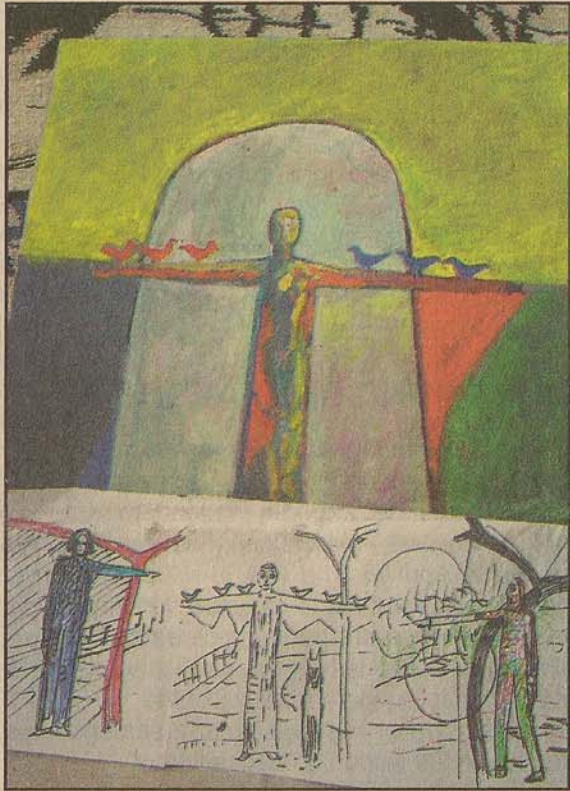
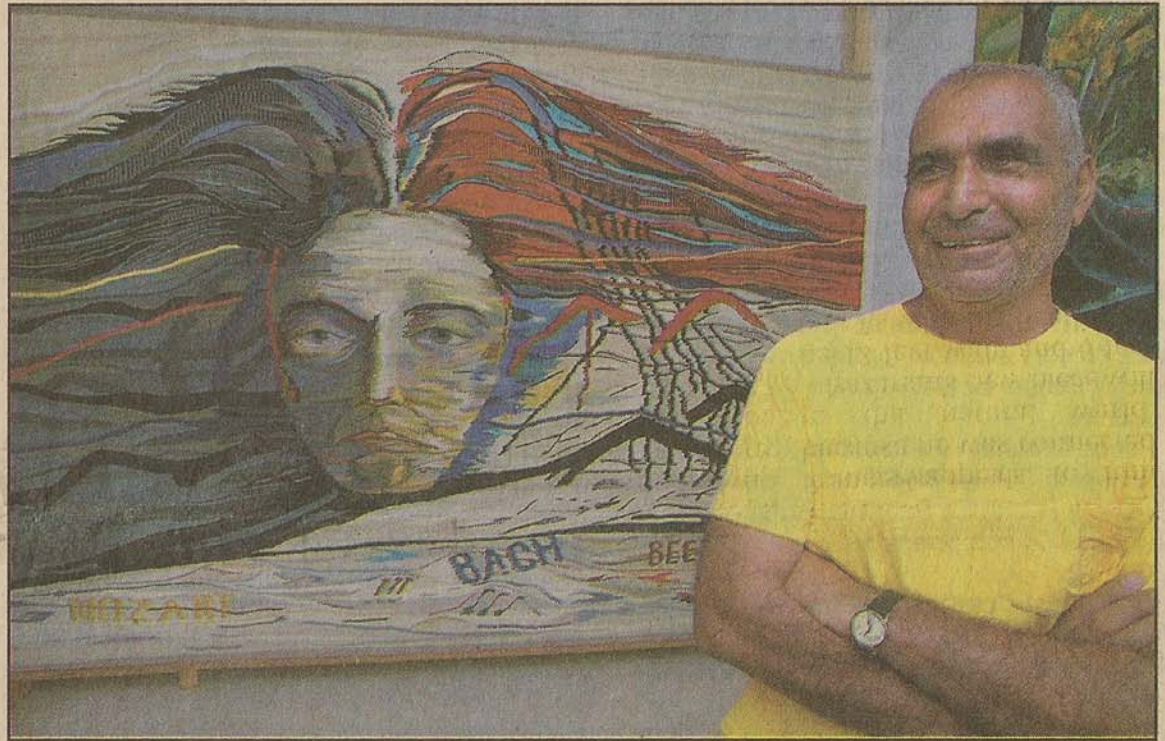


Artist completes monumental tapestry



Nazarian's next project will be similar in size but based around St. Francis.



SUN PHOTOS BY KHARLI ROSE, krose@sun-herald.com

Local artist Iszchan Nazarian completed his latest tapestry of Beethoven, which stands 8 feet tall and 10 feet wide.

His next big work of art will feature St. Francis

By **SUSAN E. HOFFMAN**

NORTH PORT ASSISTANT EDITOR

NORTH PORT — Iszchan Nazarian has just completed his woven symphony honoring the great composer, Beethoven.

Nazarian designed the hand-woven tapestry, 10 feet wide and 8 feet high, to reflect the classical music that inspired him to undertake such a monumental work. It took him about

three months, from building the loom himself to placing the final threads.

Nazarian, who was originally from Armenia and now lives at Warm Mineral Springs, designed his tapestry with only the roughest sketch, showing generally where he would layer wool threads of red, turquoise, gray and blue to create the composer's face. From rough sketch, the por-

trait took shape, bottom to top, as Nazarian pulled the yarn by hand over and under the warp threads.

"My next project, I think, will be St. Francis," Nazarian said. His sketch shows a triptych, a three-paned design featuring a rough outline of St. Francis in the middle. Birds perch on the saint's outstretched arms. Two more figures are outlined in the spaces to the

right and left, although Nazarian is not certain who will be depicted there.

"Maybe Van Gogh, maybe Beethoven, I don't know," he said.

Artists, musicians, saints and crucifixes populate much of his artwork. Nazarian said he picks figures like St. Francis "because he was a good person.

"These people are a symbol of goodness. They make

life better," he added. St. Francis appeals to him because he was connected to the natural world.

Nazarian's new piece will be 12 feet wide and 6 feet tall. As with his Beethoven opus, he expects this new weaving to take more than three months to complete.

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