was not lost on Igor Stravinsky, who called Georgian polyphonic folk singing "a wonderful treasure" in his last years.

The result has been an aural chronicle of Georgia's history, and one of the most important elements in Georgian spiritual culture. Standard bearers of this tradition have long been the *Rustavi Choir*, created in 1968 but drawing upon generations of musical expertise. The Rustavi Choir has spawned a host of similar groups. One of these, *Ensemble Tbilisi*, was formed in 1989. To listen to Ensemble Tbilisi is to tap into a musical tradition more ancient than modern, to transcend the moment in a way that is timelessness itself.



Source: *Georgia Revealed* presented by *One World Journey* and www.washingtonpost.com