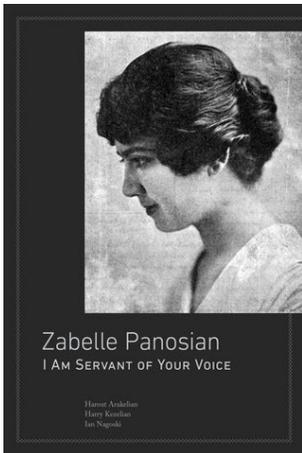


THE ARMENIAN STUDIES PROGRAM PRESENTS

“I AM SERVANT OF YOUR VOICE: ARMENIAN-AMERICAN  
SOPRANO ZABELLE PANOSIAN, 1891-1986”

BY

IAN NAGOSKI AND HAROUT ARAKELIAN



The soprano Zabelle Panosian (b. Bardizag 1891; d. New York City 1986) was among the most significant voices of the genocide generation of Armenian-Americans. She recorded 11 songs from March 1917 to June 1918 for Columbia Records in New York City and personally raised millions of dollars for the relief of Armenians through benefit concerts in the late ‘10s, regularly collaborating with the tenor Armenag Shah-Mouradian. Her recordings resonated with audiences for decades. She toured Europe successfully and sought out Komitas Vadarpet in Paris, publishing a first-hand account of her meeting with him as a devotee of his work.

Panosian’s music and story underwent a period of forgetting during her lifetime and especially since then. But through recent listening to her breathtakingly beautiful, century-old recordings a revival of her legacy is taking place. Non-Armenians all over the world are learning her name and her music and, through them, a story of the Armenian-American audience who cared for her during the wake of the genocide, awakening a previously neglected story of a great American singer.

A newly published biography of Panosian, undertaken by three independent researchers, presents her story along with new, careful restorations of her complete recordings providing an opportunity to look deeply into the life and music of a unique and serious artist who left an amazing body of work

*Ian Nagoski is a music researcher and record producer in Baltimore, Maryland. For more than a decade, he has produced scores of reissues of early 20th century recordings in languages other than English for labels including Dust-to-Digital, Tompkins Square, his own Canary Records, and others.*

*Harout Arakelian is a video editor, music collector and researcher based in Los Angeles, California. His focus is the Armenian contribution to the landscape of art and culture, with a specific lens on the American experience. He is actively working on collecting every known commercial recording from the 78 rpm era.*

**Thursday, October 13, 2022 • 7:00PM**

**Industrial Technology Building, Room 101 • Fresno State**

**2255 E. Barstow Ave. (S/E Corner of Barstow and Campus Dr.)**

**Free Admission. Free parking in Lot P23 with parking permit code available at the lecture. Enter at Campus Dr.**

Also streamed on YouTube on the Armenian Studies channel:

[bit.ly/armenianstudiesyoutube](https://bit.ly/armenianstudiesyoutube)

For more information about upcoming events contact  
the Armenian Studies Program at 559-278-2669.

<https://fresnostate.edu/armenianstudies>

