

Ukrainian National Identity in Music

Alina Cherkasova, Soprano, and Taras Filenko, Piano

Welcome

Professors David Garcia and Adnan Dzumbur

Dmytro Bortniansky (1751-1825)

Sonata in C Major, for piano or clavichord

Semen Hulak-Artemovsky (1813-1873)

The Bright Moon

Come to me my Cossack

Oksana's arias from the opera

The Cossack Beyond the Danube

Mykola Lysenko (1842-1912)

Song of Sorrow

Elegy, Op. 41, No. 3

Rhapsody No. 2, Op. 18

on Ukrainian themes (Dumka-Shumka)

Yakiv Stepovy (1883-1921)

Tramping the path

Lyrics – Taras Shevchenko

Prelude for piano in Memory of Taras Shevchenko

Intermission

Kyrylo Stetsenko (1882-1922)

I stood and listened to the Spring

Lyrics – Lesya Ukrainka

Volodymyr Vermenych (1925-1986)

Marigolds

Lyrics – Mykola Syngaivsky

Levko Revutsky (1889-1977)

Song, Op. 17

Stepan Sabadash (1920-2006)

Song of the Maidan

Lyrics – Ivan Kyuten

Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020)

Oh, if I had boots

Lyrics – Taras Shevchenko

Myroslav Skoryk (1938-2020)

Kolomyjka

Burlesque

Mykhailo Verbysky (1815-1870)

Ukrainian National Anthem

Alina Cherkasova is a Ukrainian opera singer and concert performer, as well as a voice and piano instructor. A graduate of the Odesa National Music Academy and Dnipro Music Academy, she is a laureate of numerous international competitions in the U.S., Italy, Ukraine, Spain, and Austria. In Ukraine, Ms. Cherkasova was the founder of the award-winning “Opera vo Blago” (“Opera for Good”), a charitable organization providing concerts of classical music for cancer patients, children, and the elderly. Since March 2020, Ms. Cherkasova and her military husband have been living in Aberdeen, NC, where she teaches privately and continues charitable performances to support the U.S. military, veterans, and their families.

Dr. Taras Filenko, pianist, historian, and ethnomusicologist, is a noted scholar of Ukrainian music. A graduate of the National Academy of Music in Kyiv, Dr. Filenko served there on the faculty and as Associate Dean of Conducting and Voice. He was awarded a Ph.D. in historical musicology in 1989, later earning a doctorate in Ethnomusicology from the University of Pittsburgh in 1998. For over forty years, Dr. Filenko has worked in the fields of History of Music, Ethnomusicology, and Music Performance (piano, organ, and choir directing), successfully combining his work as a scholar, teacher, and performer. He has presented concerts throughout Europe and North America, making numerous media appearances promoting the works of contemporary Ukrainian composers. Together with his mother, Tamara Bulat, he is the author of *The World of Mykola Lysenko: Ethnic Identity, Music Culture, and Politics*, (2001).

The Bright Moon* and *Come to me my Cossack

The Cossack beyond the Danube is considered the first Ukrainian opera. The story takes place after the destruction of the Cossack state in 1775 by the order of Empress Catherine II. A group of Cossacks flee to the Ottoman Empire and dream of returning to Ukraine.

Moon and beautiful stars I beg you to bring news from the native land.
I can't wait to see my Cossack lover.
He, like an eagle, will hug me with his wing, and we will fly home together.
There we will build our nest in the cherry orchard,
And we will be together forever.

Tramping the path (Утомтала стежечку)

I trampled the path to the market,
I traded bagels to Cossacks and earned small money
I will hire a trumpeter to play me a song.
I will forget all my unhappy life And I will find my soulmate

I stood and listened to the Spring (Стояла я і слухала весну)

I stood and listened to the spring. It sang about love, youth, joys, and hopes.
Something I've been dreaming about for a long time.

Marigolds (Чорнобривці)

My mother planted marigolds on our land,
And she sang about her blossoming hope.
When I look at these marigolds, I see my old mother.
I feel her hands' touch, I feel her kindness.

Song of the maiden (Пісня молодички)

I am the young maiden, not very tall but pretty.
I like to dance, I can work, and I can charm any fellow!

Oh, if I had boots (Якби мені черевики)

The lyrics of this song were written by Ukrainian poet Taras Shevchenko in 1848 when Ukrainian peasants were very poor and shoes were a luxury

I wish I have shoes and would rather be dancing
But that's a pity I have no shoes
Music is playing and other girls are dancing wearing red shoes
And I am the only one who is miserable here
But anyway I will go barefoot across the field
And I will find my soulmate after all

CHARITY CONCERT TO SUPPORT
UKRAINIAN FRONT-LINE PARAMEDICS

CELEBRATION OF UKRAINIAN
MUSIC, ART
AND CULTURE

Sunday, May 22 at 5pm

Moeser Auditorium in Hill Hall
on the UNC Campus
145 E. Cameron Ave,
Chapel Hill, NC 27599



Benefit concert featuring Ukrainian music and culture.
100% of the concert proceeds will be used to buy and deliver medical supplies for the Ukrainian medical volunteer battalion - Hospitallers - who are working on the front-line to provide life-saving treatment of wounded Ukrainian soldiers and civilians and evacuating them from the war zone. Their slogan is "For the Sake of Every Life!"

