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Episode Title: Christmas and New Year with Magda Kevlishvili

Interviewee: Magda Kevlishvili

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Music: [Makharia](#) by Ialoni

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 0:04

Welcome to Voices Of The Ancestors, where we explore Georgian polyphonic songs.

Susan Thompson 0:12

And the women who sing them. So, Merry Christmas, Holly.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 0:21

Oh, thank you, Susan. Merry Christmas to you in Georgia. And Happy Christmas and Happy New Year to all of our listeners. We're releasing this episode on the seventh of January 2021, which is Georgian Orthodox Christmas. So we should probably say something like, gilotsavt shoba akhal tsels.

Susan Thompson 0:44

Oh, thank you. It's my first time in Georgia at Christmas time. So it's all very special, as is our guest today for our Christmas edition. Our guest is [Magda Kevlishvili](#), a singer, teacher and leader of children's ensemble [Amer Imeri](#) and co founder of [Mtiebi](#). Oh, not co founder sorry, because the founder was [Edisher Garakanidze](#). She's co leader of [Mtiebi](#). Because Edisher Garakanidze, who's Magda's father in law. He created [Mtiebi](#) in 1980. He wanted to bring, as I understand it, a more traditional performance style from the villages and put it on a stage. And he called it 'ethnographic theater'. His son was [Gigi Garakanidze](#) and that was Magda's late husband. And in this episode Magda tells us about the ancient Christmas tradition of Alilo, where singers go to a village and greet the villages with song. And it was revived in the 1990s by Edisher.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 1:50

Yeah, it's easy to imagine [Georgia](#) as this country where, you know, everybody's singing and they're all living this folksy traditional life. And they always have done since the beginning of time. But I hate to break it to you in reality, people have their everyday lives, and things get lost and forgotten, especially during the Soviet times. And, and these traditions, they take hard work, you know, to be remembered or revived. And Edisher was one of those people who worked hard to revive traditional songs and games and folkloric things. And now, Magda is also one of those people.

Susan Thompson 2:37

That's so true Holly and, and Magda can be very understated when she's describing what she achieves and what she does. But I, it seems to me with Amer Imeri, she, she's a she's directly passing on everything she learnt. Because Edisher was her teacher when she was a 10 year old child in a Amer Imeri. Um and so I've been at a rehearsal with her where she's sort of turned to me and said, I don't know why I teach this song that way. But Edisher did it.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 3:10

Oh, yeah. Well, that's truly 'Voices Of The Ancestors', I guess, isn't it?

Susan Thompson 3:14

It certainly is.

Music [Makharria](#) by [Ialoni](#)

Well, welcome to our guest today, Magda Kevlishvili. Have I said that right? Your surname Kevlishvili, I put too many i's in I think. And I just want to say when we're recording this because we want to talk today about Christmas in New Year, but we're recording this after Holly has celebrated Christmas in the UK I think, but before you celebrate Christmas here in Georgia, so that's just the when. So would you like to say a little bit about yourself?

Magda Kevlishvili 3:52

Of course. Hello everyone. So I'm Magda Kevlishvili as Susan said already. I'm already 39 years old. Laughter So I'm daughter-in-law of Edisher Garakanidze. Wife of Gigi Garakanidze I, We have a one brilliant son Ilia Garakanidze, who turned nine years old in 25 of December ,so we call this Christmas boy. I'm, I'm in profession psy, psychologist but I'm working now in, insurance company til seven o'clock and every evening I have a rehearsal with my [Amer Imeri](#) on [Mtiebi](#) and I prefer this work. Of course. So from 1991 I'm singing um.. that time I was only 10 years old and this is my life. I can't live without singing.

Susan Thompson 5:02

Ahh

Magda Kevlishvili 5:03

You can ask anything.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 5:05

Yeah, you mentioned Amer Imeri and Mtiebi. What is that? Who are they?

Magda Kevlishvili 5:13

As I said, it's my life. This is the folklore ensembles. For example, Amer Imeri is a, for children and Mtiebi is an elder group and it's er it's founded by Edisher Garakanidze, in 1980. This ensemble first was men choir. The member were only men and they that time was very different time and they started to perform on stage authentic manner in authentic manner. It means that

they sing and dance together they sing, not choral form, it means that top voices sang by one person only so they could improve, improve, improvised or change something. They were free for singing and other members sing base and they dance and not classic dance, for they, in such ways they dance such way as village person dancing in our ancestors dancing pastimes, then Edisher, Edisher, founded children, children ensemble in 1991 because of, they decide to teach, er teach, to teach children children folklore and not elder folklore. So with children he started to sing with one voices songs and then two voices and then three and he taught us singing and dancing round dances together. So the main principle as was in Mtiebi.

Susan Thompson 7:13

So and you said he taught us because you were in Amer Imeri.

Magda Kevlishvili

Yes I was 10 years old, not more and I grow up with Amer Imeri and then with Mtiebi of course.

Susan Thompson

Yes and you've even traveled the world - you've toured with them.

Magda Kevlishvili 7:27

Yes. In different villages of Georgia and some other countries abroad. Yeah. So we have some concert in different cities and countries. It was in festival, or other tour like and we have also workshops in for foreign people and foreign children.

Susan Thompson 7:54

What an amazing experience for you. So today we thought we would talk about everything to do with Christmas and the New Year because of the time of year. And in Georgian this is shoba and akhal tseli?

Magda Kevlishvili 8:09

Akhali Tseli yes.

Susan Thompson 8:12

So for you - when will you celebrate shoba?

Magda Kevlishvili 8:16

So it's very change. Strange I'm sorry. Strange that because we Georgians celebrate, and some other Christians celebrate shoba in seventh of January. So and it's a church service, festive service, in the night of six January and when it's finished - after it's, it was a tradition very, very interesting and beautiful traditional of Alilo. After this church service, village people they decide to sing and congratulate to village people shoba, shobis mostlav, so, perkhatsauli.

Susan Thompson 9:08

And and and you did this?

Magda Kevlishvili 9:11

Yes. Yeah. So how to say... in soviet period Georgia was not celebrate, not shoba, such way in church they only on the families not not in churches. And also we loose lost this tradition to congratu..., congratulate to other peoples with singing. And Edisher, scientist, he knows about it, of course, and he decides to to give back to people and villages this tradition. So this is a member of Mtiebi he goes different villages. Yeah. And with songs with singing. he congratulate to people shobis mostvla shoba. And this village, village person, young people did not remember they don't know what is this thing, they didn't know what to do. But grandmas and grandpas, elder people of course they know in their mind. yeah. So oh I remember this tradition so they give them food er give glass of wine and they say some toast and every year they go to different villages and congratulate to other villagers and nowadays it's, it's, er everyone knows this tradition. So in Tbilisi and in in main cities from church a lot of people go they are walking and singing and as congratulate to people shobis mostvla. In villages also, but still Amer Imeri and Mtiebi every year went some, some of villages and er celebrate with, with the village people. For example your, last year we we are in [Shilda](#), with er member of Amer Imeri

Susan Thompson 11:15

Wonderful

Magda Kevlishvili 11:15

We walking and go, for us there was not known people, but we congratulate them with singing it's very miracle miracle moments really.

Susan Thompson 11:28

It sounds amazing. Yeah. I think if I was in a village I would be ringing you up saying please, please come to my village.

Magda Kevlishvili 11:34

And and yeah you know when village people, no neighbors, hear some, somewhere came came with us and they get as a guest so they "come" and "come with me" "Come come to my house and sing for me from my from my family." And they invite us and said come to my and we we try to not not to stay for a long time to one family because we want to go, to went, to go a many, ..

Susan Thompson 11:59

to visit all the families

Magda Kevlishvili 12:11

All visit all of them.

Susan Thompson 12:12

Wow. That's a wonderful tradition to have renewed and for you to have seen the very beginning of

Magda Kevlishvili 12:19

Yes. Yes, it's from the very beginning. And every, every Christmas Day I'm somewhere.

Susan Thompson 12:28

And do you think it will be possible this year?

Magda Kevlishvili 12:31

I hope I talk with my member for Amer Imeri that if we can't go to out of Tbilisi we will go to the Lisi or Chamgelianis family. Ahah. We plan and very close there live our mama daviti, Father David, David who is in [blue monastery](#), so we will congratulate him too, and others.

Susan Thompson 13:02

This is a good plan.

Magda Kevlishvili 13:03

Yes, it's the second plan.

Susan Thompson 13:07

(Undecipherable as we talk over each other - apologies). Plan B Yes.

Magda Kevlishvili 13:09

Yes.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 13:08

We mentioned the Alilo's. That's the traditional folk Christmas song, right?

Magda Kevlishvili 13:17

Yes.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 13:18

And they have variations in different regions. Yeah. I think, so, do you have a favorite? Alilo? It may be personally or in Amer Imeri.

Magda Kevlishvili 13:32

Yes. My favorite Alilo is the Nabakheori Alilo. It's name of the village. The region is in Imereti. And it was recorded by Edisher Garakanidze and I think it was his favorite song. And in Mtiebi he sung second or top voices in a few songs. And it was one of his favorite and he sing this second voice he ..was

Susan Thompson 14:04

So he would call it?

Magda Kevlishvili 14:05

Yeah, he was starter. Yes.

Susan Thompson 14:08

Can you start it?

Magda Kevlishvili 14:09

Sings - Ai a aaliilo, alilooda

Unknown Speaker 14:14

Ah

Susan Thompson 14:18

Oh, I know.

Magda Kevlishvili 14:21

And I think the sweetest performer of this song is [Edisher, he sings](#) ... from heart.

Susan Thompson 14:46

Ooh,

14:30 Music Edisher calls [Nabakeuri Alilo](#) by Mtiebi

Magda Kevlishvili 16:51

and I I love others too of course, I, mingrelian alilo is a very strange one, you know is krimanchuli and, and kakhuri of course.

Susan Thompson 17:03

There are so many

Magda Kevlishvili 17:04

uh huh

Susan Thompson 17:06

So so that's, so the Alilo is that just a Christmas or will that be in the New Year as well?

Magda Kevlishvili 17:13

No it's just for the Christmas

Susan Thompson 17:15

Just for the Christmas

Magda Kevlishvili 17:16

Yeah. For the New Year for we have also tradition Kirialesa, you know this song in Guria and in the Samegrelo also they walking and..

Susan Thompson 17:28

so they're also sung walking down the street

Magda Kevlishvili 17:30

Processing

Susan Thompson 17:31

Yes processing

Music [Kirialesa](#) by Mtiebi

Magda Kevlishvili 18:33

and they sung this and the word that is it er.. akhali tsanas mugakhvaman means that er I congratulate you New Year and then the good wishes, good wishes, that your family let er.. be.. full of food, full of wine and they will be able to have children and also elder person grandma and grandpa sent as a good wishes.

Susan Thompson 19:04

Wow, I think this year that song will be sung with such feeling and when is New Year?

Magda Kevlishvili 19:14

Is 31 of December, we celebrate first.

Susan Thompson 19:18

Yes. But what about the 14th of January.?

Magda Kevlishvili 19:22

Yes. er . We celebrate everything two times (laughter) In 14 too - in 14 of January. And we we call it dzvel tsilit. As is the old style, (laughter) the old style New Year and in villages I think they celebrate better in 14. Yeah. And in Swaneti are started with ritual one week ritual [Lipanali](#). Yes, as of 14 that's, it's, continue for a week and they started in 14. Also this Kirialesa that we talk about er, they celebrate from 14 in 14 of January.

Susan Thompson 20:20

So, can you ... do you have a story from your, I'm sure you have many stories in your memory, of going to a village and singing at Christmas or New Year?

Magda Kevlishvili 20:31

Yeah, I remember I think all of these years where we were, but I remember very well, few years ago we've been in [Artana](#) and um, it was the first time when television was with us. Er, Maybe you know, [Acharian television with Michael Gabaidze and Etnopori](#). Their, their program is they, they have some like theatre they knows what to do and then they record and .. for them was the first time they, they make, how to say, so real. Real, it was real. They record real life.

Susan Thompson 21:21

Okay,

Magda Kevlishvili 21:22

We, we are walking we are singing like other years. Yeah. And they are, they record it and after everything we our last house was [Andro Simanashvili](#). And he was sleeping and we sing. We sing with a very loud voice one time two times and he woke up he was so happy so happy he was crying. He has some ear problems. But he hear and then we talk that we said well we are a member of Mtiebi. Edisher, he was a brilliant person. He remembered him.

Susan Thompson 22:09

Wow.

Magda Kevlishvili 22:09

Yeah, they know each other. And then we asked to him start please. Alilo can you artanuli alilo. And he start and our, one of our member, Mukho sets the top voice and he was crying and singing together and this from television we, what we saw the last was Andro Simanashvili was crying and singing you together. I remember this Alilo very well. And the first when, when we took member of Amer Imeri with Gigi. It was very strange for us that I was a leader and actually one of teacher, elder person and we took little ones and for them it was the first time and first when we walk and show that we are - Gigi, me and two member from Mtiebi. And we show to a member of our Amer Imeri how we do this. We sing in one family, and the second, and the third time we said you start in and singing. It was a like a lesson in, in life.

Susan Thompson 23:25

Yes. Perfect.

Magda Kevlishvili 23:26

And the feeling was very unusual for me. Ahhh. Because we learnt it this, such way from Edisher.

Susan Thompson 23:38

Okay.

Magda Kevlishvili 23:40

In my childhood.

Susan Thompson 23:41

You suddenly realized you were no longer a child.

Magda Kevlishvili 23:44

And I can give to our child the same what I received, received from Edisher.

Susan Thompson 23:50

Wow.

Magda Kevlishvili 23:51

And it was a,

Susan Thompson 23:52

great gift.

Magda Kevlishvili 23:53

Yes.

Susan Thompson 23:57

And in your family, you have other traditions at Christmas. I think you said you had a grandmother from Guria.

Magda Kevlishvili 24:04

Yes. My mother's mother was from Guria. He was he cooked very well. He had very good hands every food was very tasty for from him and every Christmas day he baked special gvezeli pie special pie, we call it sashobao ghvezeli [Christmas pie](#).

Susan Thompson 24:30

Okay,

Magda Kevlishvili 24:30

and inside there is a cheese and egg. And it's very delicious. I think.

Susan Thompson 24:38

It's shaped like the moon

Magda Kevlishvili 24:40

Like a moon, half moon

Susan Thompson 24:41

A half moon, a crescent moon. Yeah. So lovely.

Magda Kevlishvili 24:44

And eggs means the

Susan Thompson 24:46

New birth?

Magda Kevlishvili 24:47

New Birth. Yes. And like mravaljhamieri.

Susan Thompson 24:53

Long life

Magda Kevlishvili 24:53

long life. Yes.

Susan Thompson 24:54

Wow. And you've spoken with such feeling about Amer Imeri, the children's group and I know you said you go to rehearsal and Amer Imeri is not just one group..

Magda Kevlishvili 25:06

No,

Susan Thompson 25:06

You are rehearsing different groups with different ages nearly every night. How young are the youngest?

Magda Kevlishvili 25:13

Youngest is. He was five years old, now it's already grow up from five years till nine it's a little generation, little choir and as an elder one already 13 years till 18.

Susan Thompson 25:33

Okay,

Magda Kevlishvili 25:33

And I'm working with them also nine years from 2012 and I love them very much like my children.

Susan Thompson 25:48

And what, what hopes and dreams do you have for Amer Imeri?

Magda Kevlishvili 25:55

For Amer Imeri, not exactly the generation for Amer Imeri, I wish to Amer Imeri will be for a long time, not for a longer for 'mudam' forever. Because it's a place where children have childhood, real childhood, because we sing, play Georgian traditional games, dance together, we show them Georgian history, not history in book, like real life, we show them village life and teach them and of course, we gave them very good feelings, very good emotions, and love, of course, and to, um, they became in few years, they became very good persons. And, for example, maybe others are the same. But for, for me, it's very, very sensitive that once there was a little accident of, by the car, and during the traffic, and it was the I was hurrying to the rehearsals and I called that I can't come and Nana Valishvili was there with them. So when Merab, you know, Merab member of our Amer Imeri er.. hear hear that something happened with me, he wrote me mass, do you want something? I can come. And the ones was the same for from others, if you want, I can help you. And for example, I talked with them for about my plans that I want to build in the village some house in Galovani and I want to er, tree, planting, planting trees, they are

there. He said, Oh, we can help you, anytime - you when you want. We take er take earth and we will do everything for you. And they are 18 years old, real teenagers. And when I know and I say that other of the same ages, they have different interested and interesting.

Susan Thompson 28:24

They have different interests

Magda Kevlishvili 28:25

in their interests. Yes.

Susan Thompson 28:28

That reminds me - do you remember you, you once had a big Holly was telling me, you had a big bag of records. Not CD's LP's.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 28:37

yeah. It was outside the [folk center](#). Yes, outside center. And some of you someone at the folk center was getting rid of all these folk records, all these vinyls and the kids, the teenagers just that they took it out onto the street. And everyone was like, right, who wants er Basiani? Who wants this one. And they're all fighting over the well fighting very politely over these LPs. And it was just such a wonderful moment to see 16/17 year olds caring about folk music and wanting to take a piece home with them.

Magda Kevlishvili 29:15

And they caring to each other too. They are so lovely to each other and very warm and men, er boy to girl and girl to boy and their rel..relationship is very real and very good. I think...

Susan Thompson 29:37

You're, - Magda is putting her fingertips together. And to me that feels like equality. Like their relationship is very, very equal.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 29:47

Yes, well we know that wonderful relationships can be born out of Amer Imeri, right. *laughter*

Magda Kevlishvili 29:53

And also what I, what I know and it's very good for me to see this, some of them. We learn new songs. Of course we work about it, for we..... er We work very hard because this is two, second voice, top voice, and repeat, repeat and we listen - Voice of Ancestors records, old records and we listen, listen, what is this phrase? And other than that, but what I love very much as some of them, they have their own records, is this old records and they listen, and they learn from them. And then come, we learned these, Let's rehearse on the rehearsals. And I'm very surprised, because they work on themselves. Yes,

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 30:49

yeah. So at home on their own learning new songs, and then bringing them to the group

Magda Kevlishvili 30:56

and their music list is folk. And really, on mobile phones, they have other songs, of course, and also folk list *Laughter*

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 31:11

Well, I think that's gonna make them grow up to be very well rounded individuals and have, as you said, a great knowledge of their home country. And to have pride in that and to respect others cultures as well. It's wonderful thing. You're doing good work. So thank you for that.

Magda Kevlishvili 31:31

Thank you. Yeah.

Susan Thompson 31:34

I had... Somebody I was chatting with said, said of both Mtiebi and Amer Imeri, they said, we were talking about different singing groups in Georgia. And they said, Oh, but but they're not an ensemble, they are something else - like family.

Magda Kevlishvili 31:50

And when we guest, for example, Svaneti in [Svaneti Chamgelianis family](#) or in [Merisi](#), Manana's (Zumbadze) er Turmanidzes family. They said that we never seen such kind children. And I was happy like a parent. When they said good things about my children, I was very happy. And I was very proud. And I thank to my children, that they are so good. I hope they will continue to be such good persons.

Susan Thompson 32:27

I'm sure. And we were chatting before about Mtiebi because I know there was an invitation for Mtiebi to sing at the [folklore center](#). Yes, but it was not possible.

Magda Kevlishvili 32:38

Yes, because of this pandemic period. Someone became ill then we, then we stopped rehearsals, because eight days, we have to be at house and so we can't perform this on the stage, but we hope in futures, some thing will change and we will perform again.

Susan Thompson 33:04

Because the other plan for this year was you are - Mtiebi 40

Magda Kevlishvili 33:06

Yes Mtiebi already is 40 years old and at the start of this year 2020 we have plans and we decide to make something different, not usually concert, we plan to invite others ensembles who we are, who is friend of us, and sing er, sing the same same style. But our plans stopped for this time, but we hope in a future year, our plans will alife.

Susan Thompson 33:53

Become alive

Magda Kevlishvili 33:54

Become alive

Susan Thompson 33:55

That would be great.

Magda Kevlishvili 33:59

Because 40 year is not usually seen.

Susan Thompson 34:03

No. I think for an ensemble to continue over 40 years is definitely not usual.

Magda Kevlishvili 34:10

No, and we have a lot of aches.

Susan Thompson 34:17

Yes. Heart aches, this is true. And much to celebrate as well. Both.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 34:24

Yes.

Music: [Veengagra](#) by Mtiebi

Susan Thompson 34:33

Hello, it's Susan Holly here with a gratitude spot. We'd just like to thank YOU for listening today. And for those who have supported us on Ko-Fi.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 34:44

Yeah, thank you for our generous supporters for helping us cover the costs of making this podcast. And if you'd like to help us out and buy us a coffee, you could go to [Ko-Fi.com/Voicesoftheancestors](https://ko-fi.com/voicesoftheancestors) or just click the link, I'll put it in the show notes. But please know, if you don't have the means to support us financially, you can help us out in other ways. For example, you can join our mailing list, I'll put that in the show notes as well the link to that or just go onto our website. You can also help us by supporting us on social media, by liking and sharing and commenting on our posts. We're on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and all of those places. And you can also follow us on [SoundCloud](#), and comment on our episodes and like our episodes there. And if you listen on [Apple podcasts](#), you can even give us a review. And if you don't want to do any of those things, and you just want to help us in one way, you could tell a friend about the podcast, it's really helpful for us. So, thanks everyone again, and now back to the podcast.

Magda when did Mtiebi become a mixed ensemble, because it started just off as a male ensemble - right.

Magda Kevlishvili 36:10

Right. Yes in 2003 it was we performed on [Marjanishvili Theater](#) on stage and the concert name was Akhali Mtiebi - it means new Mtiebi, Mtiebi and we perform together the member of Amer Imeri who grow up in Amer Imeri and elder member of Mtiebi who we are with Edisher Garakanidze and on stage I think we were almost 28. So, we performed together the repertoire was very different, different because there was the songs of men woman and we mean and mix mix and it was very interesting concert and after it Mtiebi became mix mix mix one. So

Susan Thompson 37:14

And you said something about you thought this was the wish of Edisher.

Magda Kevlishvili 37:21

So Gigi thinks that when Edisher think about children ensemble and in 1999 made made children ensemble he thought about this because in his, in his scientists letters, he wrote that on stage. It's available to perform on stage whole, whole, folklore when there is some Mtiebi, [Mzetamze](#) and Amer Imeri because Mzetamze performed women repertoire, Mtiebi men and then they together mix repertoire and Amer Imeri children. So when Mtiebi became mix, and sometimes we can perform now. Both, both three, three, yes. And mix women and men repertoire

Susan Thompson 38:33

Very good solution.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 38:36

And how is it for you to sing men's repertoire?

Magda Kevlishvili 38:41

I don't sing men's repertoire. I sing mix one when it's for example. er, er Women never sing such ritual songs like perkhisia it's for men only. Or round-dance. Not round-dance with walking perkhisia so maybe you know in khartobaze they are singing. Do you know?

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 39:11

No I don't know.

Susan Thompson 39:12

Which region?

Magda Kevlishvili 39:11

erm mountinian part. [Tusheti](#) or [Pshavi](#). *Magda sings - Va-zeee, notoa*. Maybe you know they sing only by men. For example - mravaljhamieri is also only for men working songs er... like

naduri but there are some songs where women also were singing and dancing and. And such suprlebi songs that we might, we sing with table. It's mix one.

Susan Thompson 39:47

It makes me laugh that you say that naduri are sung by men because I was looking at some footage from adjara and there all the men were being taught on the stage. By a member from the [Conservatoire](#) a young woman and I said, well, this is very lovely, but, but where are the women? When do they get to learn these songs? Where are they? And she said - Oh, they're probably in the fields working. *Laughter*

Magda Kevlishvili 40:15

Working song was sung for .. during the working ... naduri *Laughter*

40:36 Music: [Megruli Alilo by Kimlia](#)

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 41:32

Um Magda - what does Voices of the Ancestors mean to you?

Magda Kevlishvili 41:37

So it means that we are um like a bridge, that we, that connect us from the nowadays to the past time, past period. It's the words I can say - such way -

Susan Thompson 42:00

like a bridge

Magda Kevlishvili 42:01

like a bridge. And sometimes when we sing that song that was sung by our ancestors we are together like for example when you sing alilo and you are in the village or the feeling is so strange, you don't think about work, you don't think about, for example, traffic you don't think about working or anything you are somewhere with song and with miracle of this song and er of tradition.

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 42:35

It's like a timeless thing. Yes

Magda Kevlishvili 42:41

Time have no meaning.

Music: [Veengagra](#) by Mtiebi

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 42:43

Mmm.

Susan Thompson 42:44

So true.

Magda Kevlishvili 42:45

So this is Voice of Ancestors.

Susan Thompson 42:50

Thank you, I think we can wrap up - Yeah

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 42:54

Thank you so much Magda for talking with us today and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
Laughter

Susan Thompson 45:02

So as a footnote to this episode Magda got in touch just to try and explain to us what the name of the children's group means. Um and as with many Georgian words there are layers of meaning - and some of those layers it's really quite difficult to translate into English and there may not even be an English equivalent concept. Um but from what I understood, Amer Imeri is the name of the whole of Georgia. So the eastern part of Georgia is known as amer while the western part by the Black Sea is known as imeri. But the other layers of meaning of these words are - around - so the word amer and amieri - meaning those who are in this life, now, today and the word 'amier-idan' can translate as "from now on, henceforth" while the other word in their name imeri and imieri - means those who have died and are in the 'other place', that their souls in the sky - it can translate as "other worldly".

Holly Taylor-Zuntz 44:30

Thank you for listening to Voices Of The Ancestors with Holly Taylor-Zuntz and Susan Thompson. Our special guest was Magda Kevlishvili. You heard music from Ialoni, Mtiebi and Kimilia. For more information about this and other episodes and to read a transcript of all our episodes visit Voicesoftheancestors.co.uk.

Music: [Veengagra](#) by Mtiebi

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