

Avet Terteryan - Biography -

Avet Terteryan (baptised as Alfred Rubenovich Terteryan) was born on 29 July 1929 in Baku, Azerbaijan. His father, Ruben Terteryan, was a renowned physician in Baku. Both parents were amateur singers with well-trained voices. Avet's brother Herman became an opera conductor and his son Ruben became a musicologist and author of the book „Avet Terteryan“, published in Yerevan in 1989. Terteryan's widow, Irina Tigranova-Terteryan, is a professor in Yerevan.

In 1948 Avet Terteryan entered the Music Academy in Baku. He continued his studies at the Romanos-Melikian Music Academy in which he registered in 1951. From 1952 onwards, he studied composition with Professor Eduard Mirsoian at the Komitas State Conservatory in Yerevan.

Avet Terteryan occupied a number of offices in Armenian cultural life and administration. From 1960 to 1963 he held the post of Executive Secretary of the Armenian Composers' Union, and was named the Union's Vice President from 1963 until 1965. From 1970 to 1974 Avet Terterian served as Chairman of the Department of Music in the Cultural Ministry of Armenia. At the same time, he worked as an editor.

He was a professor at the Conservatory beginning in 1985, and in the years 1993 to 1994 he gave master classes at the Ural Conservatory in Yekaterinburg. In order to work on his own compositions without being disturbed, he withdrew at regular intervals to the guest house at Dilijan; in 1989 he moved into his own house on Lake Sevan. In 1992 Avet Terteryan was named President of the Austrian-Armenian Friendship Society. In 1994 he received a stipend of the Federal State of Brandenburg and worked in Wiepersdorf for six months.

He was promised a one-year DAAD stipend in Berlin in 1995, but Avet Terteryan died on 11 December 1994 in Yekaterinburg, where he had arrived on 6 December in order to participate at a festival dedicated to him. He was cremated in the Pantheon in Yerevan on 19 December.