

# THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS

OF NORTH AMERICA

*National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award winner*

# УКРАЇНСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ

ІМ. Т. ШЕВЧЕНКА

*Лауреат Національної премії України імені Тараса Шевченка*

*presents*

# ВСЕ БУДЕ УКРАЇНА UKRAINE LIVES!



*Artistic Director Oleh Mahlay*

**MORRISTOWN, NJ**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16, 7 PM**

*Dolan Performance Hall, St. Elizabeth University*

**MIDDLETOWN, CT**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7 PM**

*Wesleyan University Center for the Arts*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA**

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 18, 7 PM**

*Lew Klein Hall, Temple Performing Arts Center*

**COLLEGE PARK, MD**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2:30 PM**

*Dekelbom Theater, Clarice Center for the Performing Arts,*

*University of Maryland*



ВСЕ БУДЕ УКРАЇНА UKRAINE LIVES!

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

GREETINGS FROM THE PRESIDENT

For over a century, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC) has fought for the preservation and survival of Ukrainian culture using the national instrument of Ukraine, the bandura, and our voices as weapons against oppression and cultural genocide.

Through the storied history of the UBC, it has survived: Stalinist terror against our early members; the opposing forces that tried to rip apart the UBC during the Second World War; and Soviet regimes that for seventy years tried to nullify and wipe out traces of this unique part of Ukrainian culture.

The ongoing tragic oppression of our brethren in Ukraine continues under the murderous Putin regime. The UBC will not allow that regime to succeed. Consequently we are proud to present our "Ukraine Lives!" program to our East Coast audiences.

The UBC's vision and passion is crystal clear. We fight for the preservation of the bandura, we have conducted educational programs via bandura camps and other educational initiatives for almost two generations to ensure that young people come to understand the beauty of the bandura and to take it to a worldwide audience. The UBC produces significant new works for the bandura and premiered these during our Western Canada and North Central States Tour. I have immense gratitude to our Maestro, Oleh Mahlay, and our Concertmaster, Mykola Deychakiwsky, for their creativity in moving our unique genre of music forward!

Enjoy this East Coast Tour performance recollecting some of the early works of the UBC and its survival. Also enjoy the new treatment of modern wartime works that express the fortitude of the people of Ukraine and the unending perseverance for the survival of the bandura and our blessed Ukrainian culture.

We ask and pray to our Creator to protect our Ukraine and our blessed Ukrainian culture.

**Ukraine Lives! Слава Україні!**

Andriy Hladyshevsky, President

SILVER SPONSORS (\$5,000 - \$9,999)



BRONZE SPONSORS (\$1,000 - \$4,999)

**Anonymous • Lesia Albizati • Yuri and Irena Deychakiwsky  
Fedoriw Family Foundation • Boris and Patricia Lushniak  
Ihor and Daria Kuszniir**

SUPPORTERS



SPECIAL THANKS TO

Saint Basil Seminary, Stamford, CT  
Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center, Jenkintown, PA  
Ukrainian American Cultural Center of New Jersey, Whippany, NJ  
Ukrainian Male Chorus Prometheus, Jenkintown, PA  
"Providence" Association of Ukrainian Catholics in America  
Ukrainian Hour • UECC Radio  
Ukrainian American Citizens Association ("Ukie Club on Franklin")  
East Village Meat Market (J. Baczynsky)  
Ivan Makar • Anna Denysyk • Katja Kolcio • Hanja Cherniak • William Bijanski  
Iryna Shpylychak and family • Ivan Szpilczak • Rev. Ioan Lubiv

THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

Oleh Mahlay – Artistic Director & Conductor

ВСЕ БУДЕ УКРАЇНА!  UKRAINE LIVES!

SPECIAL GUEST ARTISTS (Philadelphia)

**Bandura** - Christina Ozhodan, Christina Holubets

**SOLOVEYKY Ensemble** - Oksana Shyptur, Polina Kopestynska, Kateryna Hryhoruk,  
Solomiia Khuderska, Emilia Kostiv, Sofia Riznyk  
Halyna Bodnar - Director

OCTOBER 16-19, 2025

MORRISTOWN, NJ - MIDDLETOWN, CT - PHILADELPHIA, PA - COLLEGE PARK, MD

< I >

**PRAYER FOR UKRAINE** Молитва за Україну

Mykola Lysenko, arr. by Oleksander Koshyts; lyrics by Oleksander Konysky

**OUR GLORIOUS KOZAKS ADVANCED** Ой, ішли наші славні запорожці

kozak song, arr. by Hryhory Kytasty

**ON THE BLUE SEA** Гей, по синьому морю

kozak song, based on performance by Andriy Bobyr (arr. by Oleh Mahlay)

**WHEN YOU DIED, NO BELLS TOLLED**

Коли ви вмирили, вам дзвони не грали

Mykhaylo Hayvoronsky

arr. by Oleksander Stadnyk; lyrics by Mykhaylo Kurakh

soloist: O. Zmiyivsky (or A. Hryndzio)

**THE VERDANT GROVE** Зелений гай

Yaroslav Lopatynsky, lyrics by Pavlo Hrabovsky

**WE WERE BORN AT A GREAT HOUR** Зродились ми великої години

Omelian Nyzhankivsky; arr. for choir by Vasyl Kardash, arr. for bandura by Roman Beley;  
lyrics by Oles Babiy

**WE LAUGH IN THE FACE OF DEATH** Ми у вічі сміємося смерті

insurgent song, arr. by Oleh Mahlay; lyrics by Sviatoslav Olshenko-Vilkha  
duet: N. Kalivoshko & S. Szyszka (or M. Labay & P. Tarnawsky)

**THE INSEPARABLE FAMILY** Нероздільна родина

Mykola Deychakiwsky, based on the song of Oleksander Kobets "From the Blue Don to the  
Gray Carpathians"

soloist: P. Tarnawsky (or Y. Hryciw)

INTERMISSION

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**ECHO OF THE STEPPES** Гомін степів

Hryhory Kytasty

**SLEEP, MY LITTLE SWALLOW** Спи, моя ластівко

Victor Morozov; lyrics by Mariana Savka; arr. by Oleh Mahlay

P. Tarnawsky (tenor), M. Deychakiwsky or K. Mahlay (bandura),  
S. Zaets (bandura), R. Beley (bass bandura)

**THE SPIRIT OF CANNONS IS MIGHTIER** Дух гармат міцніший

Taras Kompanichenko (music and lyrics); arr. by Oleh Mahlay

The Kobzar Choir - soloist: V. Grabovyy (or N. Kalivoshko)

**MY UKRAINIAN BRETHREN** Браття українці

Volodymyr Heyzer (music and lyrics)

soloist: Z. Chaikovsky (or P. Tarnawsky)

**MARCH OF THE FALLEN** Марш поляглих

Hryhory Kytasty; lyrics by Ivan Bahriany

**BEHOLD A VILLAGE** Ой, видно село

Lev Lepky (music and lyrics); arr. by Hryhory Kytasty

**THE CARPATHIAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS** Карпатські січовики

Hryhory Kytasty; lyrics by Yar Slavutych

**FOR UKRAINE** Для вкраїни

A medley of Ukrainian partisan songs, arranged by Mykola Deychakiwsky

**Today, I Leave You** (author & composer unknown); **Hey, Through the Steppes** (lyrics and  
music by Stepan Maliutsa); **The Shining Moon** (author & composer unknown)

soloists: Z. Chaikovsky, A. Hryndzio, S. Szyszka, P. Tarnawsky

(or Y. Hryciw, R. Jakubowycz, N. Kalivoshko, A. Krok, S. Kostiuk, M. Labay)

**O BANDURIST, YOU GREY-HAIRED EAGLE** Бандуристе орле сизий

Oleh Mahlay (melody by Yakiv Orlov); lyrics by Taras Shevchenko

soloist: O. Zmiyivsky (or A. Hryndzio)

Program subject to change.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Khrystyna Humeniuk for narration

Petro Fedynsky for translations

Andriy Birko & Spartacus Harkusha for bandura technical assistance

VIEW THE COMPREHENSIVE DIGITAL PROGRAM HERE:





## ENSEMBLE

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 Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (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. In April, 2025, the UBC was honored with a National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship, the United States’ highest honor in the folk and traditional arts.

The UBC continues to make history with ongoing international concerts, an education program for youth, new recordings, and incoming talent. Intense passion for music by its members is united behind the common goal to extend the tradition of its predecessors - the kobzars. Most recently, the ensemble has presented a program of new compositions to the words of Lesya Ukrayinka, raised much needed funds for humanitarian aid to Ukraine, and performed at the “Shchedryk” (Carol of the Bells) Centennial in New York’s Carnegie Hall.

## ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

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 musical leader 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). He has also served as the music director of the Kobzarska Sich Bandura and Vocal Program, music curator at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives in Cleveland, and has been on the faculty of the Hryhory Kytasty Cleveland School of Bandura. He also contributes many original compositions and arrangements to the bandura repertoire.

Maestro Mahlay received a bachelor of arts in music history and literature from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio. In September of 2021, Maestro Mahlay was recognized as an Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts (заслужений діяч мистецтв України), a prestigious honor that was presented to him by President Volodymyr Zelensky at a ceremony in Washington, D.C.

# THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

IN HONOR OF TARAS SHEVCHENKO

# УКРАЇНСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ ПІВНІЧНОЇ АМЕРИКИ

ІМЕНІ ТАРАСА ШЕВЧЕНКА

*Recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize awarded by Ukraine’s Council of Ministers  
National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Award Recipient  
лауреат Національної премії України імені Тараса Шевченка  
Стипендіат Національної Спадщини Національного Фонду Підтримки Мистецтв США*

### OLEH MAHLAY – ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR

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

### ANDRIY HLADYSHEVSKY – PRESIDENT

### MYKOLA DEYCHAKIWSKY – CONCERTMASTER

### JOHN KYTASTY - TECHNICAL DIRECTOR

## BANDURISTS & INSTRUMENTALISTS

ROMAN BELEY * (Toronto, Ontario)	JUSTIN MEHES (Minneapolis, Minnesota)
MYKOLA DEYCHAKIWSKY * (Brighton, Michigan)	YURIY METULYNSKY (Windsor, Ontario)
LUKE LASHCHUK (San Diego, California)	ALEX SCHIDOWKA * (Cleveland, Ohio)
ARSEN KROK (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)	MICHAEL SERDIUK * (Plymouth, Michigan)
KYRYLO MAHLAY * (Cleveland, Ohio)	NICK SMEREKA-HLADIO (San Antonio, Texas)
OLEH MAHLAY (Cleveland, Ohio)	JOSEPH TOBIANSKI (Shelby Twp., Michigan)
TARAS MAHLAY (Cleveland, Ohio)	FRED YASNOWSKI (Youngstown, Ohio)
BOYAN MAKARENKO (Pensacola, Florida)	STEPHAN ZAETS * (Boston, Massachusetts)

## CHORISTERS

BOHDAN BALKO (Yonkers, New York)	IHOR KUSZNIR (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)
THEODORE BODNAR (New York, New York)	JOHN KYTASTY (Detroit, Michigan)
ZENON CHAIKOVSKY * (Cleveland, Ohio)	MICHAEL LABAY * (Winnipeg, Manitoba)
ADRIAN DEYCHAKIWSKY (Brighton, Michigan)	NICHOLAS SCHIDOWKA (Cleveland, Ohio)
VASYL GRABOVYY * (Syracuse, New York)	ANDREW SHRUBOWICH (Cleveland, Ohio)
ANDRIY HLADYSHEVSKY (Edmonton, Alberta)	JEFF SMOLILO (Cleveland, Ohio)
YAREMA HRYCIW * (Scotts Valley, California)	STEPAN SZYSZKA * (Philadelphia, Penn.)
ALEXANDER HRYNDZIO (Winnipeg, Manitoba)	PETER TARNAWSKY * (Edmonton, Alberta)
ROMAN JAKUBOWYCZ (Cleveland, Ohio)	VASYL TROYANOVYCH (Syracuse, New York)
NAZAR KALIVOSHKO * (Cleveland, Ohio)	V. Rev. ROMAN YATSKIV (Cleveland, Ohio)
JOE KOLODKA (Cleveland, Ohio)	VICTOR YURCHENKO (Detroit, Michigan)
SAM KOSTIUK * (Edmonton, Alberta)	OLEH ZMIYIWSKY * (Red Deer, Alberta)

*\* denotes Kobzar Choir member*

## AUDITIONS

If you are a talented singer or bandura player, committed to Ukrainian culture, and interested in joining the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, please email [auditions@bandura.org](mailto:auditions@bandura.org).



## A HISTORY OF THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

### ORIGINS – EARLY 20TH CENTURY

The history of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC) can be traced directly to the 12th Archeological Congress in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 1902. Hnat Khotkevych, a prominent writer, ethnographer, and composer, first presented the question of forming a professional orchestra of bandurists at that historic gathering. He provided stimulus for a renewed interest and remarkable growth in the bandura's popularity at the beginning of the 20th century, and amateur bandura ensembles rapidly formed throughout the country.

The first professional bandurist chorus was formed in Kyiv in 1918 during the height of the country's brief period of independence following World War 1. Under the direction of bandura virtuoso Vasyl Yemetz, the first chorus was named the "Kobzar Choir" («Кобзарський хор») and first performed in Ukraine's capital on November 2, 1918 at the Bergone Theater. Several years later another bandura ensemble was formed in Poltava, Ukraine in 1925 under the direction of Volodymyr Kabachok and under the tutelage of Khotkevych.

The mid-1920s were marked by a period of resurgence of Ukrainian arts and culture, and the Bandurist Chorus developed into a professional touring troupe. As the ensemble's membership, expertise, and repertoire were continually refined and enhanced, the bandura was transformed from a folk to a classical concert form.

The Chorus's history rapidly evolved into a turbulent one. The ideals of the bandurist - God, truth, freedom, and human dignity heralded through song - were a threat to the then-newly formed Soviet Union. Under Joseph Stalin's rule, artists and intellectuals were arrested, exiled or executed in an attempt to eradicate every remnant of Ukrainian culture.

Hnat Khotkevych was executed in 1938 in Kharkiv and his compositions were banned throughout the Soviet Union. Many conductors, chorus members, and blind bandurists-minstrels were also accused of enticing the populace to nationalism and were executed. In 1935 the remaining members of the Poltava and Kyiv bandura ensembles were forced to reorganize into the State Bandurist Chorus of the Ukrainian SSR.



## WORLD WAR TWO AND EMIGRATION TO NORTH AMERICA

In the years that followed, the Chorus was exploited and persecuted by both the Soviets and the Nazis. As the German army moved East onto the territory of Ukraine in 1941, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was one of the few state-sponsored professional ensembles disbanded and mobilized to the front in order to stop the invading Nazi army as they approached the capital of Kyiv. After German occupation of the city, the musicians re-organized into the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (Українська Капеля Бандуристів ім. Тараса Шевченка) and began an active touring schedule throughout Ukrainian cities and the countryside.

However, the German occupation force soon discovered the strength of Ukrainian song and the bandura. They ordered the musicians onto a railroad cattle wagon, transported them to Germany, and imprisoned them in a hard labor camp. The bandurists who survived the Soviet horrors of the 1930s now joined the millions of Ostarbeiters from Ukraine. After five months of incarceration in Hamburg, the ensemble began to perform for their fellow Ukrainian slave-laborers who were now in Germany.

At the conclusion of the war, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus ended up in the American zone of post-war Germany. They spent the next several years in displaced persons camps throughout Germany, continuing to perform for countless Ukrainian refugees who would face imprisonment or death if they returned to the Soviet Union. It was not until 1949 that through the assistance of allied forces many of the ensemble members emigrated from refugee camps to the United States, establishing a home base in Detroit, Michigan.



## FREEDOM IN NORTH AMERICA

Freedom was a great blessing but not without its difficulties. Most of the members had to learn new skills that were often unrelated to their musical ability and experience in order to support their families. Approximately 90 percent of the ensemble joined Detroit's automotive industry labor force. This, however, did not prevent the bandurists from launching a series of concerts in their newly adopted homeland. The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was reborn!

Notwithstanding these difficulties in a new land, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus took part in concert tours throughout North America. In 1958 the Chorus embarked on a triumphant concert tour of Western Europe. The ensemble performed in England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, all while garnering critical acclaim in leading newspapers. Upon its return, the Chorus continued its mission of sharing the beauty of the bandura with North American audiences.

During the 1960s and 1970s, the ensemble released many more recordings, continued giving concerts, and toured Australia in 1980. This period also saw the educational involvement of the Chorus flourish. To this day, the ensemble continues a robust education program organizing outreach programs and providing instructors for various bandura workshops and seminars.

The musical and spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from the World War 2 era until the early 1980s was Hryhory Kytasty (1907-1984), the longest serving artistic director in the history of the ensemble. Considered a legend in his own time, this composer, conductor, performer, and teacher was a role model and inspiration to young bandurists. Not only did he conduct the ensemble for many decades, he also contributed many memorable compositions and arrangements to the repertoire of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus and passed along his knowledge to the next generation of bandurists.

## 1991 – THE RENEWED INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE

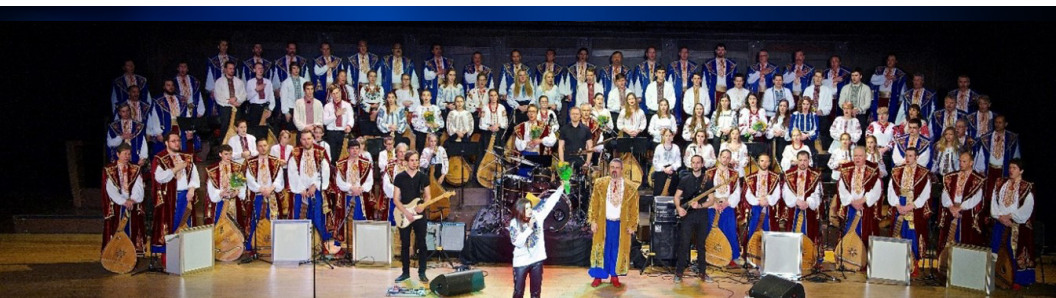
1991 was a turning point in history as Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991. This year also unlocked new opportunities for the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America as musicians of the ensemble could create and renew ties with bandurists in Ukraine – sharing much of the rich musical tradition which was preserved by the ensemble in North America and banned by the Soviet authorities for decades.

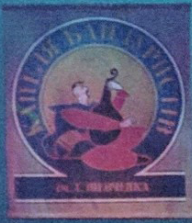
In June 1991, under Artistic Director Wolodymyr Kolesnyk, the Chorus completed a historically triumphant 14-city tour through major Ukrainian cities from the East to the West. The performances, which encompassed traditional ballads and instrumentals, were received with great enthusiasm and rave reviews, especially in areas of Ukraine where national consciousness had been most dormant. In 1994, the ensemble journeyed to the southern regions of Ukraine, bringing the beauty of the bandura to Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Crimea. Several years later, the UBC was invited to Kyiv in 2001 to represent the American diaspora during the “Ten Year Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Celebration” in Ukraine’s capital.

In 1996, the musicians of the ensemble chose Oleh Mahlay as its youngest artistic director and conductor at the age of 26. Many new recordings were released and the UBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in North America in 1999 with him at the helm. In the spring of 2001, the UBC presented a series of Sacred Music Concerts to various communities in North America. After a 45-year hiatus, the UBC returned to Western Europe in 2003 with concerts in England, France, Germany, and Austria. One of the many highlights of the tour was a Recital in the famed Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris.

During maestro Mahlay’s tenure over the past 25 years, the ensemble has collaborated with many musicians in memorable musical projects: Metropolitan Opera soloist Paul Plishka, Eurovision winner Ruslana, the Canadian Bandurist Capella (Toronto), the Vesnivka Choir (Toronto), the Hoosli Ukrainian Male Chorus (Winnipeg), the Women’s Bandura Ensemble of North America, the Shchedryk Children’s Choir (Kyiv), violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, the Shumka Dance Ensemble (Edmonton), the National Bandurist Capella of Ukraine (Kyiv), and others.

In 2018, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus celebrated its 100th anniversary with concert tours of the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. The multimedia performances highlighted the turbulent and triumphant history of the ensemble, from its roots in early 20th century Ukraine, through the crucible of Soviet and Nazi occupation, immigration to North America, and to the continuing mission of the ensemble in the 21st century. The historic tour of Ukraine included Divine Liturgies in Kyiv and Lviv, outreach programs at various institutions, and concerts in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Berestechko, Rivne, Lutsk, and Lviv.





МИ ЗНОВ З ТОБОЮ УКРАЇНО!



## AWARDS

As a tribute to its role in preserving and perpetuating the legacy of Ukrainian music, the Chorus was selected by Ukraine's Council of Ministers as the recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize (державна шевченківська премія), the highest award that can be bestowed for excellence in the contribution to the arts. This award was personally presented by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in 1992. That same year, long-time administrator Petro Honcharenko and bandurist Petro Kytasty received the award of Honored Artists of Ukraine (заслужені артисти України). In 2008, Hryhory Kytasty was posthumously awarded the Hero of Ukraine award from the Ukrainian government (Герой України).

More recently the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America received the prestigious Michigan Heritage Award (2022) for teaching, preserving, presenting, and growing its traditional art form. In 2021, Anatoli Murha, long-serving President of the UBC, received the Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine award (заслужений працівник культури України); and Oleh Mahlay, the artistic director and conductor of the UBC, received the Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts award (заслужений діяч мистецтв України). These latter awards were presented by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a Washington, D.C., ceremony.

Since its centennial anniversary in 2018, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America has continued to be innovative while preserving the rich history of the bandura and Ukrainian song. The ensemble presented new compositions to the poems of Lesya Ukrayinka, reached global audiences through livestreaming, participated in the 100th anniversary of Leontovych's Shchedryk at Carnegie Hall, and helped raise of \$100,000 (US\$) to benefit the Ukrainian war effort after the full-scale invasion by Russia in February of 2022.

## OLEH MAHLAY

Oleh Mahlay (conductor, composer, lecturer) is the current artistic director and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (Українська Капеля Бандуристів Північної Америки ім. Т. Шевченка). 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., in September of 2021. He has served on the teaching staff of the Hryhory Kytasty Cleveland School of Bandura at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Parma, Ohio) and as the music director of the Kobzarska Sich Bandura and Vocal Program (Emlenton, Pennsylvania).

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1969 to Ukrainian immigrants, Maestro Mahlay received a bachelor of arts in music history and literature from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and then a juris doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law. As a musician, he has a varied background as a conductor, pianist, violinist, bandurist, lecturer and composer. At the age of 16, Mr. Mahlay became the choir director of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio (a post previously held by the legendary bandurist Hryhory Kytasty) and began teaching at the Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp (Emlenton, Pennsylvania) soon thereafter. He also was the concertmaster of the University Circle Chamber Orchestra, a violinist with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, assistant conductor with the Parma Symphony Orchestra, and music curator at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives of Cleveland.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC), founded in Ukraine's capital of Kyiv in 1918, has been intertwined with Mr. Mahlay's work as a conductor, composer, and educator. He has been a musician with the ensemble since 1982 (contributing as a vocalist, bandurist, bass bandura player, concertmaster), becoming its artistic director and conductor in 1996. During his tenures (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, hundreds of concerts throughout North America and Europe, and Ukraine. Most recently, Mr. Mahlay led the ensemble in its historic centennial concert tour of Ukraine, along with participation at the International Bandura Forum in Kyiv. With the ensemble, maestro Mahlay has spearheaded unique collaborative artistic projects with artists such as Paul Plishka (New York Metropolitan Opera), the National Bandurist Cappella of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine), the Shumka Dance Ensemble (Edmonton, Alberta), the Vesnivka Choir (Toronto, Ontario), the Hoosli Ukrainian Male Choir (Winnipeg, Manitoba), the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America, and international singing star Ruslana (Eurovision winner).

As a composer, Oleh Mahlay has written over 120 original works or arrangements for various instruments and vocal ensembles. His compositions have been performed by ensembles in the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. He continues to lecture on various musical topics, focusing on Ukrainian sacred music and the bandura. In his conductor role, he has led ensembles at memorable venues such as Massey Hall (Toronto), Lincoln Center (New York), the Ukrainian National Philharmonic (Kyiv), the Lviv Opera House, Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center (Cleveland) and Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris). In December of 2022, maestro Mahlay had the honor of conducting over 120 voices in Mykola Leontovych's world-famous Shchedryk ("Carol of the Bells") at New York's Carnegie Hall during the centennial celebration of this choral classic.



# SONG LYRICS

A SPECIAL THANKS TO PETER FEDYNSKY  
AND STEPHEN SZYSZKA  
FOR THE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS.

## МОЛИТВА ЗА УКРАЇНУ

Боже великий, єдиний,  
Нам Україну храни,  
Волі і світу промінням  
Ти її осіни.

Світлом науки і знання  
Ти її просвіти,  
В чистій любові до неї,  
Ти нас, Боже, зрости.

Молимося, Боже єдиний,  
Нам Україну храни,  
Всі свої ласки й щедроти  
Ти на люд наш зверни.

Дай йому волю, дай йому долю,  
Дай доброго світу,  
Щастя, дай, Боже, народу  
І многая, многая літа.

## A PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

Lord God Almighty immortal One  
guard and protect Ukraine.  
With gleaming light and Your guidance  
overwatch her domain.  
With wisdom, strength and understanding  
enlighten her lest she should fall.  
With abiding love for this precious land  
nurture her, God of all.  
Lord God Almighty we humbly beg You:  
guard and protect Your Ukraine.  
All of Your graces, Your bounties,  
on Your people sustain.  
Vouchsafe true freedom, vouchsafe good fortune,  
unbound from all cruel tears.  
Dear God, grant peace to this nation  
for many, many, blessed years.

## ОЙ, ІШЛИ НАШІ СЛАВНІ ЗАПОРОЖЦІ

Ой ішли наші славні Запорожці  
Та понад Бугом рікою,  
Гей широкою та глибокою,  
Гей та по над лиманами.

Ой чогось наші славні Запорожці  
Та й не веселі стали,  
Гей облягли їх, облягли москалі,  
Гей та всіма сторонами.

Ой, летить бомба з московського поля,  
Та посеред Січі впала:  
Ой хоч пропали славні запорожці,  
Гей, та не пропала їх слава!

## OUR GLORIOUS KOZAKS ADVANCED

O, our glorious Kozaks advanced  
Above the river Buh  
Hey, wide and deep,  
And, hey, above the inlets.  
O, yet our glorious Kozaks  
Lost their cheer,  
Hey, they were besieged, besieged by Muscovites,  
Hey, on every side.  
O, a bomb flies from Moscow's field,  
It falls within the Sich:  
O, though glorious Kozaks perished,  
Hey, their glory did not die!

## ГЕЙ, ПО СИНЬОМУ МОРЮ

Гей, по синьому морю хвиля грає,  
Там турецький корабельчик розбиває.  
Там турецький корабельчик розбиває.

Там турецький корабельчик розбиває,  
Сорок тисяч козаченьків визволяє.  
Сорок тисяч козаченьків визволяє.

Сорок тисяч і чотири з України,  
Вертаються з неволеньки до родини.  
Вертаються з неволеньки до родини.

Посідали вони собі край могили,  
Люльки собі закурили та й поплили.  
Люльки собі закурили та й поплили.

Гей, по синьому морю хвиля грає,  
Сорок тисяч козаченьків визволяє.  
Сорок тисяч козаченьків визволяє.

## ON THE BLUE SEA

Hey, waves are crashing on the blue sea  
They are breaking up a small Turkish ship there.  
They are breaking up a small Turkish ship there.  
They are breaking up a small Turkish ship there.  
Freeing forty thousand Kozaks.  
Freeing forty thousand Kozaks.  
Forty thousand and four from Ukraine,  
Are returning from captivity to their families.  
Are returning from captivity to their families.  
They sat on the edge of the grave,  
They smoked their pipes and went for a swim.  
They smoked their pipes and went for a swim.  
Hey, waves are crashing on the blue sea  
Freeing forty thousand Kozaks.  
Freeing forty thousand Kozaks.

## **КОЛИ ВИ ВМИРАЛИ, ВАМ ДЗВОНИ НЕ ГРАЛИ**

Коли ви вмирали, вам дзвони не грали,  
Ніхто не заплакав за вами.  
Лиш в чистому полі ревіли гармати,  
А зорі вмивались сльозами.  
Лиш в чистому полі ревіли гармати,  
а зорі вмивались сльозами.

Коли хоронили вас в темну могилу  
Від крові земля почорніла.  
Під хмарами круки стадами літали,  
І бурею битва шуміла.  
Під хмарами круки стадами літали,  
і бурею битва шуміла.

На ваших могилах, клянёмось ми свято,  
Не буде чужинцям спокою!  
Спіть, хлопці-соколи, ми гостримо зброю,  
і йдемо на поклик до бою.

На ваших могилах цвістиме калина  
Хилитиме віти додолу.  
Спіть, хлопці-соколи, сини України,  
Гармати розбудять вас знову.  
Спіть, хлопці-соколи, сини України,  
Гармати розбудять вас знову.

## WHEN YOU DIED, NO BELLS TOLLED

When you died, no bells tolled,  
Nobody cried for you.  
Only in a clear field did guns roar,  
And the stars were washed with tears.

When they buried you in a dark grave  
The ground was black with blood.  
Crows flew in flocks under the clouds,  
And the battle roared like a storm.

On your graves, we solemnly swear,  
There will be no rest for invaders!  
Sleep, falcon-boys, we're sharpening our weapons,  
and follow the call to battle.  
Viburnum will bloom on your graves  
Bending its stalks low.  
Sleep, falcon-boys, sons of Ukraine,  
The cannons will wake you again.

## ЗЕЛЕНИЙ ГАЙ

Зелений гай, пахуче поле  
В тюрмі приснилися мені,  
І луг широкий, неначе море,  
І тихий сум по кружині.

Садок приснився коло хати,  
Весела літня пора,  
А в хаті... там знудилась мати,  
І знудьгувалася сестра.

Поблідло личко, згасли очі,  
Надія вмерла, стан зігнувсь.  
І я заплакав опівночі  
І, гірко плачучи, проснувсь.

## THE VERDANT GROVE

I dreamed in prison  
Of a verdant grove and fragrant field,  
Of a meadow like a sea,  
And quiet sadness all around.  
A dreamlike garden by a home,  
In a happy summertime.  
And in the home ... a weary mother  
And a sister also weary.  
The thin face paled, eyes grew dim,  
Hope expired, the body stooped.  
And I wept at midnight  
And, weeping bitterly - awoke.

## **ЗРОДИЛИСЬ МИ ВЕЛИКОЇ ГОДИНИ**

Зродились ми великої години,  
З пожеж війни і з полум'я вогнів -  
Плекав нас біль по втраті України,  
Кормив нас гніт і гнів на ворогів.

І ось ідемо в бою життєвому,  
Тверді й міцні, незламні мов ґраніт,  
Бо плач не дав свободи ще нікому,  
А хто борець - той здобуває світ.

Веде нас в бій борців упавших слава,  
Для нас закон найвищий і наказ:  
Соборна Українська Держава -  
Вільна й міцна, від Сяну по Кавказ.

## **WE WERE BORN AT A GREAT HOUR**

We were born at a great hour,  
In a blazing war from flames of fire, –  
We were fostered by the pain of Ukraine's loss,  
We were nurtured by oppression and wrath against foes.  
And so we go into life's battle,  
Hard and strong, indestructible as granite,  
For tears have granted no one freedom,  
He who fights – wins the world.  
We're led into battle by the glory of fighters who fell,  
For us, the supreme law and command:  
A sovereign Ukrainian Nation –  
Free and strong from the (river) San to the Caucasus.

## МИ У ВІЧІ СМІЄМОСЯ СМЕРТІ

Ну і що ж як прийдеться умерти  
У похідній шинелі в житах,  
Ми у вічі сміємося смерті,  
А вмирати прийдеться лиш раз .

Ну і що ж, що хтось буде ридати  
На воротях даремно ждучи,  
Будуть нам маршовії співати  
До атаки гранати рвучись.

Наша сотня ударна, залізна,  
Наша сотня в боях - богатир.  
Нас тризуба веде знам'я грізне,  
І завзятий наш друг командир.

За потоптану честь України,  
За поганьблену землю святу.  
Ми ідем, щоб підняти з руїни  
Українську державу нову.

Ну і що ж як прийдеться умерти  
У похідній шинелі в житах,  
Ми у вічі сміємося смерті,  
А вмирати прийдеться лиш раз  
Ми у вічі сміємося смерті,  
А вмирати прийдеться лиш раз.

## WE LAUGH IN THE FACE OF DEATH

Well, so what if we have to die  
In a trenchcoat in a field of rye,  
We laugh in the face of death,  
And we only get to die once.  
Well, so what if someone will cry  
Waiting in vain at the gate,  
They will sing marching songs for us  
While pressing the grenade attack.  
Our company is "shock and steel"  
Our company is a warrior in battles!  
We are led by a trident, our formidable banner,  
With our ardent colleague in command.  
For the trampled honor of Ukraine,  
For our disgraced holy land.  
We go to raise from the ruins  
The new Ukrainian country.  
Well, so what if we have to die  
In a trenchcoat in a field of rye,  
We laugh in the face of death,  
And we only get to die once.

## НЕРОЗДІЛЬНА РОДИНА

Від синього Дону до сивих Карпат, одна нероздільна родина,  
без панства, без рабства, насильства і зрад,  
вільна, незалежна Україна.

Без панства, без рабства, насильства і зрад,  
вільна, незалежна Україна.

Україна, нездоланна,  
Україна, нескоренна,  
Україна, Україна, Україна,  
Одна нероздільна родина!

Без панства, без рабства, насильства і зрад,  
одна нероздільна родина!  
Україна, Україна, Україна!

## INSEPARABLE FAMILY

From the Don so blue to the misty Carpathian Mountains,  
Is but one inseparable family,  
Free of bondage, of servitude  
Oppression and treason,  
A free, independent Ukraine.  
Free of bondage, of servitude,  
Oppression and treason –  
A free, independent Ukraine.  
Ukraine, invincible,  
Ukraine, unvanquished,  
Ukraine, Ukraine, Ukraine,  
One inseparable family!  
Free of bondage, of servitude,  
Oppression and treason,  
One inseparable family!  
Ukraine, Ukraine, Ukraine!

## СПИ, МОЯ ЛАСТІВКО

Спи, моя ластівко, зіронько, спи,  
Сни собі сни, не важкі, не пророчі.  
Хай тобі сняться весняні степи  
Тихої-тихої-тихої ночі.

Хай тобі сняться квітучі міста,  
Київ каштановий, Харків бузковий,  
І Маріуполя сакура  
Місто Херсон у тюльпанах казкових.

Спи, моя ластівко, скоро весна,  
Майже весна. І вона неминуча.  
Хай тобі сниться рипуча сосна  
З міста пахучо-соснового Буча.

Спи, моя ластівко, все ще війна,  
Що вибухає не цвітом, а тліном.  
Тут у підвалі немає вікна.  
Але ж весна неминуча, дитино.

Все ще колись проросте-розцвіте.  
Просто до неї нам треба дожити.  
Спи, моє серденько, спи, золоте,  
Хай тобі сняться дерева і квіти.

Спи, моє серденько, спи, золоте.

## **SLEEP, MY LITTLE SWALLOW**

Sleep, my little swallow, sleep little star,  
Dream pleasant dreams, neither grim nor prophetic.  
May dreams come to you of spring in the steppes  
On a quiet, quiet, quiet night.  
May you dream of cities abloom,  
Of chestnuts in Kyiv, of lilacs in Kharkiv  
Of Mariupol's Japanese cherries  
And of Kherson's fabulous tulips.  
Sleep my little swallow, springtime is coming,  
Spring is at hand. And it is certain.  
May you dream of an evergreen creaking  
In pine-scented Bucha.  
Sleep, my little swallow, there is still a war,  
Which bursts not with blossoms but ashes.  
This cellar has no windows.  
But spring, o my baby, is certain.  
All will someday sprout and bloom.  
We need but to live.  
Sleep, little heart, sleep, o my treasure,  
May dreams come to you of flowers and trees.  
Sleep, little heart, sleep, o my treasure.

## ДУХ ГАРМАТ МІЦНІШИЙ

За колоною колона  
Пруть на нас московські брили,  
Та їх сміло зустрічають  
Українські Збройні Сили!  
Звідки наволоч? – «Зі Сходу.»  
Плюс. Почули. Зустрічаєм!  
І чим хата в нас багата  
Пригощаєм, пригощаєм!

Приспів:  
Байрактари й джавеліни  
Хай гримлять і хай стріляють,  
Але дух гармат міцніший,  
Ми це дуже добре знаєм!

Ти прийшов на нашу землю,  
Злий московський кат неситий,  
Щоб вкраїнців убивати,  
Наш під корінь рід згубити.  
Напрямок який? –«Південний.»  
Плюс. Почули. Зустрічаєм!  
І у пекло окупантів  
Посилаєм, посилаєм!

Рідний стяг наш гордо має!  
Б'є арта, врага вражає!..  
Дух гармат стократ міцніший,  
З нас це кожен воїн знає!

Приспів: Байрактари...

Ми на цій землі живемо  
З діда прадіда, віками,  
І тобі нас не здолати,  
Клятий виродку лукавий!  
Напрямок який? –«Північний.»  
Плюс. Почули. Зустрічаєм!  
І транзитом чорту в зуби  
Відправляєм, відправляєм!

Хай сіяє зброя наша,  
Стугна б'є, Вільха вціляє,  
Але дух гармат міцніший,  
В нас це кожен воїн знає!

Браття! Нум, на бузувіра!  
Нам нема куди втікати!  
З нами Бог і правда щира!  
І свята Україна-мати!  
Звідки йде москаль «Байдуже!»  
Плюс. Почули. Зустрічаєм!  
З кораблем воєнним русьським  
Посилаєм, посилаєм!

Приспів: Байрактари... (х3)

Але дух гармат міцніший,  
Ми це дуже добре знаєм!

## THE SPIRIT OF CANNONS IS MIGHTIER

Column after column  
Moscow troops bear down upon us,  
But they're boldly met  
By Ukraine's Armed Forces!  
Whence the horde? - "From the East."  
Affirmative. Roger. We'll engage 'em.  
Let's not spare our hospitality  
We'll give 'em all we got!  
Refrain:  
Bayraktars and Javelins  
Let 'em thunder, let 'em fire,  
But cannons have a mightier spirit,  
This we know quite well!  
You attacked our land,  
You evil and insatiable Muscovite butcher,  
To kill Ukrainians,  
To uproot our kin.  
Which direction? - "Southern."  
Affirmative. Roger. We'll engage 'em.  
And to hell with occupiers  
We'll send 'em down, down!  
Our native banner proudly waves!  
Our volleys hit the foe!...  
A hundredfold mightier is the cannon's spirit,  
Our every warrior knows this!  
Refrain:  
Bayraktars...  
On this land we live  
As, for ages, did our forebears,  
You're not free to take it,  
You accursed evil monster!  
Which direction? - "Northern."  
Affirmative. Roger. We'll engage 'em.  
We'll dispatch 'em to the devil's fangs,  
We'll send 'em off, off to hell!  
Let our weapons shine,  
The Stuhna (anti-tank gun) strikes,  
The Vilha's (rocket) aim is true,  
But the cannons have a mightier spirit,  
Our every warrior knows this!  
Brethren! Let's attack the heathen!  
We've no place to run!  
God's beside us, so too is the honest truth!  
So too is Ukraine, our Motherland!  
Whence the Muscovite? - "No matter!"  
Affirmative. Roger. We'll engage 'em.  
We'll sink 'em with the russian warship  
Send 'em! Send 'em off!  
Refrain: Bayraktars... (x3)  
But cannons have a mightier spirit,  
This we know quite well!

## **БРАТТЯ УКРАЇНЦІ**

Любі мої діти, мила, мамо й тату,  
Я йду на війноньку нашу землю захищати.  
Не плачте за мною, якщо в полі згину,  
Все віддам за любов неньку нашу Україну!

Єднаємося, браття, в цю лиху годину,  
Нехай ворог знає: Ми за Україну!  
Богу душу нашу віддамо єдину,  
За нашу землю - Священну Україну!

Ми за ції степи, за ліси і гори,  
За лани широкі, за Чорнеє море,  
За Небесну Сотню, за Тараса брата,  
За нашу свободу ми поборили ката!  
З нами свята віра, з нами Бог і правда,  
І ми проти того, щоб брат ішов на брата!  
А якщо з війною, тоді начувайтесь,  
Нас ніщо не зупинить! Слава Україні!

Не плачте за мною, якщо в полі згину,  
Все віддам за любов неньку нашу Україну!

## MY UKRAINIAN BRETHREN

My dear children, my darling, mother and father,  
I am going to war to defend our land.  
Do not weep for me if I die in the field,  
I will give everything for our dear mother Ukraine!  
Let us unite, brethren, in this evil hour,  
Let the enemy know - we are for Ukraine.  
We will give our one soul to God,  
For our land, Holy Ukraine.  
We will give our one soul to God,  
For our land, Holy Ukraine!  
For these steppes, for the forests and mountains,  
For the wide fields, for the Black Sea.  
For the Heavenly Hundred, for our brother Taras (Shevchenko),  
We defeated our executioner!  
Our Holy Faith is with us, God and truth are with us,  
And we are against brother attacking brother.  
But if it is war - then understand,  
Nothing will stop us! Glory to Ukraine!  
But if it is war - then understand,  
Nothing will stop us! Glory to Ukraine!  
Do not weep for me if I die in the field,  
I will give everything for our dear mother Ukraine!  
Do not weep for me if I die in the field,  
I will give everything for our dear mother Ukraine!

## **МАРШ ПОЛЯГЛИХ**

За горе народу, за глум і руїну,  
за матір поругану, за Україну.  
Ми вражої крові річки розлили,  
і смертю героїв в бою полягли.

Де нині проходили нас легіони,  
не стримно і грізно пройдуть мільйони.  
Вітчизну підпруть могутнім плечем, і діло довершать вогнем і мечем.

Прощай наша мати, на всесвіт єдина.  
Прощай непоборна Свята Україна.  
Почате мерцями довершать живі, мільйони повстануть на нашій крові.

## **MARCH OF THE FALLEN**

For woes of the people, derision and ruin,  
For the mother defiled, for Ukraine,  
We've spilled rivers of enemy blood,  
With heroes who laid their lives down in battle.  
Where legions have passed us,  
Millions shall follow, relentless, undaunted.  
They'll mightily shoulder the Motherland,  
And will crown the endeavor with fire and sword.  
Farewell our dear mother, unique in the heavens.  
Farewell, invincible Holy Ukraine.  
What the departed commenced, the living shall finish,  
Millions shall rise from our blood.

## ОЙ ВИДНО СЕЛО

Ой, видно село, широке село під горою,\*  
Ой, там ідуть Стрільці, Січовії Стрільці до бою...  
Іде, іде військо крізь широке поле,  
Хлопці ж бо то хлопці, як соколи!

Приспів:

Ха-ха, ха-ха, ха-ха, ха-ха, гей!  
Дівчино-рибчино, чорнобривко моя,  
Вийди-вийди, вийди-вийди чим скоріше до вікна!  
Хлопці ж бо то хлопці, як соколи!

Ой, видно село, широке село під горою,  
Ой, там ідуть Стрільці, Січовії Стрільці до бою...  
Попереду ідуть старші отамани –  
Гей, хто за Україну, хай йде з нами!

Приспів:

Гей, хто за Україну, хай йде з нами!

Ой, видно село, широке село під горою,  
Ой, там ідуть Стрільці, Січовії Стрільці до бою...  
А хто піде з нами, буде славу мати –  
Ми йдем за Україну воювати!

Приспів:

Ми йдем за Україну воювати!

## BEHOLD A VILLAGE

Behold a village, an expansive village 'neath a hill  
That's where Riflemen, Sich Riflemen  
March toward battle...

The army marches, marches 'cross an open field,  
Boys, they're boys like falcons!  
Ha-ha, ha-ha, ha-ha, ha-ha ha-ha, hey!  
O, my darling, o my sweetheart,  
O my marigold,

O come, come, come, o come

Faster, faster to the window!

Boys, they're boys like falcons!

Behold a village, an expansive village 'neath a hill  
That's where Riflemen, Sich Riflemen  
March toward battle...

Up front are elder otamans,

Hey, whoever's for Ukraine, come join us!

Refrain:

Hey, whoever's for Ukraine, come join us!

Behold a village, an expansive village 'neath a hill  
That's where Riflemen, Sich Riflemen  
March toward battle...

Who comes with us will savor glory –

We march to fight for Ukraine!

Refrain:

We march to fight for Ukraine!

## КАРПАТСЬКІ СІЧОВИКИ

То не лист осінній за водою  
По шикорій Тисі проплива, –  
Багрянить за хвилею крутою  
Підкарпатська буйна голова.

Бились хлопці Хустові на славу,  
Полягли в нерівному бою  
За свою омріяну державу,  
Січовую воленьку свою.

І пливуть до тихого Дунаю –  
Мов на турка – браття в байдаках.  
Синя хвиля жалібно гойдає,  
Течія показує їм шлях.

Буде сліз, та не здолає горе  
Ні батьків, ні в тузі матерів.  
Чорне море, українське море,  
Зустрічай своїх богатирів!

## CARPATHIAN RIFLEMEN

That's not an autumn leaf afloat  
Upon broad waters of the Tysa, –  
A heroic Subcarpathian head  
Glints amid tall waves in crimson.  
The boys fought in Khust for glory,  
They died outnumbered in a battle  
For their fabled nation,  
A fortress of their sacred freedom.  
And they float toward the placid Danube –  
As if raiding Turks – a fraternity on longboats.  
A blue wave sadly swells,  
The current steers their way.  
Looming tears will not stay grief  
Not of fathers, nor of longing mothers.  
Black Sea, o Ukrainian sea,  
Receive your warriors!

## ДЛЯ УКРАЇНИ

Я сьогодні від вас від'їжджаю  
Я сьогодні від вас від'їжджаю  
Боронити ріднесенький край;  
Може вернусь, а може загину,  
Ти, дівчино, про мене згадай.

Гей, степами, темними ярами  
Гей, степами, темними ярами  
Йдуть походом ріднії полки.  
Хто відважний, хай іде із нами,  
Лицарями будьте, юнаки!

За нікого битись не будемо,  
До нікого в найми не підем,  
Для України ми усі живемо  
І за неї голови складемо.

Лети, пісне, попід небесами,  
До українських промовляй сердець,  
Хай же буде наша воля з нами,  
А ворожим замірам кінець!

Марш Куреня Бойків  
Світить місяць понад темним лісом,  
Буйний вітер кругом завива,  
Із гір Карпат ярами на долину  
Сотня повстанців гордо виступа!  
Гей, гей! Гей, гей!  
Сотня повстанців гордо виступа!

Лунає пісня довкруги бадьора,  
Кожний тисне зброю у руках,  
Журчить потік, шумлять карпатські бори,  
Веселий усміх грає на устах.  
Гей, гей! Гей, гей!  
Веселий усміх грає на устах!

Тремтять кати, почувши брязкіт зброї  
Юних орлят і месників за кров,  
Встає народ, вже сходить сонце волі,  
Вже досить мук, недолі і оков!  
Гей, гей! Гей, гей!  
Вже досить мук, недолі і оков!

## FOR UKRAINE

Today, I leave you  
Today, I leave you  
To defend our native land;  
I might return, I might perish,  
Forget me not, my dearest.

Hey, through the steppes  
Hey, through the steppes and dark ravines,  
Our regiments march on.  
If you've courage, join us,  
Be knights, young men!  
We'll not fight for any other,  
We'll not serve another,  
For Ukraine we live  
And we'll sacrifice our heads for her.  
May our song soar beneath the heavens,  
May it touch Ukrainian hearts,  
May freedom stand beside us,  
And death to hostile schemes!

The moon shines above the darkened forest,  
A raging wind howls all around,  
From Carpathian peaks along ravines into the valley,  
A hundred rebels proudly stride!  
Hey, hey! Hey, hey!  
A hundred rebels proudly stride!  
A cheerful song resounds all over,  
Each brandishes a weapon,  
The stream gurgles, Carpathian pines are swishing,  
A jaunty smile plays on lips.  
Hey, hey! Hey, hey!  
A jaunty smile plays on lips.  
Tyrants tremble, hearing weapons rattling  
Of young eagles avenging blood.  
People arise, the sun of freedom rises,  
Enough of torment, woes and shackles.  
Hey, hey! Hey, hey!  
Enough of torment, woes and shackles.

## БАНДУРИСТЕ, ОРЛЕ СИЗИЙ

Бандуристе, орле сизий,  
Добре тобі, брате, –  
Маєш крила, маєш силу,  
Є коли літати.

Тепер летиш в Україну,  
Тебе виглядають.  
Полетів би за тобою,  
Та хто привітає?

Я тут чужий, самотній,  
І на Україні  
Я сирота, мій голубе,  
Як і на чужині.

Полетів би, послухав би,  
Заплакав би з ними.  
Та ба, доля приборкала  
Меж людьми чужими.

Там повіє буйнесенький,  
Як брат заговорить.  
Там в широке полі воля,  
Там синєє море.

## **BANDURIST, YOU GREY-HAIRED EAGLE**

Bandurist, my blue-grey eagle,  
Your fortunes can soar high!  
For you have wings, and you have strength,  
And time in which to fly.

They wait for you in our Ukraine —  
There, fly with vigor free!  
I, too, would fly along with you,  
But who would welcome me?

A lonely stranger in Ukraine,  
Even as here, I'd stand;  
An orphan am I there, dear friend,  
As in this foreign land.

I, too, would fly to listen there  
And weep with those that weep...  
Alas! Harsh fate has tamed me,  
With strangers I must sleep.

For there the boisterous wind will blow  
And speak as to a brother;  
There Freedom roams the boundless plain;  
The blue sea, Freedom's mother

TO MAKE A DONATION:



IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION BY CHECK,  
PLEASE NOTE THESE INSTRUCTIONS:

Check payable to:  
**Friends of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus**

You can pass along your check to one of our representatives in the lobby,  
or send to:

**Friends of UBC  
15356 Ellen Drive  
Livonia, MI 48154**

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