



THE UKRAINIAN
BANDURIST CHORUS OF
NORTH AMERICA
AND THE UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE
OF AMERICA
PRESENT A
CONCERT SERIES DEDICATED
TO LESYA UKRAINKA,
THE FOREMOST
WOMAN WRITER IN UKRAINIAN
LITERATURE.

LESYA

HER VOICE AND POETRY THROUGH SEVEN STRINGS

FEATURING

**THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS
OF NORTH AMERICA**

OLEH MAHLAY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR



2022 – 2023

CONCERT SEASON

THE 2022-23 CONCERT SEASON OF
**THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS
OF NORTH AMERICA**



2022-23 КОНЦЕРТОВИЙ СЕЗОН
**УКРАЇНСЬКОЇ КАПЕЛІ БАНДУРИСТІВ
ПІВНІЧНОЇ АМЕРИКИ**

LESYA

HER VOICE AND POETRY THROUGH SEVEN STRINGS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 – DETROIT WEST BLOOMFIELD
THE BERMAN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 1 – CLEVELAND
MALTZ PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21 – WASHINGTON D.C.
CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF AMERICA

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 22 – MORRISTOWN, NJ
SAINT ELIZABETH UNIVERSITY
DOLAN PERFORMANCE HALL

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23 – PHILADELPHIA JENKINTOWN
THE MULLER AUDITORIUM
AT THE ABINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America is grateful for the volunteers and friends that have assisted in making this concert series possible including the Ukrainian National Women's League of America and its regional and local branches in the states of Michigan, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and members in the Washington DC area. We would also like to thank the UBC musicians and their families in these regions that have provided incredible support and leadership to bring this series together.

We would like to thank the sponsors of this series. All sponsors are recognized in a special insert within the program. Your support of our mission is greatly appreciated and valued.



LESYA

HER VOICE AND POETRY THROUGH SEVEN STRINGS

In early 2020, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC) approached the Ukrainian National Women's League of America (UNWLA) about collaborating to produce a concert series dedicated to Lesya Ukrainka. Originally planned for 2021, the pandemic paused the production but not the preparation. Dozens of virtual, then in-person, rehearsals later, we are excited to share this new program with you.

The program highlights Lesya Ukrainka's poetry, power, and place in Ukrainian culture and literature through song. While preparing the program, it was recognized that relatively little of her poetry had been set to music for male voices and was absent from the UBC repertoire. This provided an opportunity for several exciting new works: The "Seven Strings" suite composed by UBC Artistic Director and Conductor, Oleh Mahlay, and "Contra Spem Spero" by Concertmaster, Mykola Deychakiwsky. Throughout the program, in addition to visual graphics and narration, we include images of kobzari from the early 20th century and excerpts from rare wax cylinder recordings of Ukrainka's own voice.

The story of our ensemble originates in Kyiv, Ukraine, in 1918. For over 100 years, the UBC has been the guardian of the majestic 60-stringed musical instrument – the Bandura. In the seven decades since settling in the United States after World War II, we have continued to share the historic and modern story of Ukraine globally, whether it be through educational initiatives or performances. The bandura is an icon of Ukraine's national identity and voice. Today, we are projecting Lesya's voice to propel her incredible work.

Today's concert will also help Ukraine's needs at this time. A portion of the net proceeds will support humanitarian needs in Ukraine. Thank you for joining us!

OLEH MAHLAY
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

ANATOLI MURHA
PRESIDENT

LESYA

HER VOICE AND POETRY THROUGH SEVEN STRINGS

UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

OLEH MAHLAY, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

PRESENTED BY THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA &
THE UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA

The Berman Center for the Performing Arts – West Bloomfield, Michigan September 30, 2022

Maltz Performing Arts Center – Cleveland, Ohio – October 1, 2022

— I —

IT IS TIME TO DEPART «У ПУТЬ»

Kyrylo Stetsenko (lyrics by Lesya Ukrainka)

“LESYA UKRAINKA – HER LIFE AND POETRY”

Taisa Kulyk – narrator

SEVEN STRINGS «СИМ СТРУН»

Oleh Mahlay (lyrics by Lesya Ukrainka)

DO (ГІМН. GRAVE) TO YOU, UKRAINE «ДО ТЕБЕ УКРАЇНО»

soloist: O. Zmyiivsky (or R. Pachashynkyi)

RE (ПІСНЯ. BRIOSO) THE STORM RAGES... (BUT I DON'T CARE)

«РЕВЕ-ГУДЕ НЕГОДОНЬКА»

MI (КОЛИСКОВА. ARPEGGIO) THE BRIGHT MOON (LULLABY)

«МІСЯЦЬ ЯСНЕСЕНЬКИЙ» soloist: P. Tarnawsky (or R. Pachashynkyi)

FA (СОНЕТ) FANTASY! «ФАНТАЗІЄ!» soloist: W. Maluzynsky (or. H. Maluzynsky)

SOL (Rondeau) THE SONG OF THE SWALLOW «СОЛОВЕЙКОВИЙ СПІВ»

LA (Nocturo) THE GENTLE SPRING NIGHTS «ЛАГІДНІ ВЕСНЯНІІ НОЧІ»

soloist: S. Zaets (or M. Kostowskyj)

SI (Settina) I TOUCH THE SEVEN STRINGS «СИМ СТРУН Я ТОРКАЮ»

“THE VOICE OF LESYA UKRAINKA”

CONTRA SPERM SPERO (I HOPE AGAINST HOPE)

«БЕЗ НАДІЇ СПОДІВАЮСЬ» Mykola Deychakiwsky (lyrics by Lesya Ukrainka)

*THE POEMS OF LESYA UKRAINKA RECITED BY
KHRYSTYNA HUMENIUK.*

INTERMISSION



A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE «МОЛИТВА ЗА УКРАЇНУ»

John Rutter

soloist: S. Kostiuk (or R. Beley, N. Kalivoshko, S. Szyszka)

HOW LONG AGO «ЯК ДАВНО»

Hryhory Kytasty (lyrics by Oleksander Pidsukha)

soloist: P. Tarnawsky

ECHO OF THE STEPPES «ГОМІН СТЕПІВ»

Hryhory Kytasty

BROTHERS: TO ARMS! «ГЕЙ НУМ ХЛОПЦІ ДО ЗБРОЇ»

arranged by Hryhory Kytasty & Oleh Mahlay

MY BROTHER UKRAINIANS «БРАТТЯ УКРАЇНЦІ»

Vova Heyzer (music and lyrics)

soloist: Z. Chaikovsky (or R. Pachashynskyi or P. Tarnawsky)

BANDURIST, YOU GRAY EAGLE «БАНДУРИСТЕ, ОРЛЕ СИЗИЙ»

arr. Oleh Mahlay, melody by Yakiv Orlov (lyrics by Taras Shevchenko)

soloist: O. Zmiyiwsky (or W. Maluzynsky)

UKRAINE MARCH «МАРШ УКРАЇНА»

Hryhory Kytasty (lyrics by Ivan Bahriany)

PLAY, BANDURA, PLAY «ГРАЙ, БАНДУРО, ГРАЙ»

Ihor Shamo (lyrics by Dmytro Lutsenko)



Lyric translations courtesy of

Gladys Evans, Peter Fedynsky, Oleh Mahlay, Vera Rich, and Stephen Szyszka

Special thanks to the Ukrainian Museum-Archives of Cleveland for research materials.

For the Ukrainian text and English translations of the Lesya Ukrainka poems visit

WWW.BANDURA.ORG/LESYAUKRAINKA

Concert program subject to change

UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

*OLEH MAHLAY,
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR*



Founded in Kyiv in 1918 by Vasyl Yemets as the "Kobzar Choir", its successor continued to perform until being disbanded by the Soviet government at the outbreak of World War II. In 1941, the ensemble was reconstituted in Ukraine's capital by many of its former members, and eventually emigrated to the United States in 1949 where it continues its mission: to share the bandura and the traditions of the kobzari with a global audience.

For more than a century, the UBC has preserved and promoted the art of bandura by amassing an extensive discography and by touring North America, Australia, Europe, and Ukraine having performed at such well-known concert venues as Carnegie Hall, the Kyiv Opera House, Kennedy Center, the Notre Dame Cathedral and Massey Hall.

As a tribute to its role in preserving and perpetuating the legacy of Ukrainian music, the UBC was selected by Ukraine's Council of Ministers as the recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize, the highest award that can be bestowed for excellence in the contribution to the arts. The award was presented to the UBC by Leonid Kravchuk, then president of Ukraine, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, during his first visit to the United States in May 1992.

The UBC continues to make history with ongoing international concerts, an education program for youth, new recordings, and new talent. Intense passion for music by its members is united behind the common goal to extend the tradition of its predecessors, kobzari, by producing memorable performances on the world stage.

Today, the UBC is led by Artistic Director and Conductor, Oleh Mahlay. He has been a musician with the ensemble since 1982 and became its artistic director and conductor in 1996. During his tenure (1996 through 2008, and from 2012 through the present), the UBC has achieved artistic acclaim as a result of nine released recordings, educational outreach programming, and hundreds of concerts throughout North America and Europe (including two historic tours of Ukraine). In September of 2021, Maestro Mahlay received the prestigious Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts (заслужений діяч мистецтв України) which was presented to him by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Maestro Mahlay received a bachelor of arts in music history and literature from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and has a varied musical background as a conductor, pianist, violinist, lecturer and composer. He studied piano with Dr. George Cherry of the Baldwin Wallace College Conservatory of Music, and his violin teachers included Elmer Setzer of the Cleveland Orchestra and Jeannette Drinkold-Meyer, a student of renowned violinist Josef Gingold.

THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

Recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize awarded by Ukraine's Council of Ministers

УКРАЇНЬСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ ПІВНІЧНОЇ АМЕРИКИ ІМ. ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКА

лауреат Національної премії України імені Тараса Шевченка

OLEH MAHLAY – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts (заслужений діяч мистецтв України)

ANATOLI MURHA – PRESIDENT

Honored Worker of Culture (заслужений працівник культури України)

MYKOLA DEYCHAKIWSKY – CONCERTMASTER

INSTRUMENTALISTS

ROMAN BELEY (Toronto, Ontario)

MYKOLA DEYCHAKIWSKY (Detroit, Michigan)

URIY GRABOVYY (Syracuse, New York)

NICK HLADIO (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania)

MICHAEL KOSTOWSKYJ (Santa Cruz California)

LUKE LASHCHUK (San Diego, California)

VICTOR LISHCHYNA (Toronto, Ontario)

ANDRIY MAHLAY (Cleveland, Ohio)

OLEH MAHLAY (Cleveland, Ohio)

TARAS MAHLAY (Cleveland, Ohio)

YURIY METULYNSKY (Windsor, Ontario)

ANATOLI MURHA (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

MYKOLA MURSKYJ (Detroit, Michigan)

JOSEPH TOBIANSKI (Detroit, Michigan)

STEPHAN ZAETS (Boston, Massachusetts)

CHORISTERS

BOHDAN BALKO (Yonkers, New York)

THEODORE BODNAR (New York, New York)

ZENON CHAIKOVSKY (Cleveland, Ohio)

VASYL GRABOVYY (Syracuse, New York)

ANDRIJ HLADYSHEVSKY (Edmonton, Alberta)

YAREMA HRYCIW (Scotts Valley, California)

ROMAN JAKUBOWYCZ (Cleveland, Ohio)

NAZAR KALIVOSHKO (Cleveland, Ohio)

JOE KOLODKA (Cleveland, Ohio)

SAM KOSTIUK (Edmonton, Alberta)

IHOR KUSZNIR (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)

JOHN KYTASTY (Detroit, Michigan)

MICHAEL LABAY (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

GREGORY MALUZYNSKY (Edmonton, Alberta)

WASYL MALUZYNSKY (Winnipeg, Manitoba)

ROMAN PACHASHYNSKYI (Cleveland, Ohio)

BOHDAN PRYJMA (Detroit, Michigan)

NICHOLAS SCHIDOWKA (Cleveland, Ohio)

ANDREW SHRUBOWICH (Cleveland, Ohio)

JEFFREY SMOLILO (Cleveland, Ohio)

STEPHEN SZYSZKA (Kennett Square, PA)

PETER TARNAWSKY (Edmonton, Alberta)

VASYL TROYANOVYCH (Syracuse, New York)

PETRO WROBLEWSKI (Detroit, Michigan)

FRED YASNOWSKI (Youngstown, Ohio)

OLEH ZMIYIWSKY (Edmonton, Alberta)

AUDITIONS

Are you a talented male musician (either a singer or bandurist) who is interested in contributing to Ukrainian culture and enriching the legacy of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America?

Please contact auditions@bandura.org or omahlay@bandura.org.

BECOME A PART OF HISTORY!

SUPPORT THE HUMANITARIAN EFFORT
IN UKRAINE AND THE BANDURA



WAYS TO
DONATE



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL WOMEN'S LEAGUE OF AMERICA
DONATE AT [UNWLA.ORG/DONATE](https://unwla.org/donate)



UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA
DONATE AT [BANDURA.ORG/DONATE](https://bandura.org/donate)