

Symposium: Thu October 25, 8:45 – 1  
Reception 1 – 2 pm  
Kreindler Conference Hall (041), Haldeman Center, Dartmouth College

**“SOUNDS AND TASTES OF THE CAUCASUS”  
MUSIC, LANGUAGE, AND FOOD IN GEORGIA**

Organizer:  
Ioana Chitoran  
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**PROGRAM**

- 8:30            *Coffee and pastries*
- 8:45            Opening remarks  
Ioana Chitoran
- 9 – 9:30        Kenneth S. Yalowitz  
Director of the John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding,  
Dartmouth College, Former US Ambassador to Georgia  
***The emergence of modern Georgia: From the breakup of the Soviet  
Union to today***
- 9:30 – 10        Ioana Chitoran  
Dartmouth College  
***The Languages of the Caucasus***  
The Caucasus range, extending from the Black Sea to the Caspian Sea, is one of  
the most linguistically diverse areas in the world. This talk is an introduction to  
the language families of this area, some of their unique features, and the  
historical and geographic factors that have shaped them.
- 10 – 10:45      John Graham  
Department of Music, Princeton University  
***Textual vs. Auditory Analysis in Georgian Chant Sources***  
Master singers in the oral tradition of Georgian three-voiced church chant sang in  
a modified tuning that baffled western-trained musicians and led to notational  
errors in early 20<sup>th</sup> century transcription efforts. This talk compares the tuning  
system of the oral tradition with transcriptions from 1880-1910, highlighting the  
discrepancies. Through a close listening of original, early 20<sup>th</sup> century recordings,  
the talk explores possible parameters for determining questions of modality in  
Georgian chant.

10:45 – 11:45 John Wurdeman

Artist, Manager of the “Zedashe” Ensemble

With demonstrations by members of the ensemble

***Reviving rural song-traditions in Caucasus Georgia***

The practice and preservation of the folk-song tradition in Georgia has been under serious threat since agrarian life began to change in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, with urbanization and modernization under the Tsarist Empire. However, rural bards maintained some of the more ancient repertoire even into the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The process of interviewing, recording, and ultimately performing and reenacting this precious folk-song and dance repertoire has become the task of several new generation choirs in Georgia, among them the *Zedashe* Ensemble. This talk will focus on their work over the last decade.

11:45 – 12:30 Darra Goldstein

Russian Department, Williams College

***The Georgian Supra through Pirosmeni's Eyes***

This talk explores Georgian cuisine through the work of the primitivist artist Niko Pirosmeni, who painted many scenes of the traditional Georgian feast known as the “supra”. His depictions of food, wine, and toasting – the three main components of the Georgian feast – shed light on the history of Georgian cuisine as expressed at the communal table.

12:30 – 12:50 General discussion and closing remarks

1 – 2 pm

*Reception with Georgian culinary specialties  
(outside Kreindler Conference Room)*