The kaleidoscopically majestic and mystical works of the French composer Olivier Messiaen reveal many influences: Debussy, Stravinsky, Balinese music, plainchant. But his primary inspirations were birds, his Roman Catholic faith and the pianist Yvonne Loriod, his wife, muse and former student.

“Visions de l’Amen,” a work for two pianos that Messiaen wrote in 1943 shortly after having been released from a prisoner of war camp, was the first of his many collaborations with Ms. Loriod, then a student at the Paris Conservatory, where he was a professor. They gave its premiere that year in the occupied city.

Just 42 years later “Visions de l’Amen” was premiered by Nunu Chelidze and Maia Mshvildadze in Tbilisi. Georgian pianists Nino and Tamar Zhvania have decided to perform this cycle for those, who did not get the opportunity to listen to the live concert performance of this marvelous music. On this occasion, three leading Georgian composers were asked to compose piano pieces dedicated to Messiaen and his “Visions de l’Amen”. Inspired by Messiaen, Maka Virsaladze, Eka Chabashvili and Reso Kiknadze composed music featuring not only piano, but also organ (favorite instrument of Messiaen), percussion, live-electronics and video-installation.

All participants of the concert represent Tbilisi State Conservatoire. Headed by the rector of the Conservatoire, Georgian musicians pay tribute to one of the greatest professors of Paris Conservatory, and composer of genius Olivier Messiaen.
Olivier Messiaen – Visions de l’Amen for two pianos (1943)
1. Amen de la Creation (Amen of Creation)
2. Amen des etoiles, de la planete a l’aneau (Amen of the Stars, of the Ringed Planet)
3. Amen de l’Agonie de Jesus (Amen of the Agony of Jesus)
4. Amen de Désir (Amen of Desire)
5. Amen des Anges, des Saints, du chant des oiseaux (Amen of the Angels, Saints and Birdsong)
6. Amen du Jugement (Amen of the Judgement)
7. Amen de la Consommation (Amen of Consummation)

Nino and Tamar Zhvania (piano duo)

Tamar Zhvania (piano)

Eka Chabashvili – Amen of Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse
for organ, two pianos, percussion and video-installation (2015)
Tamar Zhvania (two pianos)
Nino Zhvania (organ); Assistant Lia Baodishvili
Eka Chabashvili (video-installation)
Performance participant Irakli and Alesandre Jojua

Resso Kiknadze - Morphose de l’Amen for two pianos and live-electronics (2016)
Nino and Tamar Zhvania (piano duo)
Resso Kiknadze (live-electronics)