

The Washington Group Cultural Fund

In partnership with The Saint John Paul II National Shrine, The Embassy of Ukraine, United Help Ukraine, and the Institute for the Study of Eastern Christianity at the Catholic University of America

presents

A Choral Benefit Concert for Ukraine

SACRED LAND: SONGS AND POEMS OF RESILIENCE FROM UKRAINE

Artistic Director, Marika Kuzma

A note from the artistic director

Welcome to today's celebration of the beautiful landscape and culture of Ukraine. As a group of artists, Ensemble Cherubim and I are honored to share varied, colorful songs and verses from this vibrant, resilient people. I hope you will enjoy this mixture of sacred and secular, town, and village music—chants reaching back centuries and pieces composed just recently.

May this performance leave you with a deep impression of the visual, musical, poetic, and spiritual splendor of Ukraine and its people. Perhaps you will fall in love with this culture and keep it in your hearts while the war continues in the days and months ahead and beyond when Ukraine—in all its resilience—rebuilds.

—Marika Kuzma

June 26, 2023
Saint John Paul II National Shrine
Washington, DC

To make a tax-deductible donation for humanitarian assistance in Ukraine, please visit <https://UnitedHelpUkraine.org>

PROGRAM

CREATION

Koly ne bylo—Before there was a world
Trio: Phoebe Rosquist, Andréa Walker, Montana Smith
Z namy Boh —God is with us
Solo: Sonny Capaccio
Choral Concerto No. 1 Vospyte Hospodevi —
Sing to the Lord
Dmytro Bortniansky (1751–1925)

THE MIGHTY DNIPRO RIVER

Reve ta stohne Dnipro shyroky—
The wide Dnipro roars and groans
Poem: Zapovit —Testament
Manu Kumasi
Zapovit
Solo: Angelique Zuluaga
Kyeve miy—My Kyiv
Solos: Ben Park, Katherine Growdon
Danylo Kryzhanivsky (1856–1894),
arr. by Hryhory Kytasty (1907–84)
Taras Shevchenko (1814–61)
Melody by Hordiy Hladky (1849–94)
Ihor Shamo (1925–82)
arr. by Khreshchatyk Choir/M. Kuzma

FROM THE DEPTHS TOWARD THE HEAVENS

Kyrie eleison—Lord have mercy
Poem: Singing underground
Rev. Mark Morozowich
Blazhen muzh—Blessed is the man
Cantors: Andrew Chung, Mike Azevedo
Sviat, sviat, sviat—Holy, holy, holy
Mykola Diletsky (ca. 1650–1723)
Sheila Bonenberger (b. 1950)
11th-Century chant from Monastery of the Caves
harmonization by A. Fateev (latter 19C)
Iryna Aleksiychuk (b. 1967)

VILLAGES AND MOUNTAINS

Hey, na Ivana—Hey, on St. John's Day
Ptychka nevelychka—Little bird
Trio: P. Rosquist, Leslee Wood, Celeste Winant
Verkhovyno!—O Mountaintop!
Solos: Steven Hrycelak, Miriam Anderson
Folksong for Midsummer from the Lviv region
Folksong from the Chernihiv region
Folksong from the Carpathian Mountains
arr. by Mykola Lysenko (1842–1912)

LONGING FOR HOMELAND

Poem: Take only what is most important
Güzel Qirim—Beautiful Crimea
Solo: Montana Smith
Cherez pole shyrokeye—Across the wide field
Solo: Gene Stenger
Serhiy Zhadan (b. 1974)
Crimean Tatar song
Excerpt from arr. by I. Aleksiychuk
17th-Century hymn
arr. by Dmytro Kotko (1892–1982)

REBIRTH

Poem: Viydy, Ivanku!—Come out, Ivanku!
Vesna from *Pory roku*—
Spring from *Seasons* (excerpt)
Folk verses of spring
Lesia Dychko (b. 1939)

BUD'MO! WE WILL EXIST!

Oy u luzi—In the meadow
Solo: Kyle Picha
Poem: People are —spectacular
Stepan Charnetsky (1881–1944)
arr. M. Deychakiwsky (1959)/M. Kuzma
Vasyl Symonenko (1935–63)

Conductor and actor Marika Kuzma has led concerts in venues such as Zellerbach Hall in Berkeley, CA, Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall, and the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and has appeared onstage in roles at La MaMa Theater, Berkeley Rep, and Marin Shakespeare. She is a professor emerita of the University of California, Berkeley, where she led choirs for some twenty-five years in repertoire spanning Hildegard to Bach, Verdi, and John Adams. She also guest conducted choirs at Dartmouth College, University of Virginia, the Montreal Symphony Chorus, and others. Kuzma collaborated with conductors including Gustavo Dudamel, Jane Glover, Nicholas McGegan, and Kent Nagano in productions as varied as the American premieres of Takemitsu's *Gemeaux* and Mark Morris production of *Platée* and a semi-staged Wagner *Tannhäuser* in Montreal. Of Ukrainian descent, Kuzma is an expert in the music of Bortniansky, having won an award for her research and published a critical edition of his concertos for Carus International, and she has been commissioned by Cambridge Scholar Press to produce an anthology of Ukrainian Christmas music.

Ensemble Cherubim is a community of artists that creates a kind of choral theater, fluidly weaving together solo songs, choral music, and poetry. The choir first came together to record the sacred choral concertos of Dmitry Bortniansky for the Naxos International label: *Dmitry Bortniansky, I cried out to the Lord: Hymns and Choral Concertos*. Released in 2013, the recording achieved critical acclaim: "If you think an hour of unaccompanied choral music can become monotonous, think again" (*Fanfare Magazine*). The singers at that time were alumni of the Chamber Chorus of the University of California, Berkeley, and members of the Montreal Symphony Chorus, who shared a common appreciation for Eastern European choral music. Since then, the ensemble has gathered to perform in New Haven and New York and last year at the Berkeley Festival of Early Music. In that concert, the ensemble performed a concert of pre-1850 repertoire from Ukraine that gave witness to its deeply rooted culture.

Guest reader the Very Rev. Dr. Mark Morozowich is dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at Catholic University.

Actor Manu Kumasi is an alumnus of the Yale School of Drama who now lives in New York. Among his recent roles are Antonio in *Twelfth Night* at Yale Rep and George in *Intimate Apparel* at the Goldman Theater in Washington DC.

Sopranos

Helen Barnstable lives in North Haven, CT. and has sung for many years with the Yale Camerata and other professional choirs in the New Haven area.

Phoebe Rosquist has sung in ensembles around the world including the Waverly Consort, Cappella Artemesia, Kitka, and Vajra Voices. She is now studying choral conducting at University of Southern California.

Andréa Walker is an alumna of the Yale School of Sacred Music currently pursuing her doctorate in Early Music at Case Western Reserve. She recently sang in concerts with The Thirteen Choir.

Leslee Wood is a composer, performer, and musicologist based in Connecticut. She directs the ensemble Ignea Strata and is the founder of the music publisher Dulcamara Press.

Angelique Zuluaga began her career in Colombia and holds an MA in Early Music and Voice from Indiana University. She has performed with Carmel Bach and American Bach Soloists among many others.

Altos

Miriam Anderson is a Seattle-based conductor, vocalist, and percussionist. She holds an MM in choral conducting from U. of Washington and leads choirs including Puget Soundworks and the Seattle Labor Chorus.

Stephanie Cohen has a BA from UC Berkeley and an MD from Yale, where she sang in the Yale Camerata. She is now a psychiatrist in Cambridge, specializing in mindfulness.

Katherine Growdon holds a masters from the San Francisco Conservatory and now lives in Boston. She performs with the Handel and Haydn Society and as a frequent soloist with Early and Contemporary Music ensembles.

Montana Smith recently attained her MM at the Academy of Vocal Arts at Bard College and has sung solos and roles with various ensembles along the Eastern seaboard.

Celeste Winant holds a BS from MIT and PhD from UC Berkeley, works by day as a demographer and sings with San Francisco chamber ensembles including Vajra Voices and Philharmonia Baroque Chorale.

Tenors

Mike Azevedo is an alumnus of UC Berkeley and sang with many San Francisco Area choral ensembles before moving to Los Angeles, where he now works as a film editor.

Clifton Massey has been a frequent soloist and ensemble singer with renowned groups coast to coast including Chanticleer, Folger Consort, and Trinity Wall Street. He holds an MM in Early Music from Indiana University.

Kyle Picha is an alumnus of Yale College and the Whiffenpoofs. He is a media specialist for Trinity on the Green in New Haven, and his artistry extends to photography.

Gene Stenger lives in New Haven, where he teaches voice at Yale. He holds degrees from Baldwin Wallace Conservatory and the Yale School of Sacred Music. He has performed solos with many choirs and is an acclaimed Bach specialist.

Jason Zahorchak attained his BA from UC Berkeley, and graduate degrees from MIT and Yale. He leads a career in economics, social policy, and non-profit management.

Basses

Sonny Capaccio teaches at the Marvelwood School in Connecticut. He studied voice at Bard College and has performed as a singer/actor/accompanist across New England.

Andrew Chung is the founding director of Bay Area Classical Harmonies (B.A.C.H) and leads a multifaceted career including the CEO of a solar energy company.

Steven Hrycelak sings with many prestigious ensembles including Blue Heron and Trinity Wall Street. He holds a BA in Music from Yale and MM from Indiana University. Steve grew up in a Ukrainian-American family near Rochester NY.

Serge Liberovsky is Director of Music at Holy Virgin Mary Cathedral and serves as librarian for the LA Chamber Orchestra. He holds an MM in Choral Music from USC.

Benjamin Park is a member of the Singing Sergeants in Washington DC and has performed as a soloist at the National Cathedral. He holds an MM from Peabody Conservatory and DMA from the University of Maryland.