

Kris D. Kalfayan

Musical Director

Kris D. Kalfayan was born on August 31, 1956, in Istanbul, Turkey, where he began his primary education at the Dadyan School. His parents, Mr. & Mrs. Hagop Kalfayan, a church-going couple, exposed their children Kris and his sister Hermans to church rituals and music at a very early age.

In 1963, Kris and his family immigrated to the United States, settling in New York where Mr. Kalfayan quite naturally joined the Gomidas Choir, to be joined a few years later by young Kris. In his childhood years, Kris sang in Metropolitan Opera Children's Chorus (1968-72) and performed the role of the shepherd in "Tosca". He was also in the Children's Chorus of the New York City Opera and had solo roles in "The Magic Flute" and "Bomarzo".

↑ Kris is a graduate of the High School of Music and Art. He gained his knowledge of choral conducting through special lessons and by observing John Motley, director of the All-City High School Chorus, of which he himself was a member. While a student at Fordham University, Kris sang with the Fordham Glee Club and served as its director during 1980, two years after graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in General Science. ↗

In the service of the Armenian Church, Kris was the organist of Holy cross Church of New York from 1973 to 1978, and of St. Vartan Cathedral from 1978 to 1982. In the course of these years, he also served as director of the St. Vartan Boys Choir and accompanist for the Gomidas Choir. He is the organist in the Gomidas Choir's recording of the Divine Liturgy and Churorhnek Service, released in 1982. In June of 1976, Kris was designated Assistant Conductor of the Gomidas Choir by Dr. Arthur P. Misyan, who was the conductor of the choir at the time. He is well acquainted with the work of the Choir, having served on its Executive Committee from 1978 to the present.

As a result of his musical training, background and ability, as well as his experience in conducting, Kris inherited the legacy of conductor and musical director of the Gomidas Choir, elected to that position by the membership at their annual meeting in June of 1981.

In September of 1982, he was appointed by the Canon ~~Sec~~rist of St. Vatan Cathedral to the conductor of the Cathedral Choir and is serving in that capacity to the present time. ^a

Kris resides in E. Rutherford, New Jersey, with his wife, the former Sabrina Dimidjian and their son Alex. He is a self-employed insurance broker with offices in New York and New Jersey.