

## Dr. Tofik K. Khanmamedov



Dr. Tofik K. Khanmamedov was born in 1945 in Baku, Azerbaijan SSR and raised in the family of esteemed Prof. of wood science K. M. Khanmamedov, mother – Maria, HS teacher. Dr. Tofik K. Khanmamedov has very unique scientific background. He graduated from Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry in Baku with diploma of technologist in 1967.

In 1971 he successfully completed Ph.D. research in the Institute of Petrochemical Synthesis named after A. V. Topchiev of Academy of Sciences of USSR in Moscow under supervision of laureate of Lenin Prize, Prof. B. A. Krentsel. While in Academy of Sciences of Azerbaijan he went to the University of the Manchester (UK) and did research as a postdoctoral research fellow.

In 1983 he earned position of the Manager of “Sulphur Recovery Technology” laboratory in Gazprom (Baku). Soon Dr. Tofik K. Khanmamedov defended his Doctor of Science dissertation in Moscow Institute of Oil and Gas and was the first chemical engineer-scientist in the former Soviet Union, who was granted highest D.Sc. (Chem. Eng.) scientific degree in the field of sulphur recovery technology (Claus). He has gained an international reputation in the field of acid gas removal, sulfur recovery and tail gas treatment processes technology. He was a distinguished member of Scientific Counsel at the State Committee of Science and Technique in Moscow, USSR.

In 1991 Dr. Tofik K. Khanmamedov received invitation to work for engineering Company in USA and he emigrated from Azerbaijan SSR with his family in 1991. Since that time he worked for several prominent companies in USA. He developed and patented several new technologies for acid gas removal, tail gas treatment and sulphur recovery and founded TTK TECHNOLOGY COMPANY (d.b.a. TTK COMPANY, [www.tkkcompany.com](http://www.tkkcompany.com)) incorporated in Houston, Texas. He holds numerous patents that cover his new technologies and published many articles and presentations in different Magazines of USA, UK, Russia and others, and is a frequent presenter at industry events. More information about Tofik Khanmamedov here [www.tkkcompany.com](http://www.tkkcompany.com)

Tofik K. Khanmamedov proudly enjoys devoting his spare time with Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra as a violinist ([www.fbso.org](http://www.fbso.org)). He started violin classes with A. I. Parsegov and even took lessons from the retired Prof. S. L. Bretanitsky (pupil of Prof. L. Auer at Sankt Petersburg Conservatory), for one and a half years.

He performed solo concerts at his early ages in Baku, played in Baku City youth symphony orchestra under baton of such famous conductor as Niyazi. He also solo performed at welcome reception of International exhibition, corporate and private events, for residences of Silverado Senior Living etc.

While being with Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra for more than 10 years he and his friend Mike Larke (piano) have established an ensemble called the “*Romantic Music Duet*”.

## Mike Larke



Mike Larke was born in 1957, in Newcastle, United Kingdom. Both of his parents were from a musical background, particularly his father, Terry, who was a popular musician in the Newcastle and Northumberland area, leading professional ensembles at dances, parties and the area's pubs and clubs for almost seventy years. Terry Larke's repertoire of country dances and popular music from the 1900's thru the 1950's was encyclopedic, and particularly amazing given his lifelong inability to read music.

Mike displayed an early ability in music, teaching himself accordion and piano by the time he was four. Although not yet able to read music he sometimes accompanied his kindergarten school assemblies playing hymns by ear alone.

He soon developed an interest in the classical piano repertoire (again, self-taught at first) and began formal studies with Norman Spowart (LRAM) in 1966. These studies continued until Mike won a scholarship to study music at Wadham College, Oxford, in 1976.

Between 1969 and 1976 Mike competed in many music festivals and concerts collecting many First Prizes, cups, and general accolades. One of the most prestigious wins was a First Prize at Blackpool Music Festival, competing in the Adult Open Piano Competition (playing Schubert) against top players from the entire UK. He also received a Silver Medal from the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music for achieving the second highest marks granted to anyone in the United Kingdom Grade VIII Examination that year (1975).

As a final tribute to his long-time teacher, Norman Spowart, Mike gave a complete piano recital at Woodhorn Church prior to going up to Oxford, with a programme featuring the works of Mozart, Schubert, Chopin, Debussy, Villa-Lobos, Rachmaninov, and others.

At Oxford Mike studied music history and theory with Dr. Edward Olleson, while continuing his piano studies with Swiss pianist Lise-Martine Jeanneret. He performed with her Class at the historic [Holywell Music Room](#) playing Bach and Charles Ives. He also served as Music Director for an Oxford-Cambridge revue at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 1977,

In 1982 Mike moved to the USA working in the computer business in Minnesota, Detroit, New York City and Oklahoma. He continued to play and perform both classical and popular repertoire, both professionally and for pleasure.

After moving from Oklahoma to Texas Mike accompanied an extremely successful production of *My Fair Lady* at the [Plaza Theater](#) in Wharton in 2009.

Mike's wife, Janet (violin) joined the Fort Bend Symphony Orchestra in 2007 which led to Mike meeting Dr. Tofik Khanmamedov. After discovering they shared significant musical interests and passions they decided to collaborate and form the "[Romantic Music Duet](#)".