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Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev

(1870-1933)

An Azerbaijani playwright, writer, literary critic, public figure and honored art figure Abdurrahim bey Asad bey oglu Hagverdiyev was born in Shusha on May 17, 1870. He received his primary education in Shusha and secondary education in Tbilisi Realni School. In 1899 he finished the Institute of Engineers of Railway Transport in Petersburg. During his education he attended the courses of the east faculty of the Petersburg University as an auditor.

A. Hagverdiyev wrote his first drama work “Eat goose meat and you’ll learn its taste” in 1892. In the drama “The Ruined Nest” A. Hagverdiyev represented moral degradation of the Russian and Azerbaijani nobility at the end of the XIX century, the social and family tragedy of the landowner. It was A. Hagverdiyev, who for the first time in the Azerbaijani dramatic art created an image of the young man struggling against patriarchal feudal system in the play named “The Unfortunate young man”. His play “The enchantress Peri”, which reflected the influence on the creativity of symbolist dramatic art, approved the idea of nonresistance to the evil. The work has been played on the stage for a long time. He also was the author of such realistic prosaic works as a cycle of stories “My Deers”, the stories “Infernal Letters of a Fright”, stories “The Bomb”, “Sheikh Shaban”, “Mirza Safar” and etc. A. Hagverdiyev’s best works express a protest against the oppression of the people, call on to fight against the remains of the feudalism and ignorance. In 1905 he was elected the deputy of the First State Duma from the Elizabetpol’s province and went to Petersburg. He collected materials for his new work (Agha Mohammad Shah Gajar) in the state library and traveled to Mazandaran province of Iran. Abdurrahim bey was the first writer who brings the image of Mohammad Gajar to national literature. Mohammad Gajar was Azerbaijanian by nationality and the founder of the Gajar dynasty that ruled in Iran for one hundred and thirty years. He ruled chorus, orchestra and play as the first Azerbaijani conductor at the performance of “Leyli and Mejnun” opera on January 12, 1908. He travelled Transcaucasia, Dagestan, Central Asia and Volga-side region during his activity in “Nijat” society and Kur-Caspian Maritime department. A. Hagverdiyev was one of the leading authors of the fighting democratic magazine “Molla Nasreddin”, where he placed stories and feuilletons with pseudonyms such “Jeyranali”, “Khordtan”, “Hekimi-nuni-segir”, “Laglagi”, “Mozalan”, “Supurgesaggal” and others.

He was the director of the monthly magazine “News of the Caucasus branch of the Union of Cities” in Tbilisi (1916-1917). After February Revolution in 1917, he became a member of the Tbilisi Executive Committee and its Central Council. In March of the same year, he was appointed commissioner of Borchali district. After Georgia declared its independence, he was elected a member of parliament from Borchali. A. Hagverdiyev was appointed the diplomatic representative of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic in the Mountain Republic, and then in Armenia. During the Soviet power’s rule he worked as a head of the art department in the National commissariat of education, as a chairman of the Society of research and studying of Azerbaijan, as a teacher at the Azerbaijan State University. A. Hagverdiyev is also an author of literary publicistic works such as “Theatre in Azerbaijan”, “Life and activity of M. F. Akhundov”, “Life and activity of M. Gorki” and “Our literary language”. He translated works by V. Shakespeare, F. Schiller, E. Zola, M. Gorky, A. Chekhov, V. Korolenko and others. Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev passed away on December 12, 1933 in Baku and buried in the Alley of Honors. The Agdam State Drama Theatre and many streets in different regions of Azerbaijan was named after A. Hagverdiyev. In 1983 a movie-performance “I want to get married” based on A. Hagverdiyev’s two stories was screened. Another film-performance “Hungry simpletons” screened in 1993 is also popular. An character of A. Hagverdiyev was made in a movie “Chords of the long life” by Anar.
Afrasiyab Badalbeyli
(1907-1976)

An Azerbaijani composer, conductor, musicologist, publicist and People’s Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR Afrasiyab Badalbey oglu Badalbeyli was born on April 19, 1907 in Baku, in the family of the national enlightener from Shusha Badalbey Badalbeyov and a representative of Gajar dynasty Rahima khanim.

A. Badalbeyli studied at school under the High Pedagogical Institute, the Baku Theatrical College, Department of the Oriental Languages at the Azerbaijan State University and the Music Training College attached to Leningrad State Conservatoire.

In 1924 in aid of development of vocational competence A. Badalbeyli entered the Azerbaijan State Turk Music Training College and synchronically studied at the Azerbaijan State University in the linguistics department of the East faculty. From 1938 till the end of his life he worked as a conductor at the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater.

The campaign against the folk musical instrument with an eye to eliminate it from Conservatoire’s curriculum because of its outmoded traditions commenced in 1929. Positively exclaiming against all of that A. Badalbeyli wrote the article “About inquest on the tar”.

On May 15, 1930 A. Badalbeyli began working as a conductor of Turkish operas at the M. F. Akhundov Theatre of Opera and Ballet. In 1932 A.Badalbeyli entered the Moscow Conservatoire. Here he studied at the conducting faculty in Professor K. Sarajev’s class.

On April 8, 1940 the first national ballet in Azerbaijan “Maiden Tower” by A. Badalbeyli was staged at the Azerbaijan State Theatre of Opera and Ballet. On April 23, 1940 A. Badalbeyli was awarded the honorary title “Honoured Art Worker” of the Republic for prominent services in the field of art.

Considering traditionally used terms of Russian and foreign origin in Azerbaijani music, A. Badalbeyli tried populating them among Azerbaijani habitants, explaining, decoding and thus promoting enrichment of the native language. With this purpose his “Dictionary of music terms” came off in 1956. On May 24, 1960 under the decree of Presidium of the Azerbaijan SSR Supreme Soviet the composer was awarded an honorary title of the People’s Artist of the Republic.

In 1969 the composer acted with reports about Azerbaijani music in Paris, France. A. Badalbeyli is an author of the operas “People’s wrath”, “Nizami” and “Willows will not cry”, “Tarlan” ballet for children, compositions for orchestra and music for performances.

A. Badalbeyli was married to first Azerbaijani ballet dancer Gamar Almaszadeh. Afrasiyab Badalbayli passed away on January 6, 1976.
Ahmed bey Aghaoglu (1868-1939)

One of the founders of pan-Turkism movement, prominent public figure and politician, writer, lawyer, scholar of Oriental and Islamic Studies, publicist, pedagogue and journalist Ahmed bey Mirza Hasan oghlu Aghayev (Aghaoglu) was born in December, 1869 in Shusha. He was a descendant of Karabakh khan - Panahali khan. He received his primary education in a Russian school in Shusha and Tbilisi Gymnasium, graduated from the Universities in Saint Petersburg and the Sorbonne University in Paris. Although he entered the high school in Petersburg, he left his education unfinished. In 1888 he went to Paris and finished law school, then Sorbonne University. Ahmed bey wrote articles on current affairs for many popular newspapers in the country and abroad. In 1896 he went to Shusha and taught French at school.

He worked as a teacher of the French language at the realni school by the invitation of H. Z. Tagiyev in 1897, employee of “Kaspi” newspaper, then head of the literary department during 1898-1907. He founded “Difai” (“Defender”) party in 1906. Tsar Nicholas II received A. Aghaoglu twice during. The aim of the reception was preventing of resettlement of Azerbaijanis from the oil lands around Baku. He also worked as a publisher and editor-in-chief at “Heyat” (“Life”), “Irshad”, “Progress” and “Tereggi” (“Prosperity”) in 1905-1909. Fleeing police persecution and possible imprisonment, A. Aghaoglu moved to Istanbul. Here he joined “Young Turks” and became a key figure in the “Unity and Progress” Party. In 1915 he represented Azerbaijan at the conference on minorities in Russia in Lausanne, Switzerland. He came back to Azerbaijan in 1918 as a political advisor of the Ottoman commander Nuri Pasha. Becoming a member of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic’s Parliament, he went to Istanbul in 1919 as a delegation member to represent ADR at the Paris Peace Conference. However, he was arrested by the British in Istanbul accused of being a “Turkish journalist and a member of the Turkish parliament” and exiled to the island of Malta. After exile he returned Istanbul in 1921 and actively participated at the Turkish War of Independence. He was a close adviser of Mustafa Kamal Ataturk and was appointed director of the press bureau in 1920. He was twice elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly from the Kars region. He was a professor of Ankara University and an editor-in-chief of the official newspaper “Hâkimiyet-i Milliye” (“National Sovereignty”).

Ahmed bey Aghaoglu passed away on May 19, 1939 in Istanbul.

Sureyya Agaoglu – daughter of Ahmad bey Aghaoglu was born in 1903 in Shusha. She was the first female lawyer in the Turkish history and the first president of the Internatinal Women Lawyers Association. After graduating Istanbul University, Department of Law, S. Aghaoglu worked as a lawyer till her death.

On June 18, 1921 Armenian assassin Misak Torlakian killed Behbud khan Javanshir, Minister of Interior of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic by three shots in front of the “Pera-Palas” hotel of Istanbul and the killer was arrested. As Istanbul was under British occupation at the time, Torlakian was tried by a British military tribunal 20 days after the crime. S. Aghaoglu wrote in her memoir “One life has passed just like this” about the results of this historical court, where she participated as a student-lawyer: “Finally, the trial ended. The prosecutor demanded the death penalty for the killer. This demand even surprised us. However, the prosecutor was removed from Turkey within 24 hours. The acting prosecutor acquitted the accused and Torlakian managed to run away at night”. After years, S. Aghaoglu met with prosecutor Rickatson-Hatt in London. During the meeting, the prosecutor said that he had met with the chairman of that court in China, and the chairman told him that the Turks were right in this case. S. Aghaoglu is the founder of the Freethought Society and the Turkish American Student Association. She is also an author of some legal issues and books “What I saw in London” and “One life has passed just like this”.
Sureyya Aghaoglu passed away as a result of brain hemorrhage on December 29, 1989 in Istanbul.

Her brother Samad Aghaoglu was born in 1919 in Baku. After graduating Ankara University, Law School, he went to Strasbourg. He reflected his years in France at “Strasbourg memories” book. He came back to Turkey and started his career in political sphere. He won the 1950, 1954 and 1957 elections and became a member of the Turkish parliament. He served as Deputy Prime Minister and minister.

He was arrested for the case of Jalal Bayar-Menderes in 1960 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was pardoned in 1964. He is an author of more than 20 books, such as “Russian Soviet Empire”, “An island in the Marmara sea”, “Gafur teacher”, “My father’s friends” and others. S. Aghaoglu’s prose and memoirs are one of the most interesting pages of Azerbaijan migration literature. He visited his ancestral homeland in 1967.

Samad Aghaoglu passed away on August 6, 1982.
Aliya Rustambeyova
(1907-1942)

Heroine of the Second World War, participant of the guerrilla movement and Doctor Rustambeyova Aliya Fatulla gizi was born in Shusha in 1907. As a child, she moved to Baku with her family. Her father, Fatulla Rustambeyov, was one of the first Azerbaijani production engineers, one of the organizers of restoration and technical reconstruction of the oil industry in Azerbaijan.

After graduating from secondary school No. 3 in Baku, Aliya entered the Azerbaijan Medical Institute and later continued her education in the 1st Leningrad Medical Institute. After graduating that institute with honors diploma, she worked as a doctor at the Chirchik Construction Department Hospital in Uzbekistan for three years. In 1938 she was sent to Moscow as an experienced physician.

During the Soviet Union's war against Finland that started on November 30, 1939, Aliya also went to the front as a doctor. In Karelian Isthmus, where the fiercest battles took place, she saved the wounded soldiers from the clutches of death. After the war ended with the victory of the Soviet Union on March 12, 1940, Aliya returned to Moscow and continued her work in the Clinic of Internal Diseases named after S. P. Botkin. But it did not last long. The attack of the Nazi Germany on the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941 put an end to Aliya's scientific work and peaceful medical practice.

On the second day of the war, June 23, she was sent to the battlefield as a military doctor.

In November 1941, the fascist divisions launched the second major attack on Moscow. Aliya's work was difficult. Sometimes she had to walk 20-30 kilometers in one night. Under such conditions, caring for the wounded became more difficult. Nevertheless, she would work day and night, helping the wounded commanders and fighters in the most difficult moments. Aliya Rustambeyova lived like this for six months first near Moscow, then in Smolensk-Bryansk forests and served in the medical sanitary battalion.

In December 1941, Aliya, who was providing medical assistance to the soldiers under the enemy fire, was captured wounded. The German command found out that Aliya was a doctor and decided to make use of her. In early February 1942, together with a group of war prisoners Aliya escaped from captivity with the help of the Dedushka guerrilla band. Aliya Rustambeyova sacrificed her life, saving the lives of guerrillas. She died a hero's death in one of the bloody battles in late June 1942.

In 1962, the sculptor Aslan Rustamov made a bust portrait of Aliya. The poet Mirvarid Dilbazi wrote the poem "Partizan Aliya" in 1972.
Amir Kazim Mirza Gajar
(1855-1920)

Amir Kazim Mirza Bahman Mirza oglu was born in 1855 in the city of Shusha. He received his primary education at the Tbilisi Gymnasium, and at the age of 20, he graduated from the Nikolaev Cavalry School in St. Petersburg. In 1873, he was sent to the 44th Nizhny Novgorod Regiment of the Caucasus Special Forces as a cornet officer. Among the best cavalry officers, Major Amir Kazim Mirza took part in the coronation of Emperor Alexander III in 1881. Lieutenant Colonel Amir Kazim Mirza was appointed commander of the squadron in 1895. In the second year of the 20th century, Colonel Amir Kazim Mirza, who was appointed the first deputy commander of the regiment, was promoted to the rank of major general in 1910. Amir Kazim was married to Mirza Govhar khanum. He had two sons named Darab Mirza, Davud Mirza, and daughters - Manija khanum, Ziba khanum, Leyla khanum and Aliya khanum.

Amir Kazim, who served in the 44th Nizhny Novgorod Regiment for 25 years, was awarded the highest orders and medals of the empire. During the Russo-Turkish War of 1877-1878, he has been awarded the Order of St. Stanislav of the fourth degree. In 1895, he has been awarded by the Order of the Shining Star of the third degree of the Emirate of Bukhara. The government generously awarded Amir Kazim Mirza, a brave officer who has been rapidly advancing to military service since the 1970s. He has been awarded the third degree "St. Anna" in 1879, the second degree "St. Stanislav" (with the sword), the second degree "St. Anna" in 1881, six years later the third and fourth degree "St. Vladimir" in 1890, also he has been awarded the famous "Shiri-Khorshid" order of the fourth degree of Iran.

After the establishment of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic, on December 1, 1918, Amir Kazim Mirza was appointed as a commandant of Ganja by the order of the Minister of War Samad bey Mehmandarov.

Amir Kazim Mirza also took an active part in educating the people, provided financial assistance for the opening of the primary schools in Tbilissi (Georgia) and in some districts, and educated poor children at his own expense. From 1910, he was an honorary member of the Caucasian Muslim Charity Society. His wife Govhar khanum Aga Alakbar gizi Ismayilova-Gajar (1862-1927) was a chair of the charity society, which established in 1905. One of his greatest services was his close participation in the establishment of the Azerbaijani Drama Society and the opening of the performance building in Tbilissi (Georgia) in 1912. In 1911, Major General Amir Kazim Mirza Govanli-Gajar also chaired playwright M.F. Akhundov’s centenary.

After the April 1920 coup, Amir Kazim Mirza Gajar took an active part in the Ganja uprising and was assassinated by the Bolsheviks in Ganja by the orders of Emergency Commissioner Tikhareli.
Ashraf Abbasov  
(1920-1992)

A prominent composer, musicologist, pedagogue, professor, People’s Artist Ashraf Jalal oglu Abbasov was born on March 23, 1920 in Shusha. He received his primary, secondary and tar education in Shusha. Uzeyir Hajibeyov, who often came to Shusha, discovered the talent of this young man and invited him to study in Baku. In 1948 he graduated from the Azerbaijan National Conservatory (now the Baku Academy of Music after Uzeyir Hajibeyov) and the Moscow State Conservatory in 1952.

A. Abbasov’s first work for a symphony orchestra was “The Dance Suite”, which he wrote as a student. His best pieces of music are “Concert” for fortepiano and orchestra, “Concertino” for symphony orchestra, “Shusha”, “The next day” and “Dramatic poem” and suites for symphony orchestra.

The composer’s ballet “Gypsy Girl” is the first major play for children. The play, staged at the Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater in 1968, was based on the story of the same name by S. S. Akhundov. People’s Artist Afrasiyab Badalbeyli was the author of the libretto. A. Abbasov is an author of popular songs, romances, music pieces for comedies, violin, cello, piano, wind instruments, chamber ensemble, orchestra of folk instruments, as well as for choir.

In 1952 A. Abbasov defended his dissertation on “Uzeyir Hajibeyov and his “Koroglu” opera” in Moscow and was awarded the degree of Candidate of Study of Art. He was the first candidate of Study of Art among the Azerbaijani composers.

A. Abbasov was director of Music College after Asef Zaynalli, rector of Azerbaijan National Conservatory and department head.

Ashraf Abbasov passed away on February 8, 1992 in Baku.
Bahram bey Akhundov  
(1861-1932)

Bahram bey Mirza Jafar bey oglu was born in 1861 in the city of Shusha. He graduated from the city school, then the gymnasium. In 1893 he entered the faculty of science of the Academy of Lille, France, where he studied physics, chemistry and natural sciences, and on November 13, 1896, he received a certificate of education. In 1896 he entered the Faculty of Medicine and Pharmacy of the Academy of Lille, and on October 2, 1901 he was awarded the diploma No. 729, specializing in "medical practitioner". In 1896, B. Akhundov continued his education at the medical faculty of the same academy and received a doctor's degree. In 1896, Bahram bey, who successfully passed the examination at the medical department of Kharkov University, was given the nickname "Lekar" (Doctor).

Muzaffaraddin shah, who came to Baku in 1902, awarded doctor Bahram bey Akhundov with the 3rd degree "Shiru Khurshid" order. This order was awarded to B. Akhundov for his service in the palace of Crown Prince Mahammadali Mirza in Tabriz.

Bahram bey Akhundov was a member of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic. Before the revolution of 1917, he worked as a doctor in Baku medical institutions, and after the establishment of the Soviet government in Azerbaijan, he worked as a doctor in the Republican Soviet Commissariat. In the years 1920-1925 he worked as a doctor of the State Insurance Administration.

Bahram bey attached great importance to enlightenment of the people in the field of medicine and did his best in this direction. His address to the Muslim population of Baku in our native language was published in the "Kaspi" newspaper.

In 1905, Bahram bey married Celestina, a French woman who later converted to Islam and took the name of Saltanat. They had two children, Ali (Albert) and Tora (Tamara).

Bahram bey Akhundov passed away of gastric cancer in 1932.
Barat Shekinskaya
(1914-1999)

Theatre and film actress, People's Artist of Azerbaijan Barat Habib gizi Shekinskaya was born in Shusha in aristocratic family on June 28, 1914.

Her mother Govhar khanum was Abdurrahim bey Hagverdiyev’s cousin. Her father, Habib Khan, escaped on April 28, 1920, when the Bolsheviks occupied Baku. As a child, Barat Shekinskaya played the role of Sakina in the play "Shabih" in Shusha in 1920. She received her first education in Shusha. On August 21, 1920, her mother left Shusha with her children Barat, Sariya and Suleyman and moved to Goytapa village of Aghdam, and in 1923 to Ganja. On September 1 of the same year, she started classes at the first grade girls' school No. 2 in Ganja. In 1927 she was admitted to the pedagogical school in Ganja. She began performing as an amateur actress in various drama clubs of school and city. On September 18, 1929, she was employed as an actress in the "Workers' Club" of the Ganja Trade Union. After graduating from the Pedagogical School on June 25, 1930, she was sent to Sarkar village school as a teacher. At the same time, she is increasing her activity as an amateur actress in drama study groups of the Women's Club, the Workers' Club and the Railwaymen's Club. On January 7, 1933, the actress was recruited into the troupe of the Ganja Turkish Workers' Theatre. On February 23, 1935, she left the Ganja State Drama Theatre and came to Baku to study medicine. On September 1, 1935, the actress was admitted to the acting troupe of the Academic National Drama Theatre.

The main period of her work was connected with the Academic National Drama Theatre since 1935. Barat Shekinskaya was also the first travesty of Azerbaijan - an actress playing the role of a boy. On January 14, 1937, she wrote a glorious page of eternity in the history of our national theatre as "Juliette of the Azerbaijani stage".

For four years since 1956, she has worked as an actress in “Azerbaijanfilm” film studio, a presenter at the Philharmonic, and an announcer on the newly opened television.

At the age of 23, Barat Shekinskaya was awarded the title of Honoured Artist on May 4, 1940, and the title of People's Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan on July 21, 1949.

She died on January 14, 1999 at the age of 84. She was buried in the Second Alley of Honour in Baku.
Bulbul
(1897-1961)

Singer, researcher of music folklore, People's Artist of the USSR, laureate of the USSR State Prize, professor, founder of the Azerbaijan Professional Vocal School Murtuza Mashadi Rza oglu Mammadov was born on June 22, 1897 in Khanbaghi near Shusha. At a young age, he was given a nickname Bulbul (Nightingale). In 1927 he graduated from N. I. Speranski's class at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire. Twice in 1924 and 1931 he attended the advanced training courses in Milan.

Bulbul started his career as a singer, sang the Azerbaijani folk songs and mughams. In 1916, he appeared on the stage for the first time in Ganja in "The Sword of the Commander" written by Fikret Amirov’s father, the famous musician Mashadi Jamil. From 1920 he was a soloist of the troupe of the United Azerbaijan Opera Theatre (since 1924 the Opera and Ballet Theatre). With a delicate sense of creativity, he would combine the national style of performance with the traditions of the Italian vocal school. The unique performance of the role Koroglu in U. Hajibeyov's "Koroglu" opera, Garib in R. Gliere's "Shahsname", Alyar in M. Magomayev's "Nargiz", Nizami in A. Badalbeyli's "Nizami", Farhad in Niyazi’s "Khosrov and Shirin", Aleko in Rachmaninoff’s eponymous work, Duke in G. Verdi's "Rigoletto" and other parties have a special place in his creative work. Bulbul often toured abroad with concert programs. "Sensiz" (Without you), "Sevgili janan" (Dear beloved), "Gara gozler" (Black eyes), "Olkam" (My country) were the songs of his regular repertoire. He was the organizer and head of the Scientific-Research Music Centre of Republic in 1932-1944.

He organized a number of research expeditions and recorded the performance of more than 200 samples of musical folklore. He had published three collections of Azerbaijani songs. From 1932 to the end of his life he taught at the Azerbaijan State Conservatoire.

Bulbul was repeatedly elected to the Supreme Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR, was awarded orders and medals, as well as the Italian order "Harribaldi".

Bulbul died on September 26, 1961 in Baku.

Bulbul's son - Polad Bulbuloglu (Polad Murtuza oglu Mammadov - 1945) is a well-known singer, composer and diplomat.
Bulbuljan
(1841-1927)

Bulbuljan-Abdulbagi Karbalayi Ali oghlu Zulalov, a prominent representative of the Azerbaijani school of singing, was born in 1841 in Shusha. Abdulbagi received his first musical education at the school of Harrat Gulu, and later began to participate in folk festivities in Karabakh, Sheki, Shirvan and Ganja together with tar player Mirza Sadig. His voice would come from Tabriz, Iravan and Shamakhi.

He lived in Tbilisi (Georgia) from 1875 to 1905. In those years, there was no party in Tbilisi (Tbilisi) where Bulbuljan and his band were not invited. He was nicknamed Bulbuljan for the first time in Tbilisi (Georgia) for his beautiful voice. He also sang songs in Georgian, Lezgin and Kumyk languages. Bulbuljan is one of the first people to lay the foundation of friendship traditions between Azerbaijani and Georgian musicians.

During Alexander III's visit to the Caucasus (1888), Bulbuljan also took part in a meeting held in honour of the tsar in the Mujtahid Garden of Tbilisi. Admiring the great singer's chirping like a nightingale, Alexander III ordered his deputy to allow him to cross the Kovalensky Avenue (now Rustaveli Avenue) on horseback. At a banquet arranged in the Garden of Eden when Prince Mikhail Romanov (Nicholas I's brother) visited Tbilisi in 1904, Bulbuljan sang so beautifully that the prince took out a 4-carat diamond ring from his finger and put it on Bulbuljan’s finger. During his visit to Europe in 1900, Muzaffaraddin shah stayed in Tbilisi for a few days, and at one of the ceremonies organized in his honour, he liked Bulbuljan's performance so much that he awarded him the Shiri-Khurshid Order.

Later, Bulbuljan moved to Baku and started working with the famous tar player Gurban Pirimov. They used to go to the regions of the republic as part of the encouragement bands of the Azerbaijani artists and arrange concerts in front of the people. Bulbuljan's voice fascinated Uzeyir bey as well. For this reason, the great composer invited him to the Azerbaijan State Turkish Music School in 1923. For a while, he taught mugham at this school.

Talented young people who learned from Bulbuljan and loved his singing later became famous figures of the Azerbaijani culture: - Jabbar Qaryagdioglu, Musa Shushinsky, Mashadi Mammad Farzaliyev, Shekili Alasgar, Vahab bey, Molla Abbas, Seyid Shushinsky and dozens of others.

After Bulbuljan's brother's death, his nephews he took into care - Ali Zulalov (1893-1963) was Azerbaijani opera singer, honoured artist of the Azerbaijan SSR (1940) and Gambar Zulalov (1895-1976) was Azerbaijani singer and actor, honoured artist of the Azerbaijan SSR (1958).

Zulalov died in August 1927 in Baku.
Fatma khanim Kamina
(1841-1898)

An Azerbaijani poetress, one of the female ashigs (minstrel) of 19th century Fatma khanim Kamina was born in 1841 in Shusha. She was interested in poetry from an early age. Her father Mirza Beybaba Fena was a poet and wrote under a pseudonym “Fena”. Fatma khanim also knew the Persian language well and she received her education in Shusha. As she was well educated, everyone called her “Mirza Fatma khanim” (Mirza – well-educated).

Fatma khanim Kamina was one of the three poetresses of her time. The three poetresses, whose life and creative activity investigated partly were Ashig Peri, Khurshidbanu Natevan and Fatma khanim Kamina. Only her classical poems reached nowadays. In 1971 Aziza khanim Jafarzade published a book “Fatma khanim Kamina”.

The main theme of Fatma khanim Kamina’s poetry was love, its purity and beauty. Mir Mohsun Nevvab gave information in his “Tezkireyi-Nevvab” about the creative activity of Fatma khanim Kamina. He wrote that she had poems about 400 and also actively participated in different literary majlises like “Majlisi-feramushan” by Mir Mohsun Nevvab and “Majlisi-uns” by Natevan.

Her husband Sadig bey Mirzeynal oglu was from Sarajig village of Fuzuli region. They have sons – Ashraf bey and Rashid bey and daughters – Tutu, Humay and Gumru.

Fatma khanim Kamina passed away as a result of paralysis in September, 1898 in Shusha.
An Azerbaijani enlightener, publicist-writer, critic and translator Firidun bey Kocharli was born on January 26, 1863 in Shusha.

He received his education at mollakhana (a religious school) in Shusha (1870-1872), estates school by Mirza Karim Munshizade (1872-1875), the 2nd grade city school (1876-1879). In 1885 he finished the Transcaucasian teacher’s seminary in Gori (Georgia). He worked as a teacher at the Irevan gymnasium (1885-1896) and Azerbaijani department of Transcaucasian teacher’s seminary in Gori (1896-1917). According to the request of seminary students after the February Revolution in 1917, he was appointed to the position of a temporary instructor of the Azerbaijani department of the seminary. In 1918 F. Kocharli worked at a position of the chief of the Gazakh Teacher’s Seminary, opened on his initiative under the Gori Seminary.

In 1917 F. Kocharli became a participant of political processes, and joined “Musavat” party. On May 28, 1918 he was elected a member of the National Council of Azerbaijan. On May 28, 1918 at the meeting of the National Council of Azerbaijan, which was hold in Tbilisi, the Act of independence of Azerbaijan was adopted. F. Kocharli was one of the 24 members of the National Council who voted for adoption of this Act.

F. Kocharli had a brilliant creative activity in various spheres of literature, such as publisistics, the history of literature, collection of folklore samples, compilation and publication of textbooks and literary translation. The profound knowledge of compatriots’ creativity was noted in his numerous publications about 130 works of the Azerbaijani writers and poets, which were not generalized into a single whole, consecutive scientific research before that.

The main theme of the publisistic articles by F. Kocharli was the criticism of the colonial policy of tsarism in Azerbaijan, a call for national awakening and political activism, protection of peasants’ rights, struggle for women’s freedom, problem of enlightenment and other issues.

F. Kocharli is the founder of “Azerbaijan child anthology”.

His wife Badiseba khanim was a descendant of famous Vakilovs.

During the transition period to the Soviet regime, which caused a political and public turmoil, in May, 1920 Kocharli was arrested and sent to Ganja, where he was executed with no investigation or trial by special department of the 11th Red army. According to the false verdict issued by Armenian Sarkis Danilian, Firidun bey Kocharli was shot dead on June 4 in Ganja at the age of 58.
Haji Husu
(1839-1898)

An Azerbaijani mugham singer, musicologist and founder of some mughams Haji Husu Kerbelayi Lutfel oglu Kazimli was born in 1839 in Chol Gala Neighbourhood of Shusha. His father Niftali was one of the famous hat-maker of Shusha.

Haji Husu received his first education from private classes with a mullah. Then he continued his studies at a madrasa. Haji Husu, one of the most prominent representative of Shusha vocal art was a student of Harrat Gulu. Haji Husu’s first public performance was the “Chahargah” in a charity event at the Khandamirov’s Theatre, accompanied by tar player Sadigjan.

Haji Husu was invited to the weddings not only in Azerbaijan, but also to cities of the Near and Middle East. In 1880 Nasreddin Shah of Persia invited Haji Husu to his son’s wedding in Tabriz. Haji Husu performed at the wedding accompanied by tar player Sadigjan and kamanch player Bagdagul. Nasreddin Shah of Persia awarded Haji Husu the first prize at the end of the wedding.

At the 80s of the 19th century Haji Husu organized “Majlis of musicans” together with M. M. Navvab.

He also improved a number of mughams and created new versions of them. For example, he added “Shahnaz” to “Kurdi” and created “Kurdi-Shahnaz”. According to Jabbar Garyagdioglu, Haji Husu also s a creator of “Gatar” mugham accompanied by tar player Sadigjan. Haji Husu was often invited to Khurshidbanu Natevan’s, Mahmud agha’s from Shamakhi and Malik Mansurov’s from Baku majlises.

Unfortunately, the last years of the life of this prominent artist were not so successful. After returning from Arabia, he was forced to recite the call to prayer at Govhar Agha Mosque in Shusha under pressure from mullahs. He had to move to Ashgabad, where he passed away in 1898.
Hasanaliagha Garadaghi
(1848-1929)

An Azerbaijani enlightener, poet, teacher, literary critic, philologist and translater Hasanaliagha Garadaghi was born on January 28, 1848 in Shusha in the family of serviceman. Everyone called him “Balajaaghah”.

He was born posthumously to his father Hasanali khan and was named after his father. As her mother Khatin khanim get married, Balajaaghah grew up under his auncils’ auspices. His auncle Mohammadhuseynagha left him at the Russian school in Shusha uyezd and returned to Tbilisi.

Hasanaliagha finished the school in 1866. He studied Arabian and Persian languages and literary works by Sadi, Firdovsi, Nizami, Khagani, Fuzuli and other poets from origin with the help of his neighbour Mirza Alakbar Yusifzade.

In 1891 he get married to his uncle’s only daughter Balakhanim. As they had no children, Hasanaliagha married for the second time with Teyba. They had four children: Mohammad agha, Chingiz agha, Boyukkhanim and Shafgat agha.

In 1922 Hasanaliagha retired. In 1924 he was paralyzed, but recovered during 2-3 years. Shusha Department of the People’s Commissariat of Education of the Azerbaijan assigned him a salary and he sent materials about poets of Karabakh, which he collected.

H. Garadaghi used board and desks for the first time at the schools in Azerbaijan. Zulfugar bey Hajibeyov, Jalil bey Bagdadbeyov were his pupils. The main target of Hasanaliagha was to prepare pupils to Gori Teachers’ Seminary.

In 1881, A. O. Chernyayevsky, the head of the Azerbaijani branch of the Gori Seminary, discussed the publication of textbook in native language with Azerbaijani enlighteners, who invited to Tbilisi. Hasanaliagha also was among them. The first part of the textbook published in 1882 and the second part in 1888. He contributed to “Vatan dili” (“Native Language”) textbook with 11 original and 23 translated poetry examples. He also was the first translater of stories, poems and fables of prominent Russian literary figures into the native language.

Azerbaijani historian Nazim Akhundov entered H. Garadaghi’s work about Karabakh to his book “Karabaghnemeler” (“Letters from Karabakh”). H. Garadaghi is the first investigator of Sari Ashig, originally from Garadagh, who moved to Gulebird village of Zangazur. He was also the first specialist in folklore who collected and compiled more then 250 proverbs in 1878.

H. Garadaghi was a calligrapher and had a role in the development of theatre.

Hasanaliagha Garadaghi passed away on December 2, 1929 in Shusha.
Hashim bey Vazirov  
(1867-1916)

An Azerbaijani pedagogue, publicist, translator, journalist, writer and publisher Hashim bey Mirabdulla oglu Vazirov was born in 1867 in Shusha. He received his primary education there. His great-grandfather Mir Imamverdi was the vizier of the Karabakh khan, his children became famous in the khanate as beyzades, they chose the expression “vizier” as their surname and were called Vazirovs. He went first to mullah school, then city school.

After graduating from the Irevan Teachers'Seminary, he taught in Irevan, Barda, Sheki and Shusha. For a while, he worked as a school director.

Hashim bey was appointed as a director to the newly established Muslim-Russian school in Shusha. He also taught Azerbaijani language in the preparatory class of the Shusha Realni school.

H. Vazirov has been working in the field of literary journalism for 30 years and published different newspapers and magazines.

H. Vazirov fought against Armenian bandits during 1905-1906. In 1906, he was arrested by the government, exiled from Shusha to Stavropol. In the middle of 1906 H. Vazirov was exiled. After exile, first returned to Shusha, then to Baku and lived in Baku until the end of his life. He worked at the newspaper “Irshad” by Ahmed Agaoglu in Baku. On April 1, 1907 H. Vazirov published his newspaper “Taze heyat” (“New life”), but on October 7, 1908 the newspaper stopped its publication.

In 1911, H. Vazirov was arrested with other editors, then he managed to get out of jail. H. Vazirov became an editor of the popular humor magazine “Mazali” (“Funny”). The works by Ali Nazmi, Mammad Said Ordubadi, Aliaga Vahid, Jannati and others were published at the magazine.

H. Vazirov also wrote comedies such as “Don’t knock my door – or your door will be knocked”, “Marrying – not slaking the thirst” and “Khan-khan”. His two comedies was staged in Baku (1899, 1906, 1907). “Seda” publishing house printed his comedy “Don’t knock my door – or your door will be knocked” as a booklet in 1922. In 1913 H. Vazirov wrote a joke in one act “The wedding of Tramvay khanim, the daughter of Uprava aunt”.

H. Vazirov translated Sheakespear’s “Othello” into the Azerbaijani language. The play was staged on August 22, 1904 in Shusha. H. Vazirov himself played the role of Othello.

H. Vazirov married to Sayali khanim Mirza Hasan gizi Agayeva. They had no children.

Hashim bey Vazirov passed away on February 4, 1916 in Baku.
An Azerbaijani researcher, publicist and poet Huseyn Baykara — Gara Huseynbeyli was born in 1904 in Shusha in the family of Shirinbeyovs. His mother Mina khanim was daughter of Hasan bey Shirinbeyov and his father was the son of Huseyn bey Shirinbeyov. Gara Huseynbeyli began the struggle against the Bolsheviks in his youth. In 1923 he was arrested and poet Ahmad Javad was his prison companion.

As a result of his speeches with students about the independence of Azerbaijan, he was persecuted by Bolsheviks. In 1927 one of his friends reported him about his arrest by Bolsheviks at the ceremony dedicated to Novruz holiday. He went to Iran in 1927, then to Turkey. In 1927, he was a student of Faculty of History of the Baku State University. When Gara Huseynbeyli came to Istanbul as an migrant, he changed his name into Huseyn Baykara and graduated from the Faculty of Law of the Istanbul University. He worked as a judge in Elazigh, then prosecutor in Istanbul.

During this period H. Baykara published scientific and publisistic articles, such as “Armenian pressure on Azerbaijan and Nakhchivan issue”, “Two military victories of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic”, “One of the founder of the renaissance in Azerbaijan Abbasgulu agha Bakikhanov” and others. His works “Family dramas” and “Doctor Dadash Hasanzade” were printed at “Yeni Kafkasya” (“New Caucasus”) magazine in Istanbul by Rasulzade.


H. Baykara had four children: Orkhan, Surkhay, Mina and Gulgand.

Huseyn Baykara passed away on July 1, 1984 in Kayseri, on July 4 his body was taken to Istanbul to be buried it the Garaja Ahmed cemetery.
Jabbar Garyaghdioglu  
(1861-1944)

Singer, poet, musician, People's Artist of Azerbaijan Jabbar Mashadi was born on March 31, 1861 in Shusha. He received his secondary music education in Shusha.

Jabbar Garyaghdioglu started singing at a young age. In 1887, Jabbar Garyaghdioglu performed a part of Majnun in A. Hagverdiyev's "Majnun on the grave of Leyli". He toured in Baku, Ganja, Agdash and Shamakhi in the 90s of the 19th century. In 1905, he formed a trio with Gurban Pirimiov on tar and S. Oganezashvili on kamancha. The trio's repertoire included Azerbaijani folk songs and mughams. They went on tours to the Transcaucasia, Central Asia, Iran and Iraq. Jabbar Garyaghdioglu sang well not only in Azerbaijani, but also in Persian, Uzbek, Turkmen, Georgian and Arabic. The trio's performances were recorded on gramophone records in Warsaw, Kiev and Moscow. F. Shalyapin and S. Yesenin, who met Jabbar Garyaghdioglu in Moscow, praised his singing skills. S. Yesenin called Jabbar Garyaghdioglu "Prophet of the Eastern music".

Jabbar had a voice of great compass with a beautiful timbre. The music community compared his voice to the Italian operatic singer Enrico Caruso.

Jabbar Garyaghdioglu was one of the founders of the Azerbaijani Conservatoire. He had taught classical folk music there. About 300 folk songs were recorded in the research centre led by Bulbul, who studied Azerbaijani folk music at the conservatoire, 50 of which were written down in musical notes by composer S. Rustamov.

Jabbar Garyaghdioglu was a soloist of the Azerbaijan State Philharmonia and Azerbaijani Radio. As a poet, he wrote more than thirty ghazals (a lyric poem with a fixed number of verses and a repeated rhyme, typically on the theme of love, and normally set to music) and dubeyti (a pair of couplet). He assisted R. Gliere in writing of the opera "Shahsanam". Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Fikret Amirov, Niyazi used to consult with Jabbar Garyaghdioglu when creating their musical compositions. J. Garyaghdioglu was awarded a number of orders and medals.

Jabbar Garyaghdioglu died on April 20, 1944 in Baku.
Jafargulu khan Javanshir  
(1785-1867)

Well-known Azerbaijani poet and public figure of his time, grandson of Ibrahim Khalil Khan, major-general Jafargulu Khan Mahammad Hasan agha oglu Sarijali-Javanshir was born in 1785 in Shusha. He was educated in the palace.

As a result of struggle between him and his uncle Mehdigulu Khan, Jafargulu Khan Javanshir exiled to Siberia. After returning from exile, he became a colonel of Karabakh cavalry.

Jafargulu Khan also wrote poems under a pseudonym “Nava”.

He was married to Ajaibnisa Khanim Tuni bey gizi and Yetar Khanim Huseyn guly bey gizi. From these marriages, Jafargulu Khan had three sons – Abdullapasha agha, Karim agha and Hidayat agha.

Jafargulu Khan died in 1867 and was buried in an ancestral cemetery in Imaret, Aghdam.

Jalal Allahverdiyev  
(1929-2017)

An Azerbaijani mathematician, honoured scientist and a corresponding member of the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences, doctor of Physics and Mathematics, State Prize winner, Professor Jalal Allahverdiyev was born in Shusha on September 17, 1929.

J. Allahverdiyev graduated from school in Shusha in 1946 with excellent marks. In 1951 J. Allahverdiyev graduated from Baku State University and defended his thesis for Candidate of Sciences (Ph.D.) degree on the theme “On completeness of eigen function of non self-adjoint operators” under supervision of academician M. V. Keldysh in 1957. In 1968 he defended his thesis for Doctor’s degree (D.S) at the Institute of Applied Mathematics AS USSR in Moscow. In 1969 the scientific title professor was confirmed upon him.

His popular scientific works named after him as “Allahverdiyev’s lemma” have been included in many books, also functional analysis textbooks.


Jalal Allahverdiyev passed away on January 19, 2017 in Baku.
Jalal Garyagdi
(1914-2001)

An Azerbaijani monumentalist sculptor and People’s Artist of Azerbaijan Jalal Maharram oglu Garyagdi was born in Shusha on July 15, 1915.

He is the nephew of the great singer Jabbar Garyagdioglu, a representative of the famous Garyagdid dynasty of Shusha. He lost his parents at an early age and was brought up by his aunt and grandmother. In 1927 Jalal entered the Azerbaijan State College of Arts. Then he continued his education in the Tbilisi State Academy of Arts (1932–1935). However, due to financial difficulties, he left his education unfinished and returned to Baku. In the 1930s, he worked as an artist in newspapers and as a teacher at the Art School. From 1940s he began to create his own works. In 1960, he was awarded the honorary title of “People’s Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR” for his contribution to the development of national fine arts.

During the Second World War, he appeared with his political cartoons in frontline newspapers and worked on artistic characters of people after the war. He has works in different genres of sculpture. Monumental-decorative sculpture plays a key role in his creative activity. The compactness of images and national color are typical for his works. One of the first great works of Jalal Garyagdi is the statue of the famous satirical poet M. A. Sabir (architects A. Ismayilov and G. Alizade, 1958) near the fortress walls of Icherisheher. J. Garyagdi’s works on monumental-decorative sculpture attract attention with its artistic expression and dynamism.

The most significant works of the sculptor are the monument to Nariman Narimanov (1972), general Hazi Aslanov (1983, Lankaran), poet Samad Vurgun (Gazakh), chemist Yusif Mammadaliyev (Ordubad, Nakhchivan), busts of Gara Garayev, Fikret Emirov, Bulbul, Niyazi, Jahangir Jahangirov and others. The author of the gravestone of Samad Vurgun in the Alley of Honors is also Jabbar Garyagdi.

His bas-relieves “Koroglu of our time” dedicated to Israfil Mammadov, the first Azerbaijani awarded with the title Hero of the Soviet Union, “Farhad picking the mountain of Bisutun” and “In old oil fields” and his work “The bust of heroic pilot Adil Guliyev” are the best samples of the plastic art of sculpture with deep expressiveness and dynamism.

Jalal Garyagdi passed away on January 1, 2001 in Baku.
Jeyhun Hajibeyli
(1891-1962)

Publicist, literary critic, public figure Jeyhun Abdul Huseyn oglu Hajibeyli was born on February 3, 1891 in Shusha. He is the younger brother of Uzeyir Hajibeyov. He received his primary education in Shusha and secondary education in Baku. Later on he studied at the universities of St. Petersburg and Sorbonne.

In his youth, he became interested in music and theatre, and then was mainly engaged in literature and journalism. Living in Paris, he regularly published articles about the culture of the Azerbaijani Turks in the "Revue de Monde Musulman" journal. When the ADR (Azerbaijan Democratic Republic) was established in 1918, J. Hajibeyli returned to Baku and became the editor of the Russian-language newspaper "Azerbaijan". In 1919, he participated in the Versailles Peace Conference as part of the Azerbaijani delegation. He published the book "The First Muslim Republic of Azerbaijan" in Paris and wrote a long article in the "Revue de Monde Musulman" journal about the brutal massacre of 30,000 people in Azerbaijan in the genocide committed by the Armenian nationalist chauvinist gang led by Andranik.

After the collapse of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic and the establishment of the communist regime in Baku, J. Hajibeyli remained in Paris. He acquainted the French readers with the Azerbaijani music, art and literature, translated Uzeyir Hajibeyov's musical comedy "Arshin mal alan" (The Cloth Peddler) into French language and took part in its staging. He wrote articles about the Azerbaijani theatre, literature, Huseyn Javid, Jafar Jabbarli, and published a number of articles about the great Azerbaijani encyclopaedist, scientist, philosopher Abbasgulu agha Bakikhanov in Aziatik" journal in 1928. In 1933, he published a scientific article titled "The dialect of the Azerbaijanis of Karabakh" which is still relevant today, in the journal "Aziatik Review". J. Hajibeyli, together with French orientalists A. Bennigsen and Sh. L. Kelkejenin, participated in preparation of the monograph "History of Muslim publishing in Russia until 1920" published in 1964.

Jeyhun Hajibeyli died on October 22, 1962 in Paris and was buried in Saint-Cloud Cemetery. One of the streets in Baku is named after him.

Public figure Ramiz Abutalibov brought a major part of Jeyhun Hajibayli’s legacy to Azerbaijan. Nowadays the documents are kept at the Fund No.649 of the Azerbaijan National State Archive of Literature and Art named after Salman Mumtaz.
Khan Shushinski
(1901-1979)

Khan Shushinski - Isfandiyar Aslan oghlu Javanshir was born on August 20, 1901 in Shusha.

His master Islam Abdullayev called him “Khan” for his brilliant performance in one of the majlises in Shusha. Besides Islam Abdullayev, Jabbar Garyaghdiioghlu and Seyid Shushinski were the teachers of Khan Shushinski.

Khan was a first man who performed a solo part in symphonic mugams accompanied by a symphony orchestra. The first duet in the history of Azerbaijani music was performed by Shovkat Alakbarova and Khan Shushinski. Besides mugham, he sang only songs by Uzeyir Hajibeyov. Uzeyir Hajibeyov especially enjoyed listening to Khan’s songs. The song “Garagoz” (“Black eye”) by U. Hajibeyov, which he composed in 1926, was firstly performed by Khan Shushinski.

He performed brilliantly “Mirza Huseyn segahi”, “Shahnaz”, “Karabakh shikestesi”, “Kurd-Shahnaz”, “Rast”, “Bayati-Shiraz”, “Chahargah”, “Mahur”, “Heyrati”, “Shur” and other mughams. He played the role of singer in “O olmasin, bu olsun” (“If not that one, then this one”) movie.

Khan Shushinski also composed several songs and awarded People’s Artist of Azerbaijan in 1943. Only 240-minute tape recording has remained as a memento of Khan Shushinski.

Khan Shushinski passed away on March 18, 1979 in Baku.
Mashadi Jamil Amirov  
(1875-1928)

Tar player, composer and musician Mashadi Jamil Amiraslan oglu Amirov was born in 1875 in Shusha and received his first education in madrasah. As a child and young he lived in need. Mashadi Jamil, who lost his father Karbalayi Amiraslan bey when he was 12 years old, started selling baked peas in Shusha's Land Square and therefore interrupted his education. Mashadi Yakhshi khanum sent her son to study at a tailor. Mashadi Jamil soon became famous as a tailor in Shusha.

Like many singers of that time, Mashadi Jamil learned the secrets of classical Azerbaijani mughams from the great musicologist Navvab. For the first time, Mashadi Jamil started playing and singing with Garagoz Zulfugar in Shusha musical gatherings. Mir Mohsun Navvab's musical gatherings played an important role in his development as a musician.

In 1910, Jamil Amirov was invited to the Gramophone Company in Riga with a group of musicians. Here he recorded a number of mughams and folk songs.

In 1911 he went to Istanbul, Turkey to study music. He had lived and studied in Istanbul for about two years. Mashadi Jamil was an active exponent of the Azerbaijani music in Turkey. The Turks saw the tar playing on the chest for the first time in Mashadi Jamil. “Shahbal” journal of Turkey published a photo and a long article about Mashadi Jamil and Azerbaijani music.

After returning to Ganja, Mashadi Jamil was not allowed to open a music school in the city by Tsarist Russia. However, he opened a mugham course. Artists such as Seyid Shushinsky, Bulbul, Zulfu Adigozalov, Ali Javad oglu, Abdurrahman Farajov and Musa Shushinsky got benefit from that course. After the establishment of the USSR in 1921, Mashadi Jamil created a drama troupe in Ganja. The troupe has performed musical dramas and opera performances in Ganja, Sheki and Gazakh districts for about two years. During his stay in Ganja, he gradually learned to play the accordion, kamancha, violin and piano.

In 1923, after a long struggle, Mashadi Jamil finally received permission to open a music school in Ganja, and in the first year, 39 students were admitted to the school. Mashadi Jamil’s son Fikret Amirov, Ganbar Huseynli, Telman Hajiyev and others were students of that school. In addition, he taught tar at school and led an orchestra of folk instruments. Later, this school grew and became a music college in the 1928-1929 academic year.

Mashadi Jamil is also one of the first to make printed music of mughams in the history of the Azerbaijani music. In 1912, he wrote a musical note of Heyrati mugham and published it in "Shahbal" journal. After a long work in 1915, Mashadi Jamil wrote the opera "Seyfal-mulk" and invited many artists to Ganja to stage the work. After two performances in Ganja, the opera was invited to Tbilisi and was staged on June 3, 1916 at the Kozyanin Theater in Tbilisi. The opera was directed by Sidqi Ruhulla. After the Tbilisi tour, the opera was staged in Iravan.

Mashadi Jamil wrote the operetta "Honest Girl" in 1923, and this work was also successfully staged in Ganja. In 1924, the operetta "Honest Girl" was published in a separate booklet and sent to many parts of Azerbaijan. The operetta was performed in Shusha, Aghdash, Sheki, Barda, Zagatala, Aghdam and Tbilisi. Mashadi Jamil Amirov died in Ganja in 1928 and was buried in this city.
Singer Mashadi Mammad Farzaliyev was born in 1872 in Shusha. He left Shusha at a young age, lived and sang in Ganja for a while, and later in Tbilisi, Batumi, Vladikavkaz, Istanbul and other cities. The singer was known as a prominent artist in the Caucasus, Central Asia, Turkey and even many European countries.

While still in Shusha, M. M. Farzaliyev sang in weddings and folk festivals. For the first time in Shusha, he had great success at the Oriental concert at the Khandamirov Theater.


M. M. Farzaliyev received an invitation from the Sport-Record company operating in Warsaw in 1912, sang and recorded about 40 mughams, tasnifs and songs. Later, he recorded mugham and folk songs on a gramophone in Kiev by the company "Extrafon". M. M. Farzaliyev sang Natavan’s ghazals the most in all his mughams and songs.

In the spring of 1913, Mashadi Mammad was invited to Tbilisi by the Zubalov People’s House. In 1926, M. M. Farzaliyev gave concerts in many cities of Russia, Poland, Germany, France, Belgium, England, Austria, Romania, Turkey and Iran.

In 1923, the singer was invited to Ganja by Mashadi Jamil Amirov and began to teach mugham at the city music school.

In 1929, M. M. Farzaliyev made a tour abroad again and never returned to Azerbaijan.

The singer worked in Turkey as the head of the "Azeri Music Ensemble" under the name of Mehmet Ferzali not as Mashadi Mahammad Farzaliyev. As a result of the search, 3 tape-records of singer were found.

M. M. Farzaliyev lived in Istanbul, Turkey for many years and died in 1962 at the age of 90. He had in fact taken refuge in this country from the Soviet government, its repressions and heavy pressure.
Mir Mohsun Navvab
(1833-1918)

Artist, astronomer, literary critic, painter, historian, calligrapher and musicologist Mir Mohsun Navvab was born in 1833 in Shusha. He was born in the family of Haji Seyid Ahmad and never left his hometown. Having received his primary education at a theological school, Navvab learned Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages well, and then mastered the basics of astronomy, chemistry, mathematics and other sciences at the Abbas Sarijali Madrasa.

Mir Mohsun Navvab is first known as a musicologist, the author of the treatise "Vuzuhul-arqam" ("Explanation of numbers") written in the Azerbaijani language. Written in the spirit of the best classical traditions, it is one of the last treatises of its kind in the East. In Azerbaijan, Navvab is one of the old chemists, astrologers and old school artists.

Throughout his life, Navvab took an active part in the cultural and social life of Shusha. He wrote poems, published books in the printing house he opened, taught in schools, wrote more than twenty books on various fields of science and art, organized literary and musical gatherings called "Majlisi-Faramushan" and "Majlisi-khananda". Poets Abdulla bey Asi, Fatma khanum Kamina, Mashadi Eyyub Bagi, Khan Garabaghi, Abdulla Hasan Shahid, performers and singers Haji Husu, Mashadi Jamil Amirov, Islam Abdullayev, Seyid Shushinski and others were members of those assemblies.

Among Mir Mohsun's works, the collection "Tazkireyi-Navvab" is more interesting. It contains information about the life and work of more than 100 poets who left Karabakh in the Middle Ages. The memoir was published as a book in 1913 in Baku.

Navvab was interested in mathematics, chemistry and astronomy. He built two telescopes, a small observatory and a chemistry laboratory in his house. In his textbook Kifayatul-atfal, written in 1899, he compiled tables on the location of celestial bodies and solar eclipses.

In the book "Admonition" he gave more than 500 pieces of advice to young people. The ethical views of the well-known pedagogue and scientist are reflected in his books such as "Kifayatul-atfal", "Nurul-Anwar" and "Pandname".

Undoubtedly, the greatest contribution to the art of Karabakh and all Azerbaijan was made by Navvab with his artistic creativity. Many watercolour paintings, book miniatures and patterns painted on several buildings and mosques by him have survived to the present day.

Mir Mohsun Navvab's famous musical treatise "Vuzuhul-arqam" was first published in 1913 in Baku. In this treatise, Mir Mohsun examines the origin of separate mughams, some dastgahs, the roots of their names, the connection of mughams with poetic texts, the relationship between the performer and the listener, their optimal location in terms of acoustics. For the first time, Navvab used the term dastgah there, referring to the six dastgah known in Karabakh at that time: Rast, Mahur, Shahnaz, Rahavi, or Rahab, Chahargah and Nava. In that work, the scientist also mentioned the names of 82 songs and mughams performed by Karabakh musicians. Mir Mohsun investigated the origin of several mughams and the etymology of their names in that work.

The author's book "Tavarikhi-razm and shurishi-taifeyi-arameniyyeyi-Gafgaz ba fircgeyi-musulmanan" ("History of the war and unrest of the Caucasian Armenian tribe against Muslims") is written on the basis of real facts and fully reflects the atrocities and criminal acts committed by the Armenians against the Azerbaijani people in 1905-1906. This work, which became a desk book for historians, was first published in Baku in 1993 under the title "Armenian-Muslim conflict in 1905-1906".

Mir Mohsun Navvab died in 1918 in the city of Shusha.
Mirza Rahim Fana
(1841-1931)

Rahim bey Mirza Mammadbagir oglu Mirzayev was born in 1844 in the city of Shusha. He received his primary education with a mullah. Then, in the madrasa, Mirza Abdulgasim studied under Mirza Ali oglu Kabirli. Later, he continued his education in Tbilissi (Georgia) and mastered Arabic, Persian and Turkish languages, as well as Russian. He was called a mirza because he was educated. He wrote lyric poetry in the classical genre under the pseudonyms "Ashig" and "Fena". However, most of his poems have not survived to this day.

Rahim bey Fana served with Khan kyzy Khurshidbanu Natavan. In 1864, Mirza Rahim Fena was one of the initiators of the creation of the literary community "Majlisi uns" ("Meeting of Friends"), headed by the famous poetess Khurshudbanu Natavan. He was elected as a secretary of the Majlis, which included about 30 writers.

His valuable memoirs about "Majlisi-uns" were published as an appendix in the two-volume "Azerbaijani literature". Mirza Rahim Fana since childhood has shown great interest in science. Some of his works, which had been written by the mature writer, in Arabic, Persian and Azerbaijani languages in verse and prose, are preserved at the Institute of Manuscripts named after M. Fuzuli of the National Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan. An important place in the archives is occupied by the book "The events of 1905", written in Azerbaijani Turkish, about the massacres committed by the Armenian nationalists at the beginning of the last century. In this manuscript were mentioned, Shusha, Zangazur, Jabrayil, Javanshir, Baku, Tbilissi, Ganja, Aghdam, Gazakh and others, which were the places of bloody panics in 1905. The main purpose of this work, as he noted, is not to arouse pity for Muslims, to declare that they are in a desperate situation, but to protect future generations from the calamities that befell the Islamic Ummah. It was to protect her from the bloody consequences of the once again harmful activities of chauvinism. Mirza Rahim Fena is also the author of the historical chronicle of Karabakh - "Tarihi-Jadid-Garabagh". However, some parts of the chronicle were lost, which makes it impossible to form a complete picture of this work. In this chronicle work, the author, as it were, repeats the chronicles that preceded him. In any case, this work of Mirza Rahim has its own advantages from the point of view of a meaningful description of the history of Karabakh. The information provided by the author attracts special attention in the context of understanding the socio-political situation of that era.

Mirza Rahim bey died on February 11, 1931 in Baku. He had a son named Asad bey.
Muhammad Mirza Qajar  
(1872-1920)

Muhammad Mirza Qajar is a military leader, Major General of the Army of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic. He is one of 31 sons of Prince Bahman Mirza, grandson of Fatali Shah, a member of the Qajar dynasty of Azerbaijan. The son of Bahman Mirza from the fifth wife, Chichek Khanim. The younger brother of General Amir Kazim Mirza Govanli Qajar and General Amanullah Khan Mirza.

He was born in 1872 in Shusha. Graduated from the military cadet corps in St. Petersburg.

Since 1910 - the commander of the first Kuban Cossack battery named after the Grand Duke Field Marshal Mikhail Nikolaevich. He fought as part of the Cossack cavalry during the First World War.

In November 1918, he entered the army of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic. After the restoration of the Ministry of War, Colonel Muhammad Mirza Qajar was appointed as a commander of the first artillery brigade. By a government decision of June 25, 1919, he was awarded by the rank of major general for his services in organizing the Azerbaijani army. For some time he headed the First Infantry Division, then was appointed as a head of the Ganja garrison. On December 1, 1919, Muhammad Mirza Qajar was appointed as a head of the Main Artillery Directorate, and on March 15, 1920, as a head of the supply of the Azerbaijan Army.

In May 1920, Muhammad Mirza Qajar was one of the main organizers of the Ganja uprising against the Bolshevik occupation. Because of the joint operation of the occupying Bolshevik forces, the uprising was brutally suppressed and Muhammad Mirza Qajar, along with his brothers, General Amir Kazim Mirza Govanli Qajar and General Feyzullah Mirza Qajar Govanli (1864-1920), were killed. Feyzullah Mirza Qajar was the commander of the cavalry division of the army of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic.

Muhammad Mirza Qajar for his exemplary service from 1910 until the beginning of the First World War was awarded the Order of St. Anna, II degree (with swords) and the same order of the IV degree (with the inscription "For Bravery"). During the First World War, he was awarded the Order of St. Stanislav II and III degree (with a sword and a ribbon).
The first monumental female sculptor in Azerbaijan, Munavvar Majid gizi Rzayeva, was born on June 6, 1929 in Shusha in the family of the famous carpet weaver Majid.

In 1950, she graduated from the Azerbaijani State Art School named after Azim Azimzade in Baku, and in 1956, she graduated from the sculpture faculty of the Moscow State Academy of Arts named after Surikov.

She has been a participant in various exhibitions since 1943. In 1953, Munavvar Rzayeva was elected as a member of the Union of Artists of Azerbaijan.

At the same time, she was a member of the State Commission of the Ministry of Culture, worked as a restorer in the Museum of Literature named after Nizami of ANAS and restored a number of statues.

Her works are kept in the Azerbaijani National Museum of Art, the National Museum of Azerbaijani Literature named after Nizami Ganjavi, the Ordubadi Museum, the House of Culture and the Art Fund in Siyazan.

M. Rzayeva was a master of psychological portraiture. The statues are made of granite, marble, bronze, wood, etc. created using materials. Her works consisted mainly of statues of artists, including statues, busts and bas-reliefs of political leaders and labor heroes. The busts of Huseyn Javid, Sergey Yesenin, Nariman Narimanov, Mikayil Mushfig, Nazim Hikmet have a special place in her creative activity.

The sculptor was awarded by the title of Honored Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 1992.

M. Rzayeva's latest work is published in 3763 m of the mountain located in Gusar region of Azerbaijan. There was a bronze bas-relief (length 82 cm, width 59 cm, weight 42 kg) of the national leader of Azerbaijan Heydar Aliyev attached to the “Heydar Peak”. The bas-relief was attached to the highest mountain peak conquered by a group of climbers on May 10, 1998, on the 75th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev.

Munavvar Rzayeva died on June 6, 2004 in Baku.
Najaf bey Vazirov
(1854-1926)

Najaf bey Fatali bey oglu Vazirov, the playwright, publicist, and the theater figure was born on February 17, 1854 in Shusha. He received his primary education in Shusha and secondary education in Baku. In 1878, he graduated from the Petrovsky-Razumovsky Agricultural Academy in Moscow.

N. Vazirov is one of the founders of the Azerbaijani professional theater. For the first time in 1873, together with Hasan bey Zardabi, he staged Mirza Fatali Akhundov’s comedies "The vizier of Lankaran khan" and "Haji Gara".

In 1875 it began to be published in the Akinchi newspaper. In his dramatic works, he criticized the Azerbaijani village of the late 19th and early 20th centuries - landowners, peasants, intellectuals, the bourgeoisie, executives and swindlers in real life. In his works "The flesh is yours, the bone is mine", "What you sow, you reap", "The ship is not without an anchor", and «A stone thrown from a branch is worth a heel", he sharply criticized the principles and attitudes of children in the family at that time.

Haji Qanbar's ambition for wealth, falsification of human relations and hypocrisy were criticized in the work "We came out of the rain, we fell into the rain". In the first Azerbaijani tragedy, “The Tragedy of Fakhraddin”, he created the image of a young man who raised his voice in protest against the fact that his liberal son, who was educated in Europe, did not agree with the feudal rules here. In his works, N. Vazirov raises his voice against the policy pursued by the tsarist regime in Azerbaijan. His plays have been staged with great success in the Caucasus, the Volga region, the North Caucasus, Iran and Turkey.

The moral and family issues, traditional ignorance and the struggle against it, the national-social movement in the East and Russia, the idea of internationalism and friendship of peoples, the issue of women's freedom were the main topics of the articles written by Najaf bey Vazirov.

His works are translated into a number of foreign languages.

Najaf bey Vazirov died on July 9, 1926 in Chukhuryurd and was buried in Baku.

The State Drama Theater in Lankaran named after him.
Nariman bey Narimanbeyli
(1889-1937)

Nariman bey Hashim oglu Narimanbeyli, one of the active participants of the national independence movement of Azerbaijan, member of the Parliament of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, socio-political and state figure, was born in 1889 in Shusha.

Since his family moved to Irevan, he received his secondary education at the Irevan Gymnasium. His father Hashim bey Hashim bey opened a school on his native language for Azerbaijanis in Irevan and took an active part in organizing a charity society. Hashim Bey's book "Mother Tongue" compiled for Azerbaijani schools together with other teachers was published in 1907 in Irevan, and later three times in Tbilissi (Tbilisi). Until recently, one of the two Azerbaijani schools in Irevan was named after Hashim Bey.

Nariman Bey studied at the Department of Physics and Mathematics of Moscow University, and then at the Faculty of Law of Kharkiv University. Here he was elected to the leadership of the "Azerbaijani Students 'Compatriots' Society" and carried out revolutionary activities. Proceeds from performances by members of the community with his participation were distributed to the families of teachers affected by the First World War.

N. Narimanbeyli returned to his homeland after graduating in 1915, worked as a lawyer and was one of the leaders of the Muslim Charity Society. After the February Revolution (1917) in Russia, he joined the "Musavat" party, participated in the Congress of Caucasian Muslims in Baku, the first congress of the "Musavat" party. N. Narimanbeyli was elected as a member of the Transcaucasian Seym in February 1918, and after the collapse of the Muslim faction of the Seym and the Transcaucasian Federation (May 26, 1918), he became a member of the National Council of Azerbaijan (May 27, 1918).

At the meeting of the National Council of Azerbaijan, which held in Tbilissi (Georgia) on May 28, 1918, was adopted the Act on the State Independence of Azerbaijan - the Declaration of Independence. N. Narimanbeyli was one of the signatories of the Declaration of Independence and a member of the National Council who voted for independence. According to the "Law on the Establishment of the Majlis-Prisoner of Azerbaijan" of the National Council (November 19, 1918), it was included in the Parliament of the Republic without elections. Narimanbeyli, as a member of the Musavat party and neutral factions in the parliament, held the position of the state inspector in the fourth government cabinet. He took part in a number of the cultural events in Baku. After the April occupation (1920), he worked, as a legal adviser in various departments, was a persecuted and fired, and later worked as a lawyer.

Nariman Bey was a victim of repression in 1937.
Panakhali Khan
(1693-1758)

Ibrahimkhalil aga oglu Panahali bey was born in 1693. It belongs to the Javanshir tribe of Karabakh. One of the carvings inhabited by Javanshirs was Sarijali carving located in Dizag district. The eldest son of Ibrahimkhalil agha, Fazlali bey was appointed as a butler in the palace of Nadir Shah. However, for an unknown reason, the Shah killed him in a fit of anger.

Despite the fact that his brother Panahali bey was appointed to replace Fazlali bek, he was remembering the fate of his older brother, and that is why fled from the palace together with six of his relatives in 1738. In 1747, Nadir Shah was killed. The central government was paralyzed; conditions were created for gaining independence by the outlying territories of the empire. At that time, about 20 independent and semi-independent khanates were formed on the territory of Azerbaijan.

In 1748, Panah Ali bey Sarijali Javanshir founded the Karabakh Khanate. He, along with 200 equestrians, arrived in Karabakh and declared himself a khan. The khanate was located between the Araz and Kura rivers. The Karabakh khanate bordered on the Iravan, Sheki, Ganja, Nakhchivan, Garadagh, Javad and Shemakhi khanates. After the founding of the khanate, to strengthen the defensive structures, Panah Ali Khan built the Bayat fortress in the Kabirli mahal in 1748, and the Shahbulag fortress in Ternekut in 1751. Shusha became the third fortress built by Panah Ali Khan. The fortress was located in remote mountains. However, after the Mongol invasion (XIII century), the fortress was destroyed and rebuilt by Panah Ali Khan. Shusha fortress became the economic and political capital of the Karabakh Khanate.

Because of the correct policy pursued by Panah Ali Khan, neighboring khanates and meliks within the khanate recognized the authority of Panah Ali Khan. Therefore, Fatali Khan Afshar from Urmia and Muhammad Hasan Shah Qajar attacked the Karabakh Khanate. Although only Fatali khan was able to subjugate the khanate, Kerim khan Zend's declaration of war against Fatali khan led to the liberation of the Karabakh khanate from dependence. However, after Kerim khan Zend defeated Fatali khan and captured Urmia, he subdued the Karabakh khanate and entrusted its administration to Ibrahim, the son of Panah Ali khan. Kerim Khan invited Panah Ali Khan to Shiraz. With this, he dealt a strong blow to the Karabakh Khanate.

The historian of Karabakh Mirza Jamal writes that Panah khan was able to show himself as a prominent commander and political leader during the 12 years of his rule after the death of Nadir Shah.

Panahali khan died in 1758 in Shiraz. His son-in-law brought his body to Karabakh and buried in the Imarat cemetery near Aghdam. Armenian vandals destroyed the Imarat cemetery after occupying the city of Aghdam in 1993.

After the death of Panahali khan, the power in Karabakh passed to his eldest son Ibrahimkhalil.
Ramiz Gambarov
(1962-1992)

The National Hero of Azerbaijan, Commander of the Shusha Self-Defense Battalion, fighter of the First Karabakh War Ramiz Bulud oglu Gambarov was born on July 2, 1962 in Shusha.

In 1979, he graduated from the Shusha city secondary school named after H. Hajiyyev. In 1980 he was drafted into the army, in 1982 he was demobilized and returned to Shusha. In 1986, he entered the Azerbaijan Civil Engineering Institute, but could not complete his education. The Karabakh war, which started by the Armenian aggressors, forced Ramiz, like thousands of brave sons of Azerbaijan, to defend our lands. In 1988, Ramiz joined to the popular movement.

In 1992, he created a self-defense battalion from volunteers and led it. His battalion fought valiantly for the defense of Shusha, the villages of Kerkijakh, Kosalar, Nabilyar, Gaybali, Malybeyli, Gushchular, Geytala. On April 29, 1992, with a battalion of volunteers, he took part in a heavy battle near the villages of Kosalar and Kerkidzhakhan, intercepted four enemy posts. In this battle, the brave commander was seriously wounded. A day later, on April 30, 1992, he passed away. He was buried in Shusha, but he has a symbolic grave in the Alley of Martyrs in Baku.

Gambarov Ramiz Bulud oglu was posthumously awarded the title of the National Hero of Azerbaijan. The film “Şuşalı şahid” (“Martyr from Shusha”) was shot about Ramiz Gambarov. The script and director of the film is Kamala Musazade.
Sadikhjan
(1846-1902)

The musician, tar player, composer and artist who contributed to the history of Azerbaijan Sadikhjan - Mirza Asad oglu Sadikh was born in 1846 in Shusha. His family was not rich, and his father worked as a security guard. Growing up in an environment like Shusha, Sadikh had an unlimited desire for art and music since childhood. Hearing the beautiful voice of his son, the father takes him to the school of Harrat Gulu. After checking his voice, Sadikh was admitted to the school. At the age of 18, Sadig, who sang folk songs in a unique way, suddenly lost his voice. However, his attachment to music and art does not discourage him. He plays the flute for a while, nee, and then kamancha and tar. Although he listens to these instruments beautifully, he finds himself only on the tar.

In the 1890s, in Shusha, was created an ensemble, under his leadership, in which the most famous singers and musicians participated. Hearing the wonderful performance of Sadikhjan, Mahmud Agha from Shamakhi invited him to Shirvan. Sadikhjan, who won many admirers with his skillful performance at Shamakhi Majlises (meetings), returned to Karabakh after a while. "Majlisi-uns" organized by Khurshidbanu Natavan did not pass without the participation of Sadikhjan. In addition to participating in celebrations and musical gatherings, Sadikh gave concerts during the breaks of performances in Shusha and Tiflis. In 1880, as part of this trio, he received an invitation to Tabriz for the wedding of Mozafereddin Qajar Mirza, the son of Nasreddin Shah Qajar. At the wedding, where there were many famous musicians and singers, Gadzhi Gusi and Sadikhjan were recognized as the best khanende and tarist and were awarded the “Shiri-Khurshid” order.

Sadikhjan was also a famous teacher. Among the famous students of the tarist are Gurban Pirimov, Mashadi Jamil Amirov, Mashadi Zeynal Khagverdiyev, Shirin Akhundov, Mardi Janibekov, Hamid Malibeyli and others. In 1901, Sadikhdjan took part in the first Eastern concert in Shusha, performing the solo mugam "Makhur".

Sadikhdjan made a number of the significant changes in the design and structure of the container. Before Sadikhdjan, the instrument was placed on the lap. He breaks this simple rule and for the first time in the history of this instrument begins to play it on his chest. Sadikhdjan increased the number of strings from five to 11, made additional changes in the body of the instrument. The new tar created by him, was considered more beautiful and perfect. The creation and improvement of a number of mugams in the history of Azerbaijani music is associated with the works of Sadikhdjan and Azerbaijani tar.

Sadikhjan died in 1902, at the age of 56 in Shusha. A Street in the Khatai district of Baku is named after him. The story of Ilyas Efendiyev "The Tale of the Khan's daughter Gulsanuber and the tarist Sadikhdjan" dedicated to the tarist. In 2005, the artist Bayram Gasimkhanli painted a portrait of Sadikhdjan.
Safarali bey Valibeyov
(1856-1902)

An outstanding educator, teacher Safarali bey Shikhgasan bek oglu Velibekov was born in 1856 in Shusha. While studying with the mullah, he studied Arabic and Persian. In 1875-1879, he studied at the Shusha city school. In 1879, on the initiative of A.O. Chernyayevsky, he entered the 2nd grade of the Azerbaijani branch of the Transcaucasian (Gori) Teachers' Seminary. A. O. Chernyayevsky was in Shusha to gather students, he talked to young Safarali Bey, saw that he was smart and capable.

S. Velibekov was one of the first three Azerbaijanis who graduated from the Transcaucasian (Gori) Teachers' Seminary, and he devoted 18 years of his life to teaching. During this time, he has brought up dozens of talented young people. J. Mamedguluzade, N. Narimanov, S. S. Akhundov and many others received their primary education from Safarali bey Velibekov.

He was one of the first seminarians admitted to the newly created Azerbaijani branch of the seminary. The head of the department, who is fluent in the Azerbaijani language, a native of Shemakha, Alexander Osipovich Chernyaevsky. After graduating from the seminary in 1881, S. Velibekov remained in a leading position in an elementary school and worked here until 1896. In addition, during the summer holidays of 1883, he opened a school in Shusha and began to teach children to read and write. His school had 25 students from different lifestyles. S. Velibekov used the sound teaching method. He also explained the benefits of the sound method to local school trustees.

In the 90s of the XIX century, some reactionary leaders of the Caucasian educational corps tried to exclude the Azerbaijani language from the curriculum of the seminary. Velibekov was against this, because of which he was fired.

His textbook "Veten Dili" (part II, together with A. Chernyaevsky), translations from Russian "Kudrati-Khuda", "Usuli-Jadid", books on history, literature, geography and encyclopedic work "Khazinei-Akhbar" for many years are the favorite books of Azerbaijani children. On January 1, 1895, S. Velibekov was awarded the Order of St. Anna of the third degree for his worthy pedagogical service.

In 1896, S. Velibekov moved to Baku, where he was engaged in teaching activities for two years. Later he worked as a translator at the Baku customs. S. Velibekov married Khurshud khanum, daughter of Bahman Mirza Gajar Govanli, and they had two daughters, Nigar khanum and Suraya khanum.

Safarali bey Velibekov died of the heart disease on August 31, 1902 in Baku.
Samad bey Mehmandarov
(1856-1931)

Minister of War of ADR, prominent figure, General of Artillery Samed bey Sadikh bey oglu Mehmandarov was born on October 16, 1856 in Lankaran. His father, originally from Shusha, lived in Lankaran in connection with the civil service. Samad Bek Mehmandarov received his primary education in Lankaran at the school of Mirza Ismail Gasir, and then in 1873 he entered the St. Petersburg Military Konstantinovsky School. After graduating from college in 1875, with the rank of ensign, he was sent to the first Turkestan Artillery Brigade. In 1894, he was sent to the Warsaw Military District, and in 1898, he was transferred to the Trans-Baikal Military Division.

At the end of the 19th century, S. Mehmandarov considered the enlightenment of the people to be extremely important, and despite his distance from his homeland, he published a number of articles in periodicals. Reflecting his public concerns, he wrote "Reasons for the backwardness of Muslims," "Primary reading lessons," "Against Muslim conservatism," "Religious Shiites," "Muslims torturing themselves," and so on. His articles were published in the "Novoye Obozreniye" newspaper in Tbilisi.

S. Mehmandarov took part in the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-1905, was the commander of the seventh East Siberian Artillery Division, as well as the artillery chief of the Eastern Front of Port Arthur. He was awarded the Order of St. George of the fourth degree for his bravery in the war and was promoted to the rank of Major General. S. Mehmandarov was also a participant in the First World War, first commanded the first rifle division, then the 2nd Caucasian Army, and in these positions successfully and responsibly fulfilled the tasks assigned to him. On March 22, 1915, he was awarded the rank of general.

After the February Revolution (1917), due to the growth of anarchy in the army, Mehmandarov resigned and returned to his homeland in the fall of 1918. On November 1, 1918, when the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic decided to restore the Ministry of War, S. Mehmandarov was appointed as a deputy minister of war and was instructed to form a ministry and an army, and on December 25, 1918, he was appointed a Minister of war. In fact, from this time, systematic and purposeful work began on the creation of a national army. S. Mehmandarov was the architect of the army of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic.

On November 17, 1918, the command of the British troops entering Baku on behalf of the allies demanded the withdrawal of the armed forces of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, including the Ministry of War, from Baku. In this regard, the ministry was moved to Ganja and operated there until mid-1919. S. Mehmandarov considered increasing the number of officers an important condition for improving army development on a national basis. On his initiative, was opened a school for ensigns, which based on the Ganja military school, and then a military school. At the same time, a sapper and a military paramedic school operated in Shusha.

The decisive repulse of the Armenian aggression against Karabakh at the end of March 1920 and the provision of the republic's territorial integrity were valuable results of Mehmandarov's activities as Minister of War.

In connection with the April occupation (1920), Mehmandarov resigned. The forces that destroyed Azerbaijan's independence found him guilty of organizing the Ganja uprising and arrested him on June 4, 1920, together with General Alaga Shikhlinsky. They were saved from repression only by the intervention of the head of the Council of People's Commissars of Azerbaijan, Nariman Narimanov. In the summer of 1921, S. Mehmandarov returned to Baku and got a job at the People's Commissariat for Military and Naval Affairs, in 1928, worked as a teacher at the United Commanders School in 1924-1928, and retired in 1929.
Samed bey Mehmandarov died on February 12, 1931 and was buried at the Chambarakand cemetery in Baku.
Seyid Shushinsky
(1889-1965)

Mir Mekhsun agha Seyid Ibrahim oglu Shushinsky was born on April 12, 1889 in the village of Horadiz, district of Shusha.

Seyid Shushinsky was the brightest representative of the Shusha School of khanende. Jabbar Garyagdioglu called it “the pearl of the oriental music”.

Seid Shushinsky, who had a unique and beautiful voice, studied with Navvab for two years. Then his teacher was Jabbar Garyagdioglu. Seyid Shushinsky performed the difficult mugam "Chahargah" with great skill. In his work, along with the gazelles of Hafiz, Fizuli, Seyid Azim Shirvani, he also referred to the poems of Javid and Sabir. Sabir's poem "Why do I need the torment of the people" performed in "Mukhalif".

Seyid Shushinsky was the first singer to perform poems and gazelles on political and social topics, urging people to fight. Seyid Shushinsky was friends with such masters as Mirza Jalil, Abdurrahim bey Akhverdiyev, Huseyn Javid, Huseyn Arabinsky. He also sang a number of militant songs. "Ayil ey millet", "I am a Turk", "If the nation wants" and so on. He provided financial support for the publication of the several issues of the magazine "Molla Nasreddin". Seyid Shushinsky was also a philanthropist. He helped to many actors of the theater of that time. As an actor, he has played a number of the roles. In Uzeyir Hajibeyov's opera Leyli and Majnun, staged in the different years in Tbilisi, Shusha and Baku, he played the roles of Majnun, Ibn Salam, in the musical comedies “Not that, so this”(O olmasin, bu olsun), “Arshin Mal Alan”, “Sarvar and Asker”.

In addition to Chahargkah, Seyid Shushinsky performed such mughams as Mahur, Nava, Masnawi, Mani, Arazbari and Heirats. As an artist-innovator, he combined many mughams and sang them in a new version ("Rast-Humayun", "Gatar-Bayati", "Shur-Shahnaz"). Seyid Shushinsky first performed "Dilkesh" in "Rast" and "Kurdi-Shahnaz". From 1926 to 1933, he taught at the Azerbaijani State Conservatory and from 1943 at the Baku Music School.

In 1956, he was awarded by the title of the People's Artist of Azerbaijan. Seyid Shushinsky died on November 1, 1965 in Baku and was buried on the Alley of Honor.
Shamsi Badalbeyli
(1911-1987)

Well-known Azerbaijani actor and director Shamsi Badal bey oglu Badalbeyli was born on February 23, 1911 in Shusha in the family of the prominent pedagogue and public figure Badal bey Badalbeyli and Rahima khanum Gajar.

After graduating from the high school in Baku, Sh. Badalbeyli enters the Azerbaijani Pedagogical College. In 1927-1932, he studied at the Azerbaijani State Conservatory. For two years, he was a student of Uzeyir Hajibeyli in the department of the folk instruments, then in the class of the composition theory.

In those years, he played the tar in the orchestra led by his older brother, composer and conductor Afrasiyab Badalbeyli at the Azerbaijani State Drama Theater. At the same time, he befriended with the playwright and director Jafar Jabbarli and helped him with his stage activities. This increases his interest in the art of directing, and he worked as an assistant director in the performances of J. Jabbarli's works.

In 1930-1932, he worked as a head of the "Art and Literature" department in the editorial office of the "Young Worker" newspaper, and published articles about a number of performances in the pages of that newspaper.

In 1933, Sh. Badalbeyli was sent to Moscow to study by the People's Commissariat of Education. He is studying with famous directors Kote Marcanashvili and Alexei Popov.

In 1941, he was sent to Iran, shortly after the outbreak of World War II. Here he worked as a literary worker in the newspaper "For the Motherland" and wrote articles about culture, also in Tabriz, with the participation of amateur actors, he staged musical comedies "Arshin Mal Alan" by U. Hajibeyov, "A Married Bachelor" and "A Fifty-Year-Old Boy" by Z. Hajibeyov. In 1942, he returned to his homeland.

In 1943, Sh. Badalbeyli was awarded by the honorary title of Honored Art Worker by the Presidium of the Supreme of the Soviet of Azerbaijan for his great achievements in the development of the Azerbaijani art. In 1943-1949, he worked as an art director at the Azerbaijani State Theater of Musical Comedy.

In 1949-1956 Sh. Badalbeyli worked as a director and an artistic director of the Azerbaijani State Philharmonic named after M. Magomayev. In 1964, Sh. Badalbeyli is awarded by the honorary title of the People's Artist of Azerbaijan.

In 1976, Sh. Badalbeyli was elected as a Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijani Theater Society. In 1978, on his initiative, was established the Friendship Theater in Baku under the Azerbaijani Theater Society, where touring performances of well-known theater groups from different republics were organized.

Shamsi Badalbeyli died on May 23, 1987 and he was buried in the Alley of Honor in Baku.
Soltan Hajibeyov
(1919-1974)

The Azerbaijani composer, conductor, professor Soltan Ismail oglu Hajibeyov was born on May 8, 1919 in the city of Shusha. Since 1936, he lived in the family of his uncle Uzeyir Hajibeyov. After graduating from high school, he entered the music school. At the same time, he worked as a conductor at the Musical Comedy Theater. His first works were The Pioneer Cantata for chorus and symphony orchestra and the musical comedy "Golden Rose" (1940). The “Golden Rose” was staged with great success in 1940 on the stage of the Baku Musical Comedy Theater. In 1939, he entered the Azerbaijani State Conservatory at the composer's faculty. During these years, he created: two preludes, a sonata for piano, songs "A Conversation of Flowers" to the words of I. Zamanly and "Song of Oil", romances "Birdie" and "The Lonely Sail Gleams White", a string quartet, symphonic variations.

During the Second World War, S. Hajibeyov composed "Songs of Warriors", marches for the orchestra of folk instruments dedicated to the 416th Taganrog Division.

In 1945, the Turkmen Opera and Ballet Theater ordered the composer to write the opera "Kamina and Gazi". The symphonic excerpt from this work is called "Caravan". In 1955, this excerpt was re-published and released as a separate work and included in the repertoires. The symphonic picture "Caravan" by the composer and based on the intonations of the "Hijaz" department of the "Shur" mugam.

The composer wrote six songs for children and the opera Iskender and the Shepherd (libretto by M. Seidzade). In 1950, S. Hajibeyov created the ballet "Gulshan" (libretto by G. Almaszade). This work, dedicated to a modern theme, touches on human relationships, moral qualities, and aesthetic themes. From 1950 to 1953, he composed a number of folk songs and mugams for orchestra of folk instruments. In the 1950s, the composer traveled to Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia, and after returning home, he composed "Bulgarian Suite" and "Czech Dance".


He was awarded by the title of the People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR on May 24, 1960, and the title of the People's Artist of the USSR on July 26, 1973.

Soltan Hajibeyov died on September 19, 1974 in Baku. Sumgayit Music School named after him.
Suleyman Alasgarov
(1924-1999)

The Composer, People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR Suleyman Ayyub oglu Alasgarov was born on February 22, 1924 in Shusha. In 1940, after graduating from the tar class of Shusha secondary music school, he came to Baku, first entered the theory department of the Azerbaijani State Conservatory, and then the composition department, which graduated with honors. The double concert for cello and piano symphony orchestra created by S. Alasgarov during his student years is noteworthy. This is one of the first works written by Azerbaijani composers in this genre. The audience warmly welcomed the first double concert at the Azerbaijani State Philharmonic in June 1947.

The composer's diploma work was the "Vatan" (Rodina) symphony, dedicated to the life of our contemporaries.

In 1948, S. Alasgarov graduated from the Azerbaijani State Conservatory and began teaching at the Baku Secondary Music School.

In 1949-1951, he was a director of that music school, in 1951-1952, he was an art director of the Song and Dance Ensemble of the Azerbaijani State Philharmonic, and in the 60s he was a director and chief conductor of the Theater of Musical Comedy.

In 1956, S. Alasgarov was invited to the department of the Azerbaijani folk music of the Azerbaijani State Conservatory named after Hajibeyli, and from 1971, he worked as the head of that department.

In 1967, he was awarded the Republican Prize named after composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli for his play "The Beggar Son of a Millionaire". The composer's operetta "Ulduz" has been staged both in many cities of the country and far beyond its borders and screened at the "Azerbaijanfilm" film studio named after J. Jabbarli.

The opera "Bahadir and Sona" (libretto by A. Badalbeyli and Sh. Gurbanov) was an important stage in the creative biography of S. Alasgarov. The opera was staged in 1962 on the stage of the Azerbaijani State Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after MF Akhundov.

S. Alasgarov created several cantatas and poems. He is the author of the cantatas "Let there be love for the Motherland!", "Spring songs", "Under one flag".

S. Alasgarov's lyrical songs are different in theme and emotionality. Among his Russian and Azerbaijani classical poets were AS Pushkin, MF Akhundov, M.A. Sabir's songs and romances written in S. Vurgun's poems form an interesting vocal lyric group of the composer.

He has been working as a head of the Karabakh branch of the Union of the Composers of Azerbaijan since 1972.

On June 18, 1974, he was awarded the honorary title of People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR.

Suleyman Alasgarov was awarded by the Order of Glory on February 21, 1999 for his services to the development of the Azerbaijani music.

Suleyman Alasgarov died on January 21, 2000 in Baku.
Suleyman Sani Akhundov
(1875–1939)

The playwright, prose writer, educator Suleyman Sani Rzagulu bey oglu Akhundov was born on October 3, 1875 in Shusha.

SS Akhundov lost his father as a child and grew up under the care of his uncle Safarali bey Valibeyov. After studying at the Gori Teachers' Seminary in 1885-1894, SS Akhundov was appointed a teacher at the Russian-Tatar school of the III degree. He was engaged in pedagogical activity until the end of his life and was known as a writer and journalist.

SS Akhundov took part in the first congress of Azerbaijani teachers convened in Baku in 1906. In 1920–1921, he was the head of the education department of the Karabakh region; in 1922–1930, he was the headmaster of a school in Baku. In 1922, he was elected as a first chair of the Union of Writers and Poets of Azerbaijan.

The first creative work of SS Akhundov is the comedy "Tamahkar". He wrote this work in 1899 under the influence of Mirza Fatali Akhundov's "Haji Gara". In this comedy, he spoke out against a number of negatives of the time, including greed, covetousness, and female slavery. He brought a political and social theme to the Azerbaijani theater scene with his comedies "Dibdat bey" and "Turkish unity" written in 1907. "Lachin nest", "From darkness to light", "Personality and Gulpari", "Happiness is in hard work", "Molla Nasreddin in Baku", "Love and revenge" and others. S.S. Akhundov is also a prose writer. His first stories were "Hospitality" (1905), "Kovkebi-Hürriyet" (1905), and "Dream" (1905). SS Akhundov's "Fountain of Blood" (1923), "Lamp of Hope" (1923), "Victim of Ignorance" (1923), "Why" (1925), "Congratulations" (1925), "Aunt Sona" (1926), The stories "Honor" (1926), "Mr. Gray's Dog" (1927), "Last Hope" (1927), "Two Friends, Two Enemies" (1927), "Young Driver and Old Writer" (1935) are valuable examples of the Azerbaijani prose.

He has a great contribution to the formation and development of XX century Azerbaijani children's literature. The author brought innovations in form, content and style to Azerbaijani children's literature with his works "Ahmad and Maleyka", "Abbas and Zeynab", "Nureddin", "Gypsy Girl", "Ashraf" written under the title "Fearful Tales" (1912-1914).

Suleyman Sani Akhundov died on March 29, 1939, at the age of 63.
Suraya Qajar
(1910-1992)

The Opera singer Surayya khanum Sadraddin Mirza gizi Gajar was born on May 1, 1910 in the city of Shusha. In 1927, she graduated from the Baku Pedagogical College.

In 1927-1939, she was a soloist of the Azerbaijan Opera and Ballet Theater. Huseyngulu Sarabski invited her to the theater. The arrival of S. Gajar to the theater created a festive mood. Because at that time there was a great need for an actor who could play Leyli, Asli and Gulchohra in the theater. The image of Leyli in the great Azerbaijani composer Uzeyir Hajibeyli's "Leyli and Majnun" was her first role in the theater. Later, she performed Asli in "Asli and Kerem", Gulnaz in "O olmasin, bu olsun", Asya in "Arshin mal alan", Shahsanam in Zulfugar Hajibeyli's opera "Ashig Garib".

From 1940, she worked as a soloist in the Azerbaijani State Philharmonic; from 1968, she worked as a vocal consultant-teacher. His repertoire included Azerbaijani folk songs, mughams, as well as songs by foreign peoples and composers.

S. Gajar was awarded the honorary title of People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR, was awarded the "Badge of Honor".

Surayya Gajar died on July 27, 1992 in Baku.
The poet, publicist Teymur Elchin - Teymur Suleyman oglu Aliyev was born on March 28, 1924 in the city of Shusha. In 1931, he moved with his family to Baku, where he graduated from the secondary city school No. 132.

In 1941-1948, he studied at the philological faculty of the Azerbaijani State University. At the same time, he worked as a literary worker in the editorial office of the "Young Worker" newspaper, in 1941-1942, as a freelance correspondent in the editorial office of socio-political programs of the Azerbaijani Radio Committee. In 1942-1943, as an announcer, editor, editor-in-chief, in 1945-1946, as a Secretary of the Azerbaijani Komsomol Committee of the Pedagogical Institute, First Secretary of the Baku City Committee of the Leninist Young Communist League of Azerbaijan (LYKL). In 1946-1948, worked as a Secretary of the Baku Committee of the (LYKL) of Azerbaijan. In 1949-1950, he worked as a Head of the Department of Political and Public Literature of the Azerneshr, (1950-1952), Deputy Chairman of the Radio Information Committee under the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan (1952-1953), Head of the Publishing Group of the Council of Ministers of Azerbaijan, Head of the Secretariat. In 1952–1953, he worked as a Chief of the Publishing Group of the Council of the Ministers of Azerbaijan, Head of the Secretariat (1953–1955), Deputy Head of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Science and Culture Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan (1955-1957), as a Chairman of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting Committee (1957-1964), Head of the Propaganda and Agitation Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan (1964-1975), Deputy Minister of Culture (1975-1988).

A number of the songs were composed for the poet's political, lyrical, labor and children's poems. The verse play "Snow Maiden" was staged at the Theater of Young Spectators named after M. Gorky (1983).

Teymur Elchin was one of the most productive children's poets. He created the best examples of Azerbaijani children's literature in his books "Snow Maiden", "Bip-Bip", "Listen, talk", "Gizulduz, Yashar and Nur nene", "Togrul baba's fairy tale tree". The poet also translated works of Russian and other foreign literature into our language with a great skill. In addition, the poem "Son Bugaj" written based on the motives of "Kitabi Dada Gorgud", which is considered a heroic epic of our language, is one of the best examples of the poet's work for children.

T. Elchin was awarded the Order of the Red Banner of Labor (1971), the Order of the Badge of Honor (1979) and other decrees for his services.

Teymur Elchin died on March 19, 1992 in Baku.
Uzeyir Hajibeyov
(1885-1948)

The Composer, musicologist, People's Artist of the USSR, professor, laureate of the USSR State Prize, academician of the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan, founder of Azerbaijani professional music art - Uzeyir Abdulhuseyn oglu Hajibeyov was born on September 18, 1885 in Shusha. His father Abdulhuseyin Hajibeyov was a village clerk, his mother was a descendant of Shirinbeyim khanum Aliverdibeys. From 1899 to 1904, he studied at the Gori Teachers' Seminary. From 1911 to 1912 he studied at the Moscow Philharmonic Society in private courses, and then at the St. Petersburg Conservatory.

In January 1908, Ü. Hajibeyov together with his brothers Jeyhun and Zulfugar staged the opera "Leyli and Majnun" based on the poem of the same name by M. Fuzuli in the theater of H.Z. Tagiyev. In this play, Jeyhun Hajibeyov played the role of Ibn Salam. This work marked the beginning of the Eastern Mugham Theater. The work has been met with a great interest and is still staged on the opera stage.

After that, Ü. Hajibeyov creates musical mugam operas as a "Sheikh Sanan", "Rustam and Sohrab", "Asli and Karam", "Shah Abbas and Khurshidbanu", "Harun and Leyla".

Ü. The culmination of Hajibeyov's work was the opera "Koroglu". This epic heroic epic is a figurative expression of the unity of the people's movement with classical music after the peasant uprisings of the XVII-XVIII centuries. The musical dramaturgy of the "Koroglu" opera consists of monumental choral scenes. The life and traditions of the past are more fully reflected in his musical comedies "Husband and wife", "Let it be, let it be", "Arshin mal alan". These works, especially "Arshin mal alan" have been repeatedly performed in a number of countries around the world. Based on the motives of "Arshin mal alan", a film of the same name was made in Baku in 1917, 1945 and 1956, and in America in 1937. He wrote librettos for mugam operas and musical comedies. Nizami's romances to the ghazals "Sensiz" and "Sevgili canan" are immortal works of art.

He is the author of the national anthem of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic (words by Ahmad Javad), the National Anthem of the Azerbaijan SSR (words by S. Vurgun and S. Rustam). "Firuza" is incomplete. Ü. Hajibeyov paid special attention to the music education in the republic. He established a music school, organized a department of the folk instruments and formed a choir. Together with M. Magomayev he published the first collection of the Azerbaijani songs. In 1938-1948, he was a teacher and rector of the Azerbaijani State Conservatory.

U. Hajibeyov also works as a publicist (journalist). He has published many articles, feuilletons and satirical miniatures in Ittihad, Hayat, Irshad, Taraggi, Haqiqat, Iqbal, Yeni Iqbal and Molla Nasreddin magazines.

Azerbaijan has been hosting the International Music Festival in memory of Uzeyir Hajibeyov since 2009. Along with the Azerbaijani musicians, the foreign musicians from near and far countries also take part in the festival. Every year in our country, Uzeyir Bey's birthday - September 18 – we celebrate as a "Music Day".

His house-museums were opened in Shusha and Baku, and statues were erected. The statue of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, who was shot by Armenian savages during the occupation of Shusha, was placed in the yard of the Azerbaijani National Museum of Art in Baku after the occupation. The statue, which was shot after the liberation of Shusha on November 8, 2020, was returned to the city during the visit of the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to Shusha.

The Azerbaijani State Conservatory (Baku Music Academy) and the Azerbaijani State Symphony Orchestra are named after him. There is a street named after Uzeyir Hajibeyov and a ship named after him.
in Baku. Composers and poets dedicated works to his memory (F. Amirov "In memory of the composer").
A 2-series feature film "Life of Uzeyir" (scriptwriter and director Anar) and documentaries dedicated to his
life and work were made.

Üzeyir Hajibeyov was repeatedly elected as a Deputy to the Supreme of the Supreme Soviet of the
USSR, awarded many orders and medals. Uzeyir Hajibeyov died on November 23, 1948 in Baku from heart
failure and was buried in the First Alley of Honor.
Yusif Vazir Chamanzaminli
(1877-1943)

Yusif Mirbaba oglu Vazirov, diplomat and writer, the first ambassador of the Azerbaijani Democratic Republic to Ottoman Turkey, was born in 1877 in Shusha. In 1915, he graduated from the Faculty of Law of the University of Kiev. He knew eleven languages. YV Chamanzaminli started publishing in 1906. At the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century, the life of the towns and villages of Azerbaijan was reflected in colorful paints. His works such as "Police Shineli" and "Zeynal Bey" were dedicated to the cruel policy of tsarism in Azerbaijan. After graduating from the University, Chamanzaminli lived for some time in Simferopol, Odessa, Saratov, Istanbul and Paris.

After returning to Baku, Yusif Vazir published the series of the articles in the "Azerbaijan" newspaper entitled "Our Foreign Policy", "Our National and Cultural Affairs".

At the suggestion of the chair of the Council of the Ministers of the Azerbaijan People's Republic, Nasibbey Usubbeyov, he was sent to Istanbul in 1919 as an ambassador of the newly formed republic. In addition to his diplomatic career in Istanbul, Yusif Vazir continues his literary career. Thus, in order to introduce Azerbaijan and the Azerbaijani literature to the Turkic world, he wrote the books "A look at Azerbaijani literature", "Historical, geographical and economic Azerbaijan", rich in scientific observations, and published them in 1921 in Istanbul.

After the establishment of the Soviet government in Azerbaijan, Yusif Vazir announced the end of his post and went to visit his younger brother Miri (Mirabdulla), who studied at the Faculty of Diplomacy of the Institute of Political Sciences in Paris.

By the decision of the All-Union Executive Committee of January 18, 1926, Yusif Vezir was granted as a Soviet citizenship. In the same year, he returned to his homeland and took up creative work, collaborating with newspapers and magazines.

Yusif Vazir first worked as an editor of the art department at the Baku Worker Publishing House, then as a lawyer in the socio-cultural department of the State Planning Committee, and began teaching. He first taught at the Faculty of the Oriental Studies and Pedagogy of the Azerbaijani State University, and then at the Department of the Azerbaijani and Russian languages at the Pedagogical, Medical and Petroleum Institutes. At the same time, Yusif Vazir was one of the authors of the "Russian-Azerbaijani dictionary" edited by Ruhulla Akhundov.

When Yusif Vazir worked at the Azerbaijan Oil Institute in 1930-1935, he wrote and published many articles in the journal "Oil Institute News" published at the same institute, along with the article "Oil and its history".

In 1937, Yusif Vezir was suspended from work under the various pretexts.

An announcement in the Kommunist newspaper in 1938 said that a competition was announced for the position of a teacher of the Russian language at the Khorezm Regional Pedagogical Institute in Urgench, Uzbek SSR. Yusif Vezir collects documents and sends them to Urgench. He passes the competition and receives an invitation from the administration. In August 1938, Yusif Vezir went to Urgench. Appointed to the post of senior lecturer at the Urgench Pedagogical Institute, as well as director of the Institute's library.

Y.V. Chemenzeminli became a victim of Stalinist repressions. On January 25, 1940, he was arrested in Urgench and taken to Baku. After spending about six months in the Keshlya concentration camp, on July 3, 1940, he was sent to the Suhkobezvodnaya station of the Nizhny Novgorod region, where he died on January 3, 1943. They bury him on January 4 at the cemetery on the banks of the Vetluga River. In 1956, Yusif Vezir was rehabilitated.
The theme of the first novel by Yu. V. Chemenzeminli "Students" is taken from the life of the writer in Kiev. In 1936-1937, he wrote the works "In Blood" and "Between Two Fire", which tells about the life of the great poet Vagif, the vizier of the Karabakh khan. From under his pen came the works "The Maiden Spring", "Khazrati Shahriyar" and a number of other novels, comedies and scripts. The works of Yu.V. Chemenzeminli are distinguished by simplicity of language, soft artistic description and unique lyrical shades. His works were published in Paris and Istanbul.

Streets, schools, libraries in Baku and Shusha, a number of other cultural and educational institutions of the country are named after him.
Singer Zabul Gasim or Gasim Ibrahim oğlu Abdullayev was born in 1873 in Shusha.

At that time, Segah mugam was more popular in the assemblies of the Azerbaijani people. However, in the last years of the 19th century, singers were more inclined to Zabul-segah. Gasim Abdullayev, known for his particularly good performance of mugam, was popularly known as "Zabul Gasim".

In the early twentieth century, Zabul Gasim gave several concerts in Baku and won the sympathy of the audience. Zabul Gasim first appeared before the Baku audience on January 27, 1903 in the "Oriental Concert" of H.Z. Tagiyev in the theater building together with Jabbar Qaryagdioglu, Shekili Alasgar and Seyid Mirbabayev.

Zabul Gasim was not only a professional singer, he was also known as an opera artist. Zulfugar Hajibeyov, a prominent composer, invited him to the stage for the first time and praised his art. At the request of a prominent composer, he played the role of Majnun's father in the opera "Leyli and Majnun" staged on August 7, 1913 at the Shusha Summer Club.

Zabul Gasim went to Tbilisi (Georgia) in 1914 at the invitation of Sport-Record and recorded his voice. At that time, Zabul Qasim recited "Zabul-segah", "Bayati-Shiraz", "Humayun", "Shur", "Mahur-Hindi" and several classifications.

In the last years of his life, he taught mugam at the Shusha Music School, and served as a chair of the Republican Trade Union Council of Artists.

Gasim Abdullayev died in 1927 in Shusha.
The Azerbaijani Composer, Professor Zakir Javad oglu Bagirov was born on March 16, 1916 in Shusha.

He received his first musical education in 1932 at the faculty of labor at the Azerbaijani State Conservatory, and in 1935, to continue his education, was sent to the music technical school at the Moscow State Conservatory. After graduating from the Music College, he volunteered to the front and served in World War II. Z. Bagirov, who was discharged from the army after the war, entered the theory-composition faculty of the Moscow State Conservatory and in 1949 successfully graduated from that conservatory. Z. Bagirov, who learned from Uzeyir Hajibeyov, always considered himself his successor.

After graduating from the Moscow State Conservatory in 1949, he worked as a teacher and a head of the Department of the Music Theory at the Azerbaijani State Conservatory.

Z. Bagirov's activity in the field of collection and recording of our musical folklore is also very important. In 1935, for the first time, together with the famous composer Tofig Guliyev, he wrote and published the mugams "Rast", "Dugah" and "Segah-zabul" performed by tar player Mansur Mansurov. He is also one of the authors of the collection "Azerbaijani folk dances".

He has been a member of the Union of Composers of Azerbaijan since 1950, as well as a member of the board of this organization.

His works include operas "Aygun" and "Old Khattabich", two musical comedies - "Mother-in-law", "Voice of our village", a children's ballet, concerts for symphony orchestra with piano, symphony orchestra with tar, symphony orchestra with kamanche, folk music Suites for chamber orchestra, chamber-instrumental works, songs and romances, music written for feature and documentary films, drama performances have a special place.

Z. Bagirov was awarded by the "Badge of Honor" order in 1959 and the honorary title of “Honored Art Worker” of the Azerbaijan SSR in 1960.

Zakir Bagirov died on January 8, 1996 in Baku.
Zakir Bagirov
(1929-1989)

Zakir Nariman oglu Bagirov, figure of the culture and science of Azerbaijan, Minister of Culture of the Azerbaijan SSR, deputy of the Supreme of the Soviet of the Azerbaijan SSR, was born on December 21, 1929 in Shusha. Bagirov was one of the first Azerbaijani youth who study at the Moscow Aviation Institute. However, a broken leg during sports prevents him from continuing his career as a pilot. After returning to Baku from Moscow, he decided to resume his education after a long period of medical treatment. He is admitted to Azerbaijan State University. In 1953, he graduated from the same university with honors and was kept at the Department of Philosophy. In addition to his pedagogical activity, his interest in science led him to graduate school at the Institute of Philosophy of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.

Finally, Z. Bagirov finished his education and returned to Azerbaijan. He was appointed as a head of the philosophy department at the Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan.

In 1971-1988, he was the Minister of Culture of Azerbaijan. On his initiative, a Baku Modern Choreographic School was built in Baku, and has been created the Song Theater. The House-museums of Uzeyir Hajibeyov, Samed Vurgun and Jafar Jabbarli were opened during his tenure as minister. The Azerbaijani circus collective was also created on the initiative of Z. Bagirov.

Zakir Bagirov died on March 31, 1989 in Baku.
Zulfu Adigozalov  
(1898-1963)

The master of Mugam, Zulfu (Zulfugar) Samad oglu Adigozalov was born in 1898 in Shusha. He received his primary education in Agjabadi. Beginning in late 1926, she took an active part in Ganja weddings as a singer.

Jabbar Qaryagdioglu, who listened to Zulfu Adigozalov’s performance at a mugham evening in Shusha in 1927, invited him to Baku.

Zulfu Adigozalov created a unique school of singing in the middle and middle grades. “Rast”, “Mahur-hindi”, “Segah-Zabul”, “Bayati-Shiraz”, “Humayun” mugam instruments performed by the singer and recorded on tape and gramophone records, a number of classifications, “Nabi”, “I am going to Zangilan”, ”I said give me a bus”, ”Partridge” and other songs are rare pearls of our musical treasure. It was while singing our ancient classical mughams, tasnifs and folk songs that the singer brought innovations to the art of performance with her unique breath and style, preserving their traditional form and structure.

Zulfu Adigozalov also contributed to the development of the Azerbaijani cinema. Our unforgettable singer, who was invited to shoot the films “Sabuhi”, “Baku”, “Peasants”, immortalized his charming voice in these famous films.

Zulfu Adigozalov interpreted mugam independently as a micro-series, combining separate relevant sections. From this point of view, ”Iraq-Punjab”, ”Hasar-opposition”, ”Vilayati-Dilkesh” mughams are good examples. In 1943, he was awarded by the honorary title of Honored Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR.

Zulfu Adigozalov died on May 31, 1963 in Baku.

His son Vasif Adigozalov (1935-2006) was awarded by the honorary titles of the composer, pedagogue, musician, and professor, People's Artist of the Azerbaijan SSR, ”Glory” and ”Independence”. His other son Rauf Adigozalov (1940-2002) was a violinist, singer, professor, Honored Art Worker. His grandson Yalchin Adigozalov is a conductor, professor of the conducting department of the Baku Music Academy, the People's Artist of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Zulfugar Hajibeyov  
(1884-1950)

The Composer, one of the founders of the Azerbaijan State Theater of Musical Comedy, Zulfugar Abdulhuseyn oglu Hajibeyov was born on April 17, 1884 in Shusha.

After graduating from the Shusha two-year Russian-Tatar school, Z. Hajibeyov worked as a clerk and translator in the City Duma and in the district administration.

In 1907, Z. Hajibeyov moved with his family from Shusha to Baku and worked as a journalist-publicist for some time.

After the establishment of the Soviet government in Azerbaijan, Z. Hajibeyov began to work in various fields of music and organization. He works as a clerk in the art department of the Political Department of the Council of People's Commissars of Azerbaijan. In 1921, he worked as a head of the club-theater (sub-department), a head of the political and educational part of the Political Department. At the same time, he heads the Golden Soldier Palace (now the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic named after M. Magomayev).

Zulfugar played a great role in the formation of his younger brothers Uzeyir Hajibeyov and Jeyhun Hajibeyov.

Z. Hajibeyov worked as a music director of the Concert Unions Department of Azerbaijan, chief consultant of the Azerbaijani branch of the Orchestra of Folk Instruments (1928), artistic director of the music department of the Azerbaijan radiobroadcasting network (1933-1937), artistic director of the Azerbaijan State Variety (1937).

Z. Hajibeyov is the author of the first Azerbaijani operetta - "Young at 50" (1910). This is the first example of the comedy genre on the Azerbaijani stage. Both the text and music belong to Zulfugar Hajibeyov. The first performance of the play took place in April 1911 at the Georgian Noble Theater in Tbilissi (Georgia). Later, the operetta was performed in Baku, Nakhchivan, Irevan and Shusha. Z. Hajibeyov was the first to embody the music of the images of folk legends in the opera "Ashig Garib", which brought a new trend to the work of the Azerbaijani composers. In 1917, he also designed special costumes for the staging of an opera with a fantastic plot called "Three Lovers or Malikmammad." However, due to pressure from the Soviet government, the play was not staged.

"Village girl", "Shepherd girl" and "Soldier's song", which became popular in the first quarter of the XX century, are the first songs of the composer.

In 1932, Zulfugar Hajibeyov composed a symphonic play entitled "Dance of Slave Women". In 1935, he and his son Niyazi wrote music for the first Azerbaijani sound film, which based on the Jafar Jabbarli's play of the same name - "Almaz". Z. Hajibeyov's last work was a cantata written in 1950 together with Zakir Bagirov.

Z. Hajibeyov was awarded by the title of Honored Art Worker in 1943 for his services to the development of the national music.

He was the father of the famous Azerbaijani conductor and composer, People's Artist of the USSR Niyazi Tagizade (Hajibeyov) (1912-1984) and the conductor, Honored Art Worker of the Azerbaijan SSR Chingiz Hajibeyov (1913-1971).

Zulfugar Hajibeyov died on September 30, 1950 in the city of Baku.