

INSIDE:

- UCCA elects new president — page 3.
- Kuchma and Putin discuss gas supplies — page 3.
- Help Us Help the Children organizes summer camps — page 13.

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

Published by the Ukrainian National Association Inc., a fraternal non-profit association

Vol. LXVIII

No. 43

THE UKRAINIAN WEEKLY

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2000

\$1/\$2 in Ukraine

Leadership Conference in Washington focuses on Ukraine's integration into global community

by Yaro Bihun

Special to *The Ukrainian Weekly*

WASHINGTON — The Washington Group, the largest Ukrainian American professionals' association in the United States, on October 6-8 held its annual Leadership Conference which this year focused on the issue of Ukraine's integration into the global community.

The conference considered the subject in three expert panel discussions, as well as in speeches by the Ukrainian Embassy's Chargé d'Affaires Oleksii Berezhnyi and American Ambassador-designate to Ukraine Carlos Pascual.

After two days of discussions, the consensus appeared to be that Ukraine should strive to integrate itself within European and global economic and political structures, even though it is not yet fully ready to take some of the necessary steps.

The three-day conference program began on Friday evening with a reception at the Embassy of Ukraine, discussions about forming a Business Development Forum within TWG and about Ukraine's leading intellectual journal *Krytyka*, a banquet and dance, and a performance by the Experimental Bandura Trio. The weekend also included the presentation of a TWG award to Orest Deychakiwsky for his years of work on behalf of human rights and democracy in Ukraine.

Ukraine's official position on integration with European and Euro-Atlantic groupings was outlined at the outset of the conference in a keynote address by Mr. Berezhnyi. He said that Ukraine is looking forward to further cooperation with NATO within its "distinct partnership" with the Western alliance and the Partnership for Peace program. But it is neither pressing for NATO membership now nor closing the door to that possibility in the future, he added. As for integration with the European Union, he said, Ukraine sees "full-fledged" EU membership as a long-term goal.

Maintaining its "strategic relationship" with the United States "is essential for Ukraine," Mr. Berezhnyi said, listing in the bilateral agenda basket of that relationship such goals as the establishment of a normal trade regime — which is "long overdue" — as well as U.S. support in International Monetary Fund and World Bank decisions on Ukraine and on Ukraine's membership in the World Trade Organization.

In the first panel, dealing with the future of the nation-state and its implications for Ukraine, Roman Solchanyk, an analyst with the RAND Corp., juxtaposed some contradictory developments and opinion poll results that suggest that Ukrainians find it difficult to make a final decision about themselves as a nation and where they feel they belong regionally. But there is no doubt about

the fact that the people are dissatisfied, he said.

As for fears about the establishment of a new dividing line in Europe after the first group of East European countries joins the European Union, he said, that line exists and has always existed in the eyes of Western Europeans, who differentiate between Eastern European countries that were under Soviet domination and those that were part of the Soviet Union itself. He explained that Ukraine can cooperate and even become a member of the West's military alliance, NATO, but membership in its economic family, the EU, is another matter.

On a positive note, Dr. Solchanyk pointed out that, despite early gloomy predictions by the CIA and others that Ukraine would fall apart because of ethnic divisions and other considerations, today there are no doubts about Ukraine's viability as a nation-state, with a normal, functioning democratic process.

Oleh Havrylyshyn, a senior advisor in the European Division of the International Monetary Fund, presented the case for Ukraine to welcome and take part in the globalization process, and become a member of the European Union.

Prefacing his remarks with the caveat that he was expressing his personal opinions, Dr. Havrylyshyn said that globalization is not a threat to Ukraine; indeed, it may well help save it as a nation-state and open up enormous opportunities.

He discounted what he called the "Poland is different" argument of those who maintain that Ukraine does not have the wherewithal to compete. Neither did he find the "lack of natural resources" argument convincing, pointing to the successes of resource-less Japan and South Korea, and the failure of resource-rich Venezuela and Nigeria.

"Every country has its pluses and minuses," Dr. Havrylyshyn said, noting that success comes from reforming old structures as quickly as possible and using one's advantages and overcoming your disadvantages. "The issue is how to succeed with what you have."

Ukraine, he said, must strive to eventually become a member of the EU. It should not wait for an invitation, but, like Poland and the Czech Republic, it should keep knocking on Brussels' door. "There's only one way to get in — keep asking for it," he said. And the benefits of membership, in trade and investment, are great, he added, pointing out that while foreign investment in Ukraine now is \$9 to \$10 per capita, in the EU member-candidate countries the figure is "hundreds of dollars" per capita.

Conference participants heard the U.S. government perspective on the direction in which Ukraine should be going from

(Continued on page 4)

Medvid denied tourist visa for visit to United States

by Roman Woronowycz

Kyiv Press Bureau

KYIV — Almost exactly 15 years after Myroslav Medvid — then a 25-year-old Ukrainian sailor and today a clergyman — swam to the shores of New Orleans to plead for political asylum only to be escorted back to his Soviet grain trawler by U.S. immigration officials and returned to the Soviet Union, the U.S. government has told him again that he is not wanted in the United States.

Thirteen days before the anniversary date of his ill-fated defection attempt on October 11, the U.S. Consulate in Kyiv, which is responsible for issuing visas to Ukrainian citizens who wish to travel to the United States, denied the Rev. Medvid permission because, in its opinion, he failed to document that he was not intending to immigrate

to the United States.

The Public Affairs section of the U.S. Embassy issued a terse statement in response to efforts by *The Weekly* to obtain more details about the Medvid decision. The statement said: "The applicant was denied a visa because he was unable to overcome the presumption of intending immigration as required by section 214 (B) of the Immigration and Nationalities Act."

Contrary to criminal law, U.S. immigration law holds that every visa applicant is viewed as a potential immigrant and considered guilty until he proves his innocence by overcoming the burden of proof, which the Rev. Medvid failed to do in the eyes of Kyiv consular officials.

The Rev. Medvid said his request for a two-month tourist visa was turned down

(Continued on page 3)

Scythians rule in New York

by Helen Smindak

NEW YORK — A hoard of spectacular gold and silver treasures and other artifacts excavated by Ukrainian archaeologists from the tombs of the Scythian warrior-nomads who once held sway over the steppes north of the Black Sea has been put on display at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

The first such exhibition to come to the United States since Ukraine achieved independence, the collection "Gold of the Nomads: Scythian Treasures from Ancient Ukraine" is distinguished by the richness and variety of its unique works of art as well as the support of First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, its honorary chairman. Unveiled for the press and museum members on October 12, the exhibit was opened to the public the following day.

The exhibition spotlights over 170 rare objects discovered in 62 mammoth burial mounds, or kurgans, in Ukraine, and includes exceptional finds that have come to light during the past decade. The artifacts are on loan from four museums in Ukraine: the National Museum of the History of Ukraine, the Museum of Historical Treasures and the Institute of Archaeology of the Academy of Sciences in Kyiv, as well as the State Historical Archaeological Preserve in Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi.

During the same week, the Metropolitan Museum of Art opened an exhibition of Scythian and Sarmatian artifacts that focuses on 26 gold-plated wood sculptures of deer with curling antlers, discovered in a Sarmatian kurgan near the village of Fillipovka in

southern Russia. Called "The Golden Deer of Eurasia: Scythian and Sarmatian Treasures from the Russian Steppes," the show is supplemented by related Scythian, Sarmatian and Siberian objects from the State Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg and the Archaeological Museum of the city of Ufa. It includes a number of

(Continued on page 12)



This 4th century gold pendant, which was intended to be worn on a necklace, was discovered near the village of Velyka Bilozerka, Zaporizhia Oblast. The pendant is on loan from the Museum of Historical Treasures of Ukraine to the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Leadership Conference...

(Continued from page 1)

Carlos Pascual, in his first public appearance since being sworn in as the next U.S. ambassador to Ukraine on the previous day, October 6.

Following his address at the conference luncheon, which at the new ambassador's request was "off the record," he fielded questions about press freedom in Ukraine, the replacement of Foreign Affairs Minister Borys Tarasyuk, corruption, the use of Ukrainian by the U.S. Embassy in Kyiv and how Ukrainian Americans can help foster better U.S.-Ukrainian relations.

[Ambassador Pascual had addressed the subject of Ukraine's European integration in remarks during his swearing-in ceremony at the State Department, where he promised continued U.S. support for this effort. He added that if Ukraine wants to be a part of Europe, "it must look like Europe" in structuring its political, economic and social systems.]

The second panel discussion analyzed recent developments in Ukraine, with Anders Aslund, the foremost expert on post-Communist economic transformation, now with the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, reporting on the economic situation, George Grabowicz of Harvard University looking at the cultural situation, and Oleksander Potiekhin of the Embassy of Ukraine, presenting the latest data on social attitudes in Ukraine.

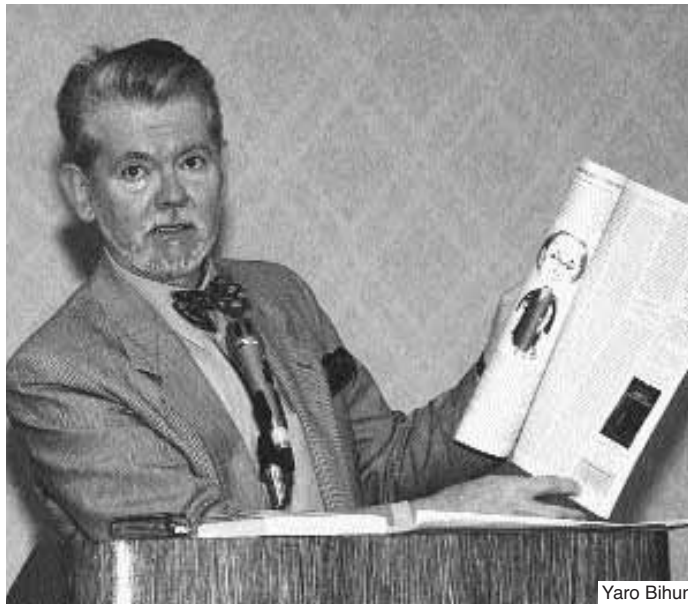
Dr. Aslund had returned from a visit to Ukraine two days before his appearance; his latest book, "Ukrainian Economic Reform," which he co-authored, was published three days before that.

He said that, at long last, Ukraine's economy seems to be on the right track. "But it's still very fragile," he added. This progress was evident on the streets of Kyiv, where he saw, among other indicators, growing competition between stores at the lower end of the market, which were selling locally produced goods and processed foods.

In addition, light industry and food processing have increased by 30 percent so far this year, and the gross domestic product increased by around 5 percent, according to official statistics. Taken all together, "that's exactly the kind of organic development you want to see," he said.

Dr. Aslund said he saw a "substantial attempt to put things right" in the country, for which he credited Prime Minister Viktor Yushchenko, First Vice Prime Minister Yurii Yekhanurov and Finance Minister Ihor Mitiukov. Unfortunately, he added, the people don't seem to be aware of this.

Dr. Aslund said that the new prime minister also brought a large measure of



Yaro Bihun

Prof. George Grabowicz, describes the magazine Krytyka, which he helped found in Kyiv.

order into the work of the Cabinet. Under the new decision-making process, expenditures are decided in an orderly fashion and address real needs, such as education and health care, rather than providing subsidies to favored projects. Under the new government, Dr. Aslund said, the finances are in order, there is a balanced budget and payment arrears "are not quite gone, but almost."

Dr. Aslund observed that about 25 percent of agricultural land now is in "real private hands," which, he added, "makes it plausible that real agricultural revival might happen rather soon." And a new tax code, civil code and land code are in the pipeline.

The question remains whether these reforms will continue. There are threats from two quarters, he said – from the oligarchs in the Verkhovna Rada and the oligarchs associated with the presidential administration. But Dr. Aslund said he feels that the threats against the Yushchenko government from both quarters now are too obvious and, therefore, less potent.

"We are seeing that Ukraine is getting quite a new group of businessmen, who are real producers and not only trading government subsidies among themselves," Dr. Aslund said.

Dr. Grabowicz, professor of Ukrainian literature at Harvard University, pointed out that culture has been getting short shrift in recent discussions about development in Ukraine.

"Ukraine is very much a continuation of its past existence ... of Soviet Ukraine," he said, pointing out that such essential elements as cultural institutions, cadres and the cultural style, have not changed at all.

While Ukraine's foreign service is the most reformed of Ukrainian institutions, it is "largely an exception." Other institu-

tions, especially in culture and scholarship, he noted, "are almost totally unreformed." Some names were changed – the Institute of Scholarly Atheism became the Institute of History of Religion – but the people directing them are the same, he said. And the Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, as he pointed out, continues to be headed by Borys Paton, who was appointed under Nikita Khrushchev.

Dr. Grabowicz said it is a paradox to speak of "Ukrainianizing Ukraine." Ukraine is a country with an official language that does not have "normal functioning" within its borders and no cultural policy. As one example of the problem, he noted that among the thousands of books in a large bookstore he visited in Yalta, only three were Ukrainian. The situation is similar in Odesa, he said.

Dr. Grabowicz observed that, while normal countries can do without a policy on culture, Ukraine, which has been denied nationhood for centuries, cannot afford such a "laissez-faire" approach.

Prof. Grabowicz also pointed out that so far Ukraine has not come to grips with its past and that no moral responsibility has been attributed for Ukraine's major crimes and tragedies. The 1933 Great Famine in Ukraine, for example, was commemorated in 1993, but only "half-heartedly," he said, and commented that the monument in Kyiv commemorating the millions of Ukrainians who died as a result of this deliberate famine is understated.

Dr. Potiekhin, who heads the political section at the Embassy of Ukraine, took exception to some of the statements by Prof. Grabowicz. He said that he thought the Famine monument in Kyiv is adequate in scale and spirit, and that there are larger monuments elsewhere in Ukraine.



Andrew Bihun, former U.S. commercial attaché in Kyiv, listens to ideas about the proposed TWG Business Development Forum.

In his planned presentation, Dr. Potiekhin showed the results of recent polling about how Ukrainians feel about themselves and others. One poll, about what problems concern Ukrainians most, showed that living standards remain the top priority and, in fact, increased from 74 percent in 1994 to 89 percent in 1999. Crime came second, but it dropped over the five-year period from 49 percent to 37 percent.

On relations with Russia, 57 percent want Ukraine to remain independent but friendly with Russia, 35 percent want to unite with Russia, and 10 percent want to close the borders with Russia.

And as for anti-Semitism in Ukraine, one poll showed that Ukrainians are more intolerant of Americans and Canadians than of Jews.

The third and last panel on Saturday dealt with building democracy and civil society in Ukraine, with Ambassador William Taylor, the State Department's coordinator of assistance programs to the new independent states, presenting the U.S. view on how things are developing in that direction and reporting on some U.S. assistance programs in that area.

The "good news" and hope for the future, he said, lies with the new generation, in which he included Prime Minister Yushchenko. More than 11,000 of these young Ukrainians have been brought to the United States through various U.S. exchange programs since 1992, he said.

The "bad news," Ambassador Taylor said, has been the media and the slow progress in establishing the rule of law.

Judy Van Rest of the International Republican Institute described her organization's training programs for young

(Continued on page 10)



Orest Deychakiwsky accepts The Washington Group's award for his work in promoting democratic ideals in Ukraine.



Ambassador William Taylor outlines U.S. democracy-building programs in Ukraine.



Among those voicing concern about which way Ukraine is heading is Roman Solchanyk of the RAND Corp.

DIRECT FROM THE REPUBLIC OF THE UKRAINE!!!

the Nutcracker

"...A dynamic ensemble."
Washington Post

"...The ensemble is precise... a striking performance."
NY Times

THE NUTCRACKER & DON QUIXOTE
Co-sponsored by JULIEDANCE, with students of Miss Patti's School of Dance AND DONETSK BALLET
Proceeds to benefit Pediatric Cancer Research, Care and Treatment.

NUTCRACKER: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 1:00 PM & 4:30 PM
DON QUIXOTE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7:30 PM
PARAMUS CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, 425 PARAMUS ROAD (opposite Bergen Community College),
PARAMUS, NJ

Tickets: \$40, \$35, \$30 • Visa and MC charge: 800-518-6444
For all other orders and further information call 201-670-4422

Leadership Conference...

(Continued from page 4)

national deputies of the Verkhovna Rada and some of the problems the programs have come up against, among them the fact that Ukrainian parties still are driven by personalities and lack grass-roots support. Politically, she said, Ukraine is still "very much in transition."

Katie Fox of the National Democratic Institute said that among the problems her organization found in working with democratic parties in Ukraine were that they are small to begin with and tend to fragment even further, and that they are unable to build coalitions.

The moderator of the panel was Orest Deychakiwsky, staff advisor with the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, who during the banquet that evening was honored with a TWG award for his work in fostering human rights and democracy in Ukraine over the past quarter century. (Excerpts of his remarks appear as a guest editorial on page 6.)

Accepting the award, Mr. Deychakiwsky stressed the need for Ukrainian Americans to continue pressing the government in Kyiv to continue improving the human rights situation in Ukraine.

"The promotion of human rights, civil society and democratic development in Ukraine is the best way to not only promote the material and spiritual well-being of the people of Ukraine; ultimately, it is the best way to ensure and strengthen Ukraine's independence and thereby contribute to the peace and security of Europe and, indeed, the entire world," Mr. Deychakiwsky said.

On Sunday morning, the TWG Leadership Conference program continued with Prof. Grabowicz's discussion about the monthly journal Krytyka, which he and like-minded Ukrainian intellectuals founded in 1997.

Before the final session, conference participants paid tribute to Victor Kytasty, a former member of TWG who had been the first director of the U.S. government-sponsored America House in Kyiv. He died unexpectedly on September 22 while playing basketball at the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

The conference concluded with a discussion of the possibility of instituting a new specialized body within the TWG structure, called the Business Development Forum, which would group members involved or interested in broadening and improving commercial ties with Ukraine. The discussion was led by former TWG Vice-President Andrew Bihun, who served as the U.S. commercial attaché in Kyiv from 1995 to 1999.

The Ukrainian Medical Association of North America



UMANA Golden Jubilee Gala!

On Broadway at



Saturday, November 4, 2000

Celebrating 50 years of
Caring for The Community, Carrying on The Tradition!

For info: Tel: 888/RX-UMANA; Fax: 888/55-UMANA
E-mail: umanajubilee@aol.com

The Ukrainian Engineers Society of America

(UESA) - New Jersey Branch



invites the community
to a presentation titled



"Communication in the Digital Age"

Advances in Technology and Communication

Saturday, November 4, 2000

at the Ramada Inn, Rt. 10 West, East Hanover, NJ

Featured Speakers:

Dr. Leo M.F. Chirovsky, Bell Laboratories
Dr. Yuriy Shevchuk, Lucent Technologies
Marco Shmerykowsky, P.E.

Refreshments will be served.
Suggested donation per person: \$10.00

For more information, contact Andriy Wowk at
(732) 271-8461, e-mail: wowk@email.com,
or visit the UESA website at www.uesa.org

TWG Cultural Fund and Embassy of Ukraine launch concert series

by Yaro Bihun

Special to The Ukrainian Weekly

WASHINGTON – The Washington Group’s Cultural Fund, in cooperation with the Embassy of Ukraine, on October 3 launched a series of benefit concerts for the 2000-2001 season in order to raise funds for the procurement of musical instruments for the Lviv Conservatory.

The first concert featured acclaimed pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and an ensemble of musicians from the Washington Opera Orchestra performing Myroslav Skoryk’s Concerto No. 3 for piano and string quartet and percussion.

The program also included Mozart’s Oboe Quartet in F major, with oboist Ihor Leshchishin, and Beethoven’s Sextet for two horns, two violins, viola and cello, with Greg Drone and Bob Odmark as horn soloists.

While the first televised presidential debate kept many politically minded Washingtonians from being in the audience, those who came to the concert at the Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre in Arlington – the dean of the Washington Post’s music critics, Joseph McLellan, among them – found Maestro Skoryk’s concerto, and Mr. Vynnytsky’s execution, moving.

While the differences between a concerto and a piece of chamber music have been well established for centuries, and “ever the twain shall meet,” Mr. McLellan wrote on October 5, “pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky and colleagues performed the Washington premiere of a concerto that is also a piece of chamber music: Concerto No. 3 for piano and string quartet by Myroslav Skoryk, a very productive (e.g., 40 movie soundtracks) and impressively imaginative Ukrainian composer who is virtually unknown in the United States.”

The concerto’s last movement, titled “Life,” he added, is, like the first two movements, “unconventional in structure but emotionally and harmonically well within the late Romantic tradition. Wild outbursts of passion alternate with charming melodies; displays of virtuoso temperament with moderate dialogue.”

“The performance, with violinists Zino Bogachek and Joan Hurley, violist Uri Wassertzug, cellist Liz Davis and drummer John Spirtas,” Mr. McLellan continued,



Yaro Bihun

Pianist Volodymyr Vynnytsky (second from left) and the ensemble of players from the Washington Opera Orchestra who performed in the first TWG Cultural Fund benefit concert to help the Lviv Conservatory.

“brought out the music’s color and excitement.”

TWG Cultural Fund Director Laryssa Chopivsky noted at the outset of the concert that the benefit series combines the goal of the fund – to acquaint the greater Washington area with Ukrainian culture – with a need for assistance to those who create that culture in Ukraine. If successful, she said, the series will be expanded to help other conservatories and cultural institutions in Ukraine.

The next four concerts in the series are:

- October 16 – Solomiya Ivakhiv, violin, and Christina Anum-Dorhuso, piano, performing works by Beethoven, Stankovych, Liszt, Sarasate, Skoryk, Liudkevych and Kos-Anatolsky;
- November 13 – Natalia Khoma, cello, and Volodymyr Vynnytsky, piano, performing works by Lysenko,

Beethoven, Liszt, Brahms, Shostakovich, Albeniz and Cassadó;

- March 5 – Anna Bachynsky, soprano, and Roman Tsymbala, tenor, in a concert of music, song and poetry in a tribute to Ukraine’s bard Taras Shevchenko;
- April 23 – Oksana Krovtytska, soprano, and Zenoviy Bogachek, violin (program to be announced).

All performances begin at 8 p.m. Tickets can be obtained at the door for \$20; seniors and students, \$15. There will be a reception following each concert.

The Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre is located at 1611 N. Kent St., two blocks east of the Rosslyn Metro Station and next to the Newseum. Free garage parking is available in the rear of the building, off Arlington Ridge Road.

For more information call (703) 241-1817.

Soyuzivka Presents A Magical New Years Eve Weekend

MUST BE PRE-PAID IN FULL - NO REFUNDS
by OCT. 16, 2000

*Includes Friday evening to Monday afternoon
Saturday, Sunday, Monday
coffee & donut breakfast lobby from 10am
Dinner in dining room - 10am - 1pm
Special Friday Dinner & Telenovela - 8pm - 10pm (RSVP required)
Saturday Dinner 8pm - 1pm (free
cash by the fire in the Mainroom lobby dancing
in the lounge or enjoy Midnight Rhaps in the Terrace Lounge
Sunday New Years Eve Cocktails at 8 pm to 1:30 pm
followed by a formal sit-down dinner
entree - choice of: Meat of the House or Prime Rib. This
must be pre-ordered at time of Reservation.
Champagne will be served all night, cash bar after midnight hour.
Dance to the music of Tempo.*

Three night stay: Cost \$ 699.00 per couple (Standard) \$ 799.00 Deluxe
January \$ 299.00; weekly - adult or child 13 and older \$ 189.00,
child 5-12 \$ 109.00; children 4 and under free.
Single standard or Deluxe \$ 499.00

New Year's Eve - Dinner Only \$ 75.00 per-person @ pre-ordered
Lobster Outside guests \$ 10.00 at the door 11pm

For Additional Information Contact Soyuzivka at
614-474-3611 ext 141 or 1st Ave 614-474-4004
e-mail: 1925@aol.com
Ukrainian National Ass. Estate
PO Box 574 716 Anacostia Rd
Kerbside NY 12448

35th WPAS 2000-2001 SEASON

WASHINGTON PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

SHARE THE MOMENT. SHARE THE MAGIC.

“Few dance troupes in recent memory have come across as so happy...”
The San Francisco Chronicle

Veriovka National Dance Company

Sunday, October 29, 2:30 p.m.
Kennedy Center Concert Hall

ANATOLY AVDYEVSKY,
Artistic Director

Featuring *Ukrainian Festival Suite, Festival in the Carpathians, The Fern is Blooming* and more.

ORDER TICKETS TODAY!

For the complete schedule, visit www.wpas.org Call InstantCharge at 202-467-4600

To subscribe: Send \$50 (\$40 if you are a member of the UNA) to The Ukrainian Weekly, Subscription Department, 2200 Route 10, P.O. Box 280, Parsippany, NJ 07054