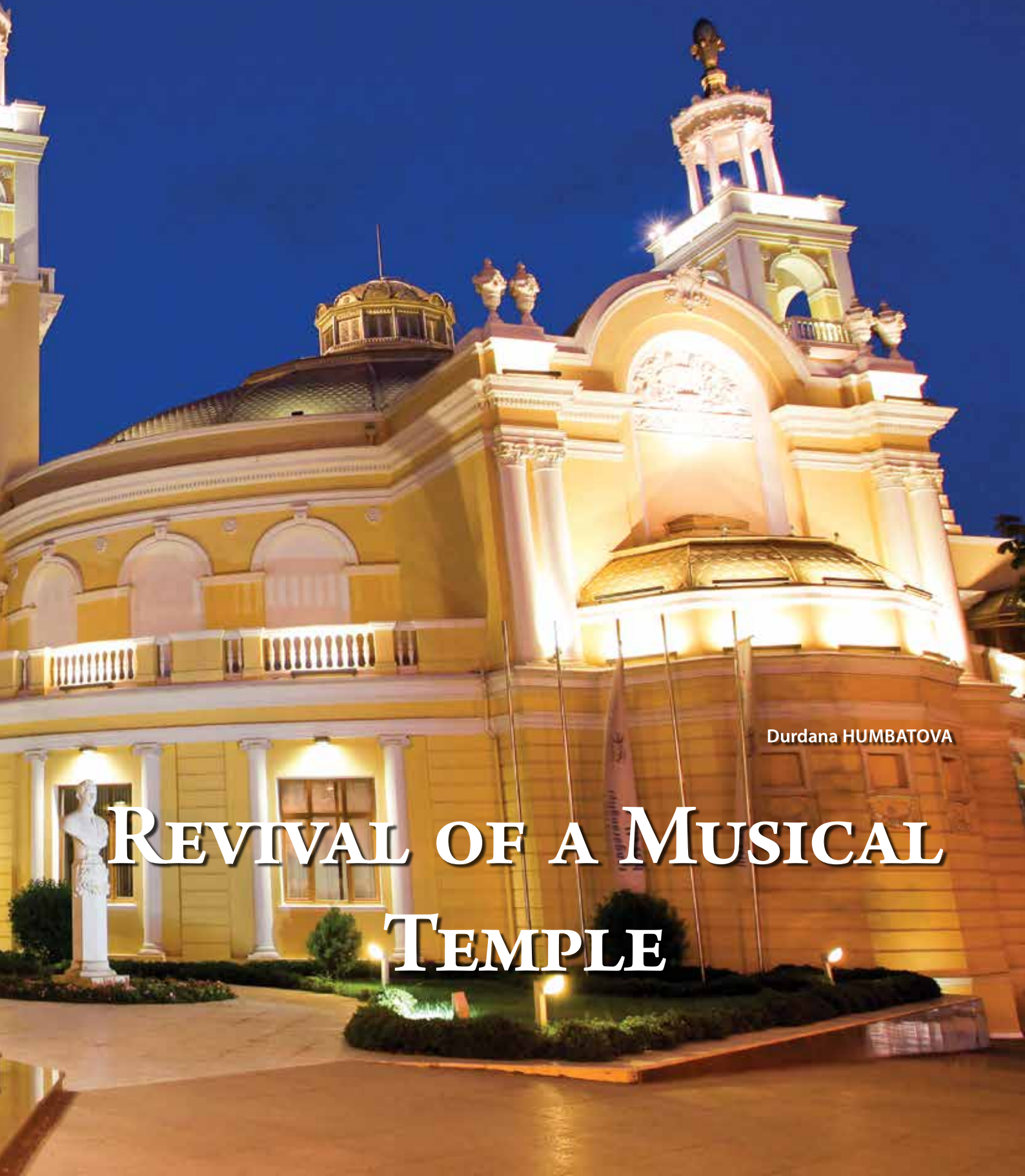


IRS My Azerbaijan







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# REVIVAL OF A MUSICAL TEMPLE







**B**aku is a city where Eastern and Western cultures blend together and turn into beautiful works of art, including architecture. One of such architectural monuments in the city is the current building of the Muslim Magomayev Azerbaijan State Philharmonic.

... The 1880s became for Baku a period of formation of architecture under the auspices of the classic trend. Architects and civil engineers raised provincial architecture to the level of great art with their creativity, and their works, as well as the works of medieval Azerbaijan left a deep trace in the architectural appearance of Baku.

The summer premises of the Public Assembly (now the building of the Muslim Magomayev Philharmonic) belong to such buildings. Built in 1910-1912 on the basis of a project by civil engineer G. M. Termikelov in one of the best, well-located areas of the city - on the corner of Nikolayev and Sadovaya streets - and placed at higher elevations of the second terrace of the Baku amphitheater, the building perfectly fits not only into the composition of the governor's garden where a site was allocated for construction, but also into the entire surrounding architectural landscape which formed at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. When the elders of the Baku Public Assembly



in 1907 appealed to the City Duma with a request to allow them to build summer premises in the garden, many Duma members objected because in that case it was necessary to cut down more than 200 perennial trees. However, in 1908 the project on the summer premises of the Public Assembly in the governor's garden was approved by reducing its area to 1,664.92 square meters.











The project was completed in 1910 and presented for approval to the building commission of the city council.

By the time the construction of the club began in 1911, there was a boulevard laid out on the waterfront in 1909 on the initiative of the engineer Mammad Hasan Hajinski in an area of 17,323.44 square meters. Already at the end of 1912, the city was enriched with a new building - the building of the summer premises of the Public Assembly in the forms of Palladian architecture.

In the project of the Public Assembly, a picturesque and expressive composition was created (according to the theme). With the abundance of terraces and verandas, where light and shadow are the means of plastic expression of volumetric masses, the building is somewhat reminiscent of an Italian Renaissance villa.

... on 25 May 1936, on the basis of the Office of Symphony Concerts at the Baku Soviet of Workers' Peasants' and Sailors' Deputies, the Muslim Magomayev Azerbaijan State Philharmonic was created in the building of the Public Assembly. From the first day of its existence, the Philharmonic became a kind of temple of classical musical art in Azerbaijan. Outstanding artists of the country (People's Artists of Azerbaijan Khan Shushinski, Shovkat Alakbarova, Niyazi, Sara Gadimova and others) and other states (Yelena Starodubtseva, Nikolay Suk, Ivan Manichetti, Ingeborg Kosmo, Tatiana Piminova, Unusha Kuloglu, etc.) performed here.



Performing on the stage of the Philharmonic became a kind of test for every master of folk, classical and symphonic music. Each concert in this temple of music turned into a high music festival. The excellent acoustics, equipped auditorium and stage and demanding audience mobilized musicians performing on this stage.

It is noteworthy that such luminaries of Azerbaijani music as Niyazi and Shamsi Badalbayli led the Azerbaijan State Philharmonic.

Over the years of its existence, the Philharmonic included the Azerbaijani concert branch, the bureau of orchestral musicians, the Azerbaijan State Symphony Orchestra and the Azerbaijan State Song and Dance Ensemble.

The destructive power of "Perestroika" also affected this art center of Azerbaijan. A "black stripe" started in its life.

The new life of the Philharmonic began only with the achievement of Azerbaijan's independence and the establishment of the Azerbaijan Republic. In the 1990s, refurbishment work started at the building of the Muslim Magomayev Azerbaijan State Philharmonic.

At the beginning of 2002, construction and refurbishment work in the Philharmonic building resumed. In a short time, largely preserving the exterior, the building



was reconstructed in accordance with the latest achievements of technology. Internal acoustics, ventilation and heating corresponding to world standards were installed and additional new facilities were built under the summer stage in an area of 1,000 square meters.

On 27 January 2004, the Philharmonic was inaugurated after the refurbishment with President Ilham Aliyev and prominent musical figures, including the world-famous cellist Mstislav Rostropovich in attendance.

The musical temple of Baku revived and will pick up new rhythms of the city's musical life. ✨

