**ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS**

 **Century ago, in 1897, with the help of a Czech specialist Mr. Grumlik , in Tbilisi, was established gymnastics lovers club , called: ,,Gymnasts’ society” . In 1899, Mr. Grumlik was succeeded by member of ,,SOKOL” club , Mr. Anton Lukesha. He prepared and trained gymnasts’ team, which participated in Prague at the international ,,SOKOL” tournament. Our team’s participation was successful and we took second place, silver monogram and ,,Sokol” Ribbon.**

 **This success was followed by a powerful wave of interest in gymnastics, and, its widespread distribution in Tbilisi, Kutaisi, Akhaltsikhe, Telavi, Khoni, Zestafoni, in Sukhumi, Oni, Poti.**

 **Even more stunning was victory in Prague, at the ,,Sokol” VI-th gathering , where our team took the first place among 298 teams and the host federation took II and III places. In the individuals’ competition third place took Mr. G. Egnatashvili. The winning team was awarded with crowns, cup, ribbon...**

 **In 1918, after the Declaration of Independence, came back to the motherland: G.Nikoladze, I. Lortkipanidze, R.Mirimaniani, Djaparidze, Iv. Beridze, and, also, G. Egnatashvili, G.Berelashvili,**

**P. Marganidze, T. Nikoladze, and all this and some other members of society, started and established society called ,,SHEVARDENI,, which covered whole Georgia, and gymnastics became our way of life.**

 **Georgian Artistic gymnasts gradually conquered the highest peaks of the sport. Olympics’ Champions are: Medea Jugeli, Galina Sharabidze, Vladimer Gogoladze . World Champions are: Rusudan Sikharulidze, Nino dronova. World Cup medalist: Paata Shamugia.**

 **Champions and medalist of USSR Championships: Gulo Rtskhiladze, Pavle Romanishvili, Giorgi Bibilodze, Alexsandre Djordjadze, Raisa Zaalishvili, Nikoloz Takhaishvili, Medea Jugeli, Galina Sharabidze, Shota Chachkhiani, Sergo Jaiani, Revaz Sharabidze, Valiko Asatiani, Revaz Kachaxidze, Tornike Saneblidze, Nodar Makalatia, Mikheil Bogusi, Donara Janukhashvili, Iuri Ninoshvili, Paata Shamugia, Shota Azarashvili, Amiran Nozadze, Malkhaz Tataradze, Rusudan Sikharulidze, Alexsandre Lebedev, Pavel Leotiev, Anaida Babasian, Nino Dronova, Eka Zeturidze, Vladimir Gogoladze, Vakhtang Kevlishvili, Amiran Berianidze, Nugzar Gviniashvili, Zaza Khomasuridze, Levan Sisauri.**

 **In 1996, our gymnast Ilia Giorgadze , 4th time had participated at the Olympic Games.**

**At the Olympic Games in Atlanta (USA) he participated at the Finals and took 12th Place, and in Sydney (Australia) he took 6th place in ,,Horizontal Bar,, competition.**

**Nowadays, we have a youth and senior teams in girls and boys.**

**In 2015, for the first time in the history of Georgia, the European Youth Olympic Festival was held in Tbilisi. The festival was held in 10 sports and one of the disciplines was Artistic Gymnastics (boys and girls).**

**Our team's gymnast Dmitry Govorov won a bronze medal in the VAULT. At this festival, Georgia won medals in two sports and one of them was in Gymnastics.**

**At the 2016 European Olympics, we had two licensees, Natalia Dzidziguri and Paata Nodza.**

**At the 2018 World Cup in Baku, Konstantin Kuzavkov took the 3rd place in the VAULT. The finalist of the 2020 World Cup was Maria Kharenkova (BALANCE BEAM), but the finals were not held due to the coronavirus. At the 2021 International Tournament in Ukraine, which was held under the license of the International Gymnastics Federation, our gymnast Ani Gobadze took the 3rd place on the BALANCE BEAM.**

**Currently, about 500 athletes are engaged in Artistic Gymnastics in Georgia.**

**We have 43 coaches (male and female) and 34 national category judges.**

**This year the International Gymnastics Federation conducted an international judges’ test and our three female judges and eight male judges received the International Referee Categories.**

**Currently, Artistic Gymnastics operates in three cities of Georgia: Tbilisi, Kutaisi and Batumi.**