

possibilities of the survivor generation? Der Hovanessian expects that “child of fire”

to come avenging,
shrieking back
for his birthright.

This land is his,
ours, plowed for centuries
with our sweat.
This land will wait.
It waits for you
to be swept off its face
with wind.²⁵

Diana Der Hovanessian, who was born in Worcester, Massachusetts, is an accomplished poet. Her work has been published in many prestigious American and international newspapers and magazines such as the *The New York Times*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Paris Review*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The Nation*, *Harper's Magazine*, and *Look*, as well as in *The New York Times Book of Verse* (1970). She has also translated Armenian poetry old and new and published her translations in leading English-language poetry journals.

In 1965, Diana's father, John (Hovaness) Der Hovanessian, a survivor of the Genocide, delivered a speech in New York in which he called the Armenian massacres a successful genocide and the Turkish cover-up and distortion of historical facts a perfect example of historical revisionism. Years later, Diana wrote “The Political Poem,” echoing and explaining her father's idea: It is “more than a song of love/praise of life,

²⁵ Diana Der Hovanessian, “Keri's Curse,” in *About Time* (New York: Ashod Press, 1987), pp. 26–7.