



Ukrainian Art Song Project



PHOTOS: ROMAN PETRIV

Pavlo Hunka Brings the Ukrainian Art Song to Edmonton

EDMONTON UPDATE

Progress on the Stepovy Campaign: “Your Gift to the World of Music!”

The Alberta Ukrainian Art Song Committee introduced the Edmonton Ukrainian and music communities to Pavlo Hunka, international opera star and artistic director of the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP), at two fundraising and awareness events this spring that inaugurated the Yakiv Stepovy phase of the UASP. Those who attended came away awed by the beauty of the Ukrainian art song, this hidden treasure of Ukrainian musical culture, and impressed with the achievements of the project so far.

The first of these events, “A Private Salon with Pavlo Hunka,” was held at Edmonton’s historic Rutherford House on April 24, 2009. During the course of this informal evening, the invited guests had an opportunity to hear Hunka sing a selection of art songs by Kyrilo Stetsenko and Mykola Lysenko, accompanied by Dr. Joachim Segger, professor of piano and theory at The King’s University College in Edmonton. The audience was also treated to Yakiv Stepovy’s “Mokro i temno,” the first live performance of an art song by the composer to whom the Alberta chapter of the UASP is dedicated. All those present, among them Hon. Eugene Zwozdesky, Alberta Minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Deputy Government House Leader, as well as Honorary Patron of the Alberta Ukrainian Art Song Committee, were delighted by the songs performed and expressed their profound admiration for the achievements of the UASP. The guests had an opportunity to meet with Hunka and learn in depth the history of the project so far and the importance of the UASP to the world of music. This evening also saw a preview of the official launch of the Stetsenko scores on the www.uasp.ca website.

Two days later, Hunka presented his vision of the UASP to the broader Edmonton community at the University of Alberta’s Timms Center for the Performing Arts, with local music critic Bill Rankin as emcee. During this well-attended afternoon event, Hunka was joined by the exquisite Canadian soprano Monica Whicher. The performances of both artists, accompanied once again by Dr. Segger, called forth warm applause from the almost 150 members of the audience. Whicher’s remarks on the importance of the art songs of Stetsenko and Lysenko for her as a performer and teacher echoed and confirmed Hunka’s comments on the significance of the work of the UASP as a “Gift to the World of Music.”

In addition to these public performances, during his visit to Western Canada Hunka sang the epistle with the St. Basil’s Church Choir at their Sunday service, conducted a master class with the Dnipro Ukrainian Choir of Edmonton, and met with an interested group of supporters who are enthusiastic about promoting the UASP in the Calgary area. For more information about the Alberta chapter of the UASP, please write to umsa_artsongs@shaw.ca.

The Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) is a significant Canadian non-profit music venture which has as its goal the recording, preservation and dissemination of nearly 1,000 art songs of Ukraine’s 24 most eminent classical composers. The UASP Artistic Director is Pavlo Hunka. The UASP Producer is Roman Hurko. For more information, please go to www.uasp.ca or write the project at 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto ON M5S 2H4.

A Midsummer's Night of Music in Wine Country

On Thursday July 23, 2009, the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) invites you to enjoy an evening of Ukrainian art songs in a truly unique concert venue—the Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery in Beamsville, Ontario.

This evening will be a rare opportunity for both serious opera lovers and Ukrainian art song aficionados to enjoy Pavlo Hunka and friends performing a selection of Ukrainian art songs, and to share their passion for this genre in an informal setting. Hunka's extraordinary career has allowed him to reign as one of Europe's foremost interpreters of bass-baritone operatic roles. Yet it is the Ukrainian art song that has captured his heart. When performing these gems, Hunka's astounding versatility, exceptional musicianship, and commanding stage presence coalesce to create an intimate and mesmerizing experience for the audience.

Guests will also have an opportunity to investigate the winemaking process as Rosewood Winery owners (and generous benefactors of the UASP) Renata and Eugene Roman conduct a tour of their facility and answer questions about their winemaking.

The Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery is one of the newest wineries in the Beamsville bench region of Ontario. Situated atop a gently rolling hill, it enjoys an expansive vista of the surrounding grapevine plantations. This small-batch winery has already won recognition as a prime VQA producer of numerous award-winning red and white wines, as well as of unique mead (honey wine) offerings. The Romans are equally passionate about the UASP, and have donated substantially to the project—not only financially, but also of their time and energy. In particular, they sponsored the Mykola Lysenko sampler CD that was presented to attendees at last May's



“Evening With Pavlo Hunka and Friends” at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto, as well as to donors at this year's Yakiv Stepovyi event “Your Gift to the World of Music” in Edmonton.

This midsummer's evening of wine and song is a fundraiser for *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko* CD recordings, supported by the Canada-Ukraine Chamber of Commerce (CUCC). Tickets @ \$150 per person may be purchased directly from the CUCC, by email at info@cucc.ca or by phone at 416-253-6700. Please make cheques payable to the “Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association (UASP).”



Where in the World?

AN UPDATE ON PAVLO HUNKA

Pavlo Hunka is back in Toronto this summer in full musical swing—completing the mastering of *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko* and with rehearsals and recording sessions at the Glenn Gould Studio focused on recording *The Art Songs of Yakiv Stepovyi*.

On **Thursday, July 23, 2009** Hunka will perform a selection of Ukrainian art songs at the Rosewood Estates Winery and Meadery in Beamsville, Ontario. For more detail please see “A Midsummer's Night of Music in Wine Country” in this issue.

This August, Hunka will return to his native England to rehearse for the Fall 2009 production of Ligeti's *Le Grand Macabre* at London's English National Opera, in which he once again assumes the title role of Nekrotzar (September 17, 22, 25 and October 1, 3, 9).

In February 2010, Hunka will be performing as Dr. Schön and Jack the Ripper in Berg's *Lulu* at the Grand Théâtre in Geneva (February 4, 7, 10, 13, 16 and 19).

Mark Your Calendar!

The UASP is excited to announce that *Mykola Lysenko: A Symposium* will be held from 1-5 PM on **Saturday, October 31, 2009** at the Faculty of Music, University of Toronto, Edward Johnson Building, 80 Queen's Park, Toronto. This Symposium, sponsored by the Petro Jacyk Program, features esteemed speakers Dr. Olga Andriewsky, Dr. Taras Filenko, Dr. Rada Stankovych and Dr. Dagmara Turchyn. Topics include: the role of Mykola Lysenko in the Ukrainian movement, particularly in the Hromada; Lysenko as founder of ethnomusicology; Lysenko—the father of the Ukrainian national style; Lysenko's operas, particularly his children's operas.

The world premiere of the UASP's six-CD compilation of *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko* will take place at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts in Toronto on **Sunday, April 11, 2010**.

Visit www.uasp.ca for further details.

Stetsenko Music Scores Now Available on the Internet!

For the first time in the history of Ukrainian classical music, the scores to art songs by Ukrainian composer Kyrylo Stetsenko are now available on the World Wide Web and accessible to the public free of charge. The publication of these music scores fulfills the second mandate of the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP)—to make the printed music available via its website, www.uasp.ca, to singers, voice instructors, choirs, and music lovers around the world.

The primary stated goal of the UASP is to create a comprehensive CD anthology of Ukrainian art songs, now numbering close to 1,000, composed by 24 of Ukraine's most eminent composers, with translations available in English, French, and German. The UASP also aims to have this music performed worldwide; thus, all the scores will eventually be published on its website. Being in the public domain, they will not be copyrighted and can be duplicated, distributed, and performed without restriction. All the music can be downloaded for free.

Moreover, the features of the UASP website make it possible for musicians of varying abilities to successfully perform the art songs. They can be transposed into any key, and the text is printed in Ukrainian (in Cyrillic characters) and transliterated into English (in Latin characters). For those familiar with the International Phonetic Alphabet, the corresponding IPA guide will soon be available on the website.

To access the scores, go to www.uasp.ca and click on **SCORES** in the left navigation panel, or click on the right-hand announcement about the Stetsenko scores. All the scores may be searched, either in English or Ukrainian, for specific key words in the song title, the composer's name, or the lyricist's name. You can then select what vocal range of the score you want to download (soprano, tenor, alto, or bass). Then, you can select what file type to download. To access the scores to their fullest extent, you will need the Sibelius Scorch™ plug-in for your browser. The UASP website provides information about access to Sibelius (or SIB).

The first public demonstration of this powerful new feature of the UASP website took place in Edmonton, Alberta, earlier this year at a fundraising event for the CD recording of *The Art Songs of Yakiv Stepovyi*. The launch of the Mykola Lysenko scores on the UASP website is planned in Toronto, Ontario, to coincide with the launch of the six-CD set of *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko* at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts on Sunday, April 11, 2010.

This information was adapted from Dr. Melanie Turgeon's presentation about the scores feature on the UASP website at the Timms Centre, University of Alberta, on April 26, 2009. Dr. Turgeon is an Assistant Professor of Music and Choral Conductor at The King's University College, Edmonton, Alberta.

Spotlight on Donors to the Ukrainian Art Song Project



"If we make people aware of the beauty and value of Ukrainian art songs, they will support our project." —Pavlo Hunka

A major goal of the Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP)—to reach ever-larger numbers of classical music lovers as well as performing and teaching professionals—would not be possible without the financial support of many benefactors and donors, who deserve to be publicly acknowledged and lauded. As awareness of the cultural impact of the project increases, other benefactors are recognizing the importance of giving, even in these difficult financial times. Thus, we begin a new series for "Spotlight", with each edition of the UASP newsletter shining a spotlight on one of our generous benefactors.

Hearing Pavlo Hunka perform the art songs of Mykola Lysenko at the Ford Centre for the Performing Arts last May made a lasting impression on professor and translator Dr. Roma Franko. She knew that the UASP was an endeavour that she would like to support. Her husband, Stefan Franko, a community leader and benefactor who over the years has played a major role in the Ukrainian Self-Reliance movement and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress, was also quick to appreciate the unique legacy envisioned to result from the UASP's work. Shortly thereafter, their Franko Foundation made a generous contribution to the UASP.

The Franko Foundation supports the advancement of humanities and fine arts in Ukrainian studies. The Foundation's members, Dr. Roma and Stefan Franko—along with their sons Roman and Ivan and their spouses Alina and Karen—have a longstanding involvement with higher education, the arts, and music. Dr. Roma Franko and her sister, the late Sonia Morris, were recently awarded the first annual G. Luckyj Ukrainian Literature Translation Prize, granted by the Canadian Foundation of Ukrainian Studies, for their dedication to and tremendous efforts and achievements in translating Ukrainian literature into English and making it accessible to a wide reading audience.

Indeed, there are strong parallels between Hunka's desire to bring the often little-known Ukrainian art song gems into the mainstream classical repertoire and the work of Dr. Franko and her sister in bringing lesser-known Ukrainian writers into mainstream literature. At the awards ceremony, Dr. Roma Franko spoke of the importance of bringing Ukrainian classical culture to the attention of the world. "If we are truly interested in ensuring that Ukrainian culture takes its rightful place among other cultures both here in Canada and across the globe," she explained, "we must provide adequate funding to assist those individuals or groups who are willing to devote themselves to the task of studying and promoting the invaluable classical contributions that Ukrainians have made to world culture."

continued on next page

Spotlight on Donors to the Ukrainian Art Song Project *cont'd*

Dr. Franko further noted: “We Ukrainians are well-known for the more visible components of our culture, such as our masterful dancing and our beautiful pysanky, but our rich culture has so much more to offer, and literary translations and the recently initiated Ukrainian Art Song Project are just two examples of the many facets of our culture that still need to be brought to the fore.”

It was with this goal in mind that Dr. Franko and her sister donated all the books that they published through Language Lanterns Publications to more than 50 universities, some 80 public libraries, and over 60 Ukrainian institutions and organizations in North America, Ukraine, and Australia. To date, 17 volumes of various Ukrainian writers have been translated from Ukrainian to English.

The UASP is grateful to the Franko Foundation for acknowledging the importance of the UASP's work in making Ukrainian classical music accessible to the music world.

SPOTLIGHT

Ukrainian Art Song Project newsletter

SUMMER 2009 ISSUE

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

Publisher Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association

Editor Halyna Perun

Associate Editor Ksenia Maryniak

Contributors Myroslava Dubyk
Christina Kowalsky
Melanie Turgeon
Darcia Wasarab-Rolland

Art Direction Christine Kurys Mackenzie

Photography Paul Cipywnyk
Christine Kurys Mackenzie
Roman Petriw

Spotlight is a quarterly e-newsletter of the Ukrainian Art Song Project, published under the auspices of the Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association. It is distributed in electronic format (and in limited printouts) to a private distribution and mailing list, and also posted on the project website www.uasp.ca. Subscription is free of charge. Copyright individual contributors. Permission required to reproduce contents. Please send inquiries, subscription requests, address changes to: *Spotlight*, c/o Ukrainian Art Song Project, 620 Spadina Ave., Toronto ON M5S 2H4. Email: spotlight-uasp@shaw.ca.

ISSN 1918-7971 (Print)
ISSN 1918-798X (Online)

Please send your donations to *The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko* by cheque made payable to:

Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association (UASP)
620 Spadina Ave. Toronto, ON M5H 2H4

Please send your donations to *The Art Songs of Yakiv Stepovyi* by cheque made payable to:

Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta (UASP)
Box 1271, Edmonton, AB T5J 2M8

Tax receipts will be issued.

Thank you to the Ukrainian Art Song Project Sponsors

The Art Songs of Yakiv Stepovyi

GOLD

Luba Feduschak, St. Martin Children's Strings Society, Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada—Edmonton branch

SILVER

Anonymous, Michael & Luba Bell, Chateau Louis, Roman Konowalec, League of Ukrainian Canadians, Russ Mann & Dr. Johann Pelech, Lubomyr & Maria Pastuszenko, Dr. Peter & Darcja Rolland, Orest & Susan Romaniuk, Eugene Topolnisky, Proceeds of Ukrainian Music Society of Alberta 35th Anniversary Event (Nov. 2007), Ukrainian National Federation of Edmonton

FRIENDS OF THE ART SONG PROJECT

Merla Aikman, Alberta Council for the Ukrainian Arts, Alberta Ukrainian Commemorative Society, Anonymous, Dr. Jars Balan & Dr. Lesia Boychuk, Armand & Lucie Baril, Stefania Bayduza, Maria Becker, Natalia Bencharsky, Ihor Broda, John & Xenia Bubel, Gordon Buzinsky, Nestor & Lesia Chumer, Alexandra Cybulsky, Borys Derow & Darcia Parada, Stephanie Dowson, George & Maria Dytyniak, Maria Dytyniak, Oksana Ensslen, Irene Federkewych, Ivan & Ksenia Fedyna, Wayne & Gloria Franchuk, Katrusia Gowda, Darcy Gulka, Brian & Barbara Hlus, Dr. Andriy Hornjatkevyc, John Huk & Irena Tarnawsky, Halyna Koszarycz, Dr. George & Halyna Kotowych, Zenon Koziak, Roman Krawec, Oksana Krykivsky-Prokok, Gary & Sandra Leskow, Marco & Lesia Levytsky, Michael Lotoski, Joan Lynch, Kieren MacMillan, Dr. Nestor & Myroslava Maslo, Dr. James & Oksana McIntyre, Stefan & Lillian Melnychenko, Olga & Jim Nakonechny, Boris & Irene Onuferko, Gloria Oppenorth, Marshall & Nadia Opyr, Jerry Paravicini & Dr. Debra Cairns, Roman Petriw, Ihor Popowycz & Olga Federkewych, Olga Porylo, Larry & Mary Anne Pshyk, Steve & Mary Romaniuk, E.W. & C.J. Romaniuk, Maria Roslak, Daniel Rudko, Vivian Samoil, Dwayne Samyia & Salwa Tarrabain, Michael & Marianna Savaryn, Dr. Peter & Olya Savaryn, Nick & Flo Shandro, Al Shanley, Slava School Of Music, Orest & Lesia Soltykewych, Stephanie Soltykewych, St. John's Cathedral Choir, St. Josaphat's Cathedral Choir, St. George's Church Choir, Ivanna Szewczuk, Dr. Orest & Olesia Talpash, Andrew & Oksana Tarnawsky, Marc & Dr. Melanie Turgeon, Ernest & Barbara Turnbull, Helen Tymosko, Ukrainian Catholic Parish of St. George, Orest & Nadia Warchola, Lidia Wasyllyn, Katya Woroby, Luella Yakymyshyn, Grace Yanda, Paul Yarema, George & Slava Yopyk, John Zinchuk, Olga Zinchuk

The Art Songs of Mykola Lysenko

PATRONS

Moko & Marijka Wynnyckyj

DIAMOND

Eugene & Renata Roman, The Hon. John Yaremko q.c.

PLATINUM

Ukrainian Credit Union Limited, In Memory of Yaroslav & Odarka Onyschuk, Walter & Gloria Chewchuk—In Memory of their son, William Chewchuk, John & Lessia Tkach

GOLD

Buduchnist Credit Union Limited, St. Volodymyr Cultural Centre, Erast & Yarcia Huculak, Alexander Antoniuik, Eugene & Ola Cholkan, The Franko Foundation, Volodymyr Cultural Centre (Oakville) Inc., the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

SILVER

Eugene & Luba Zaraska, Brian McDonough & Dr. Lesia Berezowskyj, Dr. Yuri & Irena Deychakiwsky, Lesia Babiak

The Art Songs of Kyrlyo Stetsenko

PLATINUM

Ian Ihnatowycz & Dr. Marta Witer, Community Trust Company, Community Charitable Foundation, Planet Indie Society Trust, Lesia Iwasykiw, Caravan Logistics Inc.

GOLD

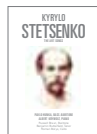
Buduchnist Credit Union Limited, Zenon & Sonia Potichnyj, Lemon Meringue, Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko

SILVER

Mitchell, Bardyn and Zaluckyj, Barristers & Solicitors, Andriy Malecky, Chief Emanuel and Chief Mrs. Annia Mbulu, Ivan & Marusia Znazcko

FRIENDS OF THE ART SONG PROJECT

Walter & Marta Burych, Dr. Martin Chepesiuk & Halyna Perun-Chepesiuk, Rev. M. & Dr. Curkowskyj Foundation, Roman & Roma Dubczak, Halyna Dytyniak, Irika Dyczok, Irene Fedorovich, Joanne Gludish, Oleh Leszczyszyn & Olena Wawryshyn, Dr. George Huculak, Donna Ihnatowycz, Wolodia Ivanitsky, Dr. Peter Jacyk & Lesia Babiak, Charlotte Janssen, Bohdan & Chrystia Kolos, Dr. Luba Komar, Lesia Komorowsky, Dr. Oleh & Vera Korol, Lubomyr & Roma Kwasnyia, Lemko Transport Limited, Myroslava Oleksiuk, St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir (Toronto), Bohdan & Tania Onyschuk, Dr. George and Oksana Rewa, Halyna Rudavska—Great Canadian Northern Ltd., Leslie Salnick, Dr. Walter Silecky & Slawka Iwasykiw, Markian Silecky, Sonia Solomon, Oksana Struk, John & Leslie Tobias, William Woloschuk & Bob Varga, Eugene & Luba Zaraska, William & Natalka Zyla



The Art Songs of Kyrlyo Stetsenko are available for purchase at www.uasp.ca