

String Players from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland

Leader and Solo Violin: Lizzie Gange

Organ: Vincent Wiguna

Conductor: Magnus Plejdrup

We would like to thank the Ukrainian Live Scores project, Lviv National Opera Stand with Ukraine Project, Ukraine Community Choir, and Prayer of Ukraine Project for providing their catalogues of sheet music free of charge at this time.

If you'd like to support them, here are their links:

<https://ukrainianlive.org/ukrainian-scores#aboutENG>

<https://opera.lviv.ua/en/standwithukraine/>

<https://choircommunity.com.ua>

<https://prayerofukraine.com>

Mykola Leontovych – Prelude for choir (arr. Magnus Plejdrup)

Best known for his composition Shchedryk, known more commonly as Carol of the Bells, Leontovych was inspired by Mykola Lyensko and the Ukrainian National Music school, which incorporated elements of folk music into their compositions. He specialised in acapella choral music, writing original pieces, church music and arrangements of folk songs. At aged 43, he was assassinated by a Chekist (Soviet State security) agent.

Prelude is an original composition and was intended as an exercise in vocalization. It has no lyrics, using the constantan "M" throughout, leaving the haunting melody to tell the story.

Valentin Bibik – Dedication for string orchestra and organ

An Honoured artist of Ukraine, Bibik was considered one of the 'leading representatives of Ukrainian music, which came to public attention in the '60s'. His catalogue includes operas, chamber music and symphonic works.

Bibik wrote Dedication in 1985, whilst a lecturer at Kharkiv National Kotlyarevsky University of Arts, his alma mater. It is a very appropriate work for the current situation in Ukraine. The piece starts out with the rich lower strings' melody which conjures a feeling of nostalgia and safety. It takes us on a journey that increasingly gets more inharmonious before the opening material returns towards the end, this time with the added dissonance in the organ. The feeling of nostalgia still remains, and all seems hopeful once more, yet the memory of the conflict abides.

Mykola Lysenko – Prayer for Ukraine (arr. Ben Roundtree)

Mykola Lysenko was a Ukrainian Composer, pianist, conductor and ethnomusicologist of the late romantic era. Much like Grieg in Norway, he founded the Ukrainian music tradition, incorporating elements of folk music and using Ukrainian language in his works to preserve culture.

Prayer for Ukraine has since become the spiritual anthem of Ukraine. Originally published in 1885 written with a children's choir in mind, it became the regular closing hymn in services of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, and other churches.

Frolyak – The Sound of Pinzel



Our Lady, 1758



Annunciation, 1750



Angel, 1760



Crucifixion, 1758



Our Lady, 1754

Bohdana Frolyak (1968-) is a Ukrainian composer, teacher and social activist, who studied under the tutelage of Volodymyr Flys and Myroslav Skoryk at the Lviv Conservatoire, graduating in 1991. That same year, she became a member of the composition faculty at her alma mater. She also holds membership with the Ukrainian Composer's Union.

The Sound of Pinzel, for organ and strings, was commissioned by the Lviv Organ Hall. Frolyak aimed to create a "single musical canvas" through treating the organ as an orchestral instrument, rather than treating it as a separate entity. The sculptors of the late Baroque Eastern Galicia master (now Ukraine) Georg Pinzel gave inspiration to Frolyak in this work. There are 7 sections in the composition, based on the 5 sculptors pictured on the left. Each section of the music is representative of the biblical passages that the sculptures depict. The climax comes at the Crucifixion, with the dissonance and descending chromatic scales delineative of the death of Christ, his life coming to an end before his resurrection.

The order is as follows:

Our Lady (1758),
Annunciation,
Angel,
Crucifixion,
Our Lady (1754),
Angel,
Annunciation

Myroslav Skoryk – Melody in A-minor for solo violin and strings

In 1963, Skoryk became the youngest member of the National Union of composers of Ukraine at the age of 25. He was subsequently awarded the titles People's artist of Ukraine, and Hero of Ukraine.

Melody has become so popular throughout Ukraine, that many consider it folk music, often not realising it is a composition by a contemporary composer. It was written for the film 'High Pass' in 1981, and has become one of the modern symbols of the Holodomor.