

Come and see our diversity!

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Shortly before the Eurovision Song Contest-2011 got under way, we received a story about various music festivals held in Azerbaijan on a regular basis. Indeed, our country has always been known for a keen interest in all music genres. Even the ancient rock engravings discovered in Gobustan bear the images of people dancing the Yalli. Music has held a special place in the hearts of our people, in their customs and traditions from time immemorial. Meanwhile, Azerbaijan has given the world Uzeyir Hajibayov, Muslim Magomayev, Gara Garayev, Fikrat Amirov, Niyazi, Rashid Behbudov, Bulbul and other outstanding musicians. Baku has been hosting international jazz festivals for many decades, while the “Khari Bulbul” festival was traditionally held in the heart of Karabakh, the city of Shusha, back in the Soviet times.

Shortly after regaining its state independence in 1991, the Republic of Azerbaijan started facing territorial claims from its neighbors that eventually led to war. Despite the occupation of its lands and the desperate plight of those driven out of their homes, Azerbaijan never stopped heeding attention to its material and cultural heritage. In recent years, Azerbaijan has asserted itself in the world not only as a country with a tremendous economic potential, but also as a republic capable of hosting the most prestigious cultural and sporting events.

In the said article, we wanted to describe Azerbaijan as a country that has got used to hosting international music festivals. But the news that came in as the magazine was about to go to print further reinforced our conviction – an Azerbaijani duo has won the Eurovision-2011 Song Contest, thus earning the country the right to host the prestigious competition on its soil next year. Therefore, Azerbaijan has again proved capable of driving home the message of being a country with rich historical, cultural and art traditions.

The ultimate mission of our magazine is to promote Azerbaijan and make it known around the world. And, as part of this mission, we would like to invite all of you to Azerbaijan to feel and see with your own eyes the history, culture, art and centuries-old diversity... You should at least read about this, and do so with the aid of Irs-Heritage.

Welcome to the world of Azerbaijan!