



Հ.Ա.Ը.Մ.-ի ԳԼԵՆԴԵԼԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ՄԱՍՆԱՃԻՂԻ  
ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՄՈՒՆՔ

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter  
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*Get to Know...*

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## SAYAT NOVA

June 14, 1712 – September 22, 1795

**Sayat-Nova**, meaning 'King of Songs' in Persian, born June 14, 1712 in Tiflis, was the name given to the Armenian poet and ashough Harutyun Sayatyan. His mother, Sara, was born in Tbilisi, and his father, Karapet, either in Aleppo or Adana. He was skilled in writing poetry, singing, and playing the kamancheh. He performed in the court of Heraclius II of Georgia, where he also worked as a diplomat and, apparently, helped forge an alliance between Georgia, Armenia and Shirvan against the Persian

Empire. He lost his position at court when he fell in love with the king's daughter, and spent the rest of his life as an itinerant bard. In 1795 he was killed in Haghpat Monastery by the army of Agha Mohammed Khan, and is buried at the Cathedral of Saint George, Tbilisi.

About 220 songs can be attributed to Sayat-Nova, although he may have written thousands more. Most of his extant songs are in Armenian, but he also wrote in Georgian and Persian. A number of his songs are sung to this day. He was also fluent in Arabic.

Sayat-Nova is considered by many to be the greatest ashough (folk singer-songwriter) that ever lived in the Caucasus. Composer Alexander Artunian wrote an opera called "Sayat Nova". There is a street and a music school named after him in Yerevan,

Armenia, and a pond located in Quebec, Canada.

The 1968 film "**Sayat-Nova**" directed by Sergei Parajanov – which was banned in the Soviet Union - follows the poet's path from his childhood wool-dyeing days to his role as a courtier and finally his life as a monk. It was released in the United States under the title *The Color of Pomegranates*.

In Armenia, Sayat Nova is considered a poet who made a considerable contribution to the Armenian poetry of his century. Although he lived his entire life in a deeply religious society, his poems are mostly secular and full of Romantic expressionism.

A book on his life and work by Charles Dowsett was published in 1997 titled *Sayat'-nova: An 18th-century Troubadour: a Biographical and Literary Study*. After the 18th c., the Armenian odes were first translated in France by Elisabeth Mouradian and the French poet Serge Venturini in 2006 ; the book was dedicated to Sergei Parajanov.

