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**UCSB PRESENTS MASTERCLASS WITH GRAMMY AWARD-WINNER, ISABEL BAYRAKDARIAN**

*UCSB Department of Music presents free master class with newly appointed Assistant Professor of Voice, Dr. Isabel Bayrakdarian, at the Music Academy of the West*

SANTA BARBARA, September 21, 2016—The UC Santa Barbara Department of Music welcomes Grammy and Juno Award-winning soprano, Dr. Isabel Bayrakdarian, as Assistant Professor of Voice. A “supremely elegant singer with lyric agility and dramatic warmth (*Los Angeles Times*),” Dr. Bayrakdarian has performed in opera houses and concert halls across the globe, to great critical acclaim. She is the winner of numerous prestigious competitions, including the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions and Plácido Domingo’s Operalia competition. Dr. Bayrakdarian will host a masterclass at Hahn Hall at the Music Academy of the West on Saturday, October 29, 2016 from 2-4 p.m. Four to five singers, ages 17-23, will be selected to perform in the class, which will be free and open to the public.

Dr. Bayrakdarian’s performing career was launched in 1997, the year she was a winner of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions, and the same year she graduated from the University of Toronto cum laude with a biomedical engineering degree. In 1999, she was engaged in Lyric Opera of Chicago’s world premiere production of William Bolcom’s *A View from the Bridge*. In 2000, she won First Prize in Plácido Domingo’s prestigious *Operalia* competition. In 2002, she made her debut with San Francisco Opera, as Valencienne in *The Merry Widow*, and also made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in the New York premiere of Bolcom’s opera. A season later, she won plaudits as Teresa in the Met premiere of Berlioz’s *Benvenuto Cellini*. She was in demand for Mozart productions; Zerlina in *Don Giovanni* (New York, Houston, Salzburg), Susanna in *Le Nozze di Figaro* (Los Angeles, London), and Pamina in *The Magic Flute* (New York, Toronto). Her roles at her home-base theater, Toronto’s Canadian Opera Company, range from Gluck’s *Euridice* to Debussy’s *Mélisande* to Poulenc’s *Blanche* in *Dialogues des Carmélites*. Internationally, she sang in Monteverdi’s *Poppea* in Barcelona, Handel’s *Serse* in Dresden, and Janáček’s *Vixen* in New York and Florence, and at the Saito Kinen Festival in Matsumoto, Japan.

As a concertizer, Dr. Bayrakdarian has appeared with the premier orchestras of New York, Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Pittsburgh, Minnesota, Paris, London, Vienna, Toronto, Vancouver and Montreal under the baton of such eminent conductors as Seiji Ozawa, James Conlon, David Zinman, Michael Tilson Thomas, Alan Gilbert, Nicholas McGegan, Christoph von Dohnányi, Christoph Eschenbach, Colin Davis, Sir Andrew Davis, Nikolaus Harnoncourt, Mariss Jansons, Leonard Slatkin, James Levine, Anne Manson, Bramwell Tovey, Peter Oundjian, and Richard Bradshaw.

Her versatility is also reflected in being the featured vocalist on the Grammy Award-winning soundtrack of the blockbuster film *The Lord of The Rings: The Two Towers*, and on the soundtrack of Atom Egoyan’s *Ararat*. She collaborated with the electronica band “Delerium,” which garnered a Grammy nomination. She appeared in the BBC-produced short film *HOLOCAUST – A Music Memorial Film from Auschwitz*, which generated close to a million views on YouTube, and in her Gemini nominated film *Long Journey Home*, documenting her first visit to her homeland Armenia. Additional forays include her tango album and project *Tango Notturmo*, a recording of Armenian medieval sacred music, *In Joyous Light*, and her recording of Manuel de Falla’s *Seven Spanish Songs*.

Dr. Bayrakdarian is the winner of four consecutive Juno Awards (Canada’s Grammy equivalent) for Best

Classical Album (Vocal) for *Azulão*, a collection of Spanish, Brazilian, and Argentine songs, for *Cleopatra*, including baroque arias with *Tafelmusik*, a collection of songs by the nineteenth-century singer/composer Pauline Viardot Garcia, and Mozart *Arie e Duetti*. Her collaboration with husband Serouj Kradjian, pianist and arranger, on Nonesuch CD *Gomidas Songs*, which was nominated for a Grammy in 2009, promoted and popularized the work of Armenian composer Gomidas Vartabed. Dr. Bayrakdarian is the recipient of many other awards, including the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee and the Diamond Jubilee Medals, the Arbor Award from the University of Toronto, the George London Foundation Award, and the Canada Council's Virginia Parker Prize.

Dr. Bayrakdarian joins Dr. John Ballerino, Professor Benjamin Brecher, and Dr. Linda Di Fiore as a part of the UCSB Voice Program faculty.

**Masterclass with Isabel Bayrakdarian.** Saturday, October, 29 2016 from 2-4 p.m. at Hahn Hall at the Music Academy of the West. Admission is free and the event is open to the public. Admission is first come, first served. Applications for performing in the masterclass close on Saturday, October 1, 2016. If interested in applying, please visit [music.ucsb.edu](http://music.ucsb.edu). This event is generously supported by the Music Academy of the West.

### **About the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music**

From an institution that began life dedicated to training the next generation of music educators, to what is now a fully established research and professional graduate program, graduates of the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally. Many have gone on to teaching, either privately or in outstanding secondary school positions, and in more recent years, graduates have joined the faculties of major colleges and universities in the United States and abroad. A number have become widely recognized and published scholars; some are now prize-winning and frequently performed composers, while others are writing for television and film. Alumni are also establishing fine reputations as conductors of orchestras, opera, and choruses. Graduates of the instrumental programs have gone on to solo and orchestral careers with leading orchestras, and our singers can be heard in opera companies around the world.

With over 200 events presented annually, the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music offers something for every music lover. The department boasts 26 unique performing ensembles, each with a quarterly concert calendar. Chamber music, large ensembles, opera, contemporary groups, world music, and jazz ensembles make up the department's rich performance calendar, along with lectures, master classes, and presentations from the ethnomusicology, musicology, theory, and composition programs. For a complete listing of performances and lectures for the quarter, please visit the UC Santa Barbara Department of Music website, at [music.ucsb.edu](http://music.ucsb.edu).

For additional information, photos, or to request an interview with an artist, please contact Adriane Hill at [ahill@music.ucsb.edu](mailto:ahill@music.ucsb.edu) or (805) 893-3230. To sign up for the Department of Music's newsletter, please [click here](#). Follow the Department of Music on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#).

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