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Lime
at the
Diocese*

January 16, 1993

His Eminence
Archbishop Khajag Barsamian
Primate
Armenian Diocese of America
630 Second Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Dear Srpazan:

I enjoyed chatting with you at the reception Thursday night. Regarding our conversation about my proposal for an evening of musical and cultural events at the Diocese, here is a brief outline of what I would like to do.

One of the primary events would be a weekly or bi-weekly Friday night musical and cultural presentations. This would be videotaped by a professional team, to be used as a foundation and prototype for the proposed TV series that the Diocese is considering. Here are some examples for the Friday night series, which could be titled, "Friday Night Live"(at the Diocese).


1. "A Night at the Opera," featuring such stars as Lucine Amara, Lili Chookasian and Ara Berberian. This would be hosted by, say a Beverly Sills, or another big name from the opera world.
2. "Pop Music Festival," featuring Kay Armen, Anita Darian and Michael Kermoyan. This would be hosted by Jim Lowe, who's known as Mr. Broadway.
3. "Swinging with American Jazz," with Armen Donelian, hosted by George Avakian, a former executive with CBS Records.
4. "A Tribute to Aram Khatchaturian," featuring Shahan Ardzruni and Anahid Ajemian, hosted by James Conlon, conductor of the American Symphony.
5. "A Tribute to Arlene Francis," (Kazanjian) on her 30th birthday. This could be done in conjunction with the Museum of Broadcasting or the Shubert Organization.
6. "An Evening of William Saroyan," to be presented on or around his birthday or the anniversary of his death. This could be presented in conjunction with the noted authors' organization, the PEN club, and hosted by Kurt Vonnegut with Henry Kissinger, an avid Saroyan fan, as a primary speaker.

7. "A Tour of Armenian Folk Music," featuring noted musicologist John Vartan as host and George Mgrdichian and John Berberian as guests.
8. "An Evening of Armenian Liturgy," hosted by Srpazan himself, with various guest artists to illustrate and explain the music. A similar program could be done about the church services as well.
9. "An Overview of Armenain Literature," featuring Vartan Grigorian, President of Brown University and former president of the New York Public Library. A similar program could be performed about Armenian history, featuring a member of the diocesan staff.

As you can see, the prospects for "Friday Night Live" at the Diocese" are endless. We havent even touched upon the media, current international events and other issues affecting the Armenian community. I also have some ideas for the 25th anniversary of the cathedral, which I can discuss with you informally.

Looking forward to our meeting together (at your convenience) to talk about these prospects.

Sincerely,



George Maksian