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CELEBRATING THE INDOMITABLE SPIRIT OF UKRAINE

On August 24th, 1991 Ukraine declared its independence thus shattering the Soviet Union. This monumental declaration by the Verkhovna Rada (parliament) enabled Ukrainians to reclaim their land from the oppressive Soviet regime and secure their territorial Integrity and sovereignty.

For 32 years, Ukrainians have worked to achieve true democracy and introduce free market reforms. They struggled to shed the yoke of the Russian-Soviet legacy that permeated every aspect of life, and suppressed the Ukrainian people for over three and a half centuries. Ukrainians slowly began to turn their sights on Europe and the promise of Western integration but Russia intervened to prevent a European toehold on its doorstep. Today, Ukraine, a nation of close to 50 million, once again faces invasion by Russia, in a war that has smoldered since 2014, before exploding into overt conflict on February 24th, 2022 a war now designed to eradicate Ukraine as a nation, and Ukrainians as a people, the very definition of a genocide.

For nearly ten years, Ukraine has endured a turbulent and often violent existence. The protests that began in November 2013 as a result of the former tyrannical government's abrupt refusal to sign the European Union-Ukraine Association Agreement transformed into a people's demand for dignity and respect. It is because Ukrainians treasure their freedom and value the principles of democracy – the citizens of Ukraine pulled off a democratic triumph ... they freely elected a new president and proved to the world that they are committed to

democracy, sovereignty, and national unity.

Evil, however, cannot tolerate good on its doorstep. So on February 24th 2022 the Evil Empire of Russia launched an unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. A Ukraine that was to fall in 3 days.

It has now been almost 600 days and Evil is being pushed back.

Today, the people of Ukraine continue to resist and, far too often, sacrifice their lives for freedom, justice, and the attainment of a truly independent Western-focused Ukraine. On this day let us redouble our efforts to assist our global brethren, who truly need us now more than ever. The Ukrainian nation needs our support in finding the strength and fortitude to resist the continued assault by the forces of Evil.

Today, Ukrainians are fighting for their lives. Ukraine is fighting for its survival. This exceedingly grave and dangerous situation compels the world's democratic nations to answer their moral and humanitarian obligation to the people of Ukraine and to strengthen their resolve to assist them.

Today, we who live in the United States of America remember and celebrate the heroes who have given their lives in the struggle for an independent and sovereign Ukraine. Our celebration today is intended to remind us all of the never-ending struggle to remain united, free and sovereign.



Why Americans should help Ukraine



Ukraine gave up its nuclear arms after signing the "Budapest Memorandum" in 1994 in which the US, UK and Russia guaranteed Ukraine's borders and sovereignty. Will another country ever do the same having seen what happened to Ukraine?

If Russia conquers Ukraine and recreates the Soviet Union, the US and Europe will again face an aggressive superpower. Without Ukraine, Russia cannot pose a threat to its neighbors.

Russia has made its expansionist intentions to threaten neighboring countries who are in NATO, and if Russia attacks them the US will be forced into a WWIII

More than ten million people, most of them women and children, have been displaced by Russia's invasion, flooding neighboring countries, overwhelming their resources. The human suffering is enormous.

Ukraine supplies a quarter of the World grain, already food shortages are occurring

Russia is committing Genocide by any definition; will Americans stand by and watch another Holocaust?

Americans have always stood up for Democracy, will they let a Totalitarian Genocidal Russia destroy it?

There has been peace in Europe for 80 years because no country has tried to change its borders by war until now. If Russia's unprecedented and unprovoked invasion is successful, other centuries old grievances will erupt with devastating human and economic consequences for the entire world.

The Ukrainian people are not asking for American troops, just the means to defend themselves against a bloodthirsty dictator, and are shedding their own blood so American boys do not have to

And most of all because: ITS THE RIGHT THING TO DO!





Greetings, "Slava Ukrayini" from the Baran and Coletta Families

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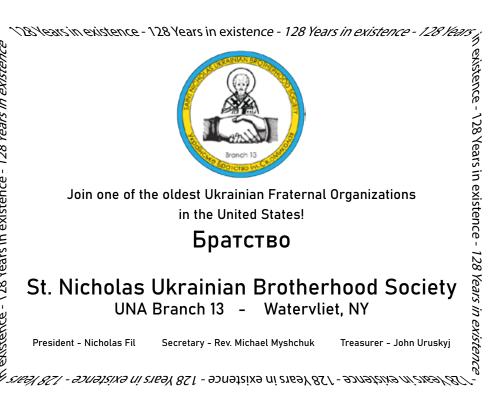


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Capital District Ukrainian Festival

 $commemorating \ the \ anniversary \ of \ Ukrainian \\ independence$



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Cohoes, NY Capital District Ukrainian Festival 17

We stand with Ukraine









PROGRAM SET 2

OLESIA VERZOLE 1. US National Anthem

ALISA SERDYUK 1. Місяць

MARINA SERDYUK

1. Одна Калина

IOHN SENETA AND ROMAN KARPISHKA

Aleluiah
 Oy Chorna

TEREN KUZMA

1. Ой ходить сон- folk arrangement by Olha Buha 2. Something- composition by Ivan Dusanowskyj 3. Пообіцяй мені- my own cover of a song by Odyn v Kanoe 4. Ясени- folk song

YURIY KONEVYCH

1. Стоїть гора високая 2. Осінь 3. Два кольори

IRINA PETRIK

1. Ridna Maty 2. Pry Vatri

IRINA'S STUDENTS - 2 SONGS

1. Solomia Dovgan, 10 y/o - Мальви 2. Anastasia Shuldak, 15 y/o - Чорнобривці

ZOREPAD

1. Pryvit 2. Little Polka

IRINA'S STUDENTS - 2 SONGS

1. Sofia Balanda, 10 y/o - A Я Просто Україночка 2. Oleksii Stopiatiuk, 12 y/o - Хай Сонце Правди Не Зайде

> Zorepad 1. Little Kozachok

SPEECHES FROM DISTINGUISHED GUESTS

UPDATE ON AID TO UKRAINE DR. ANDRIJ BARAN

ALISA SERDYUK 1. Знаю Я

ALISA AND MARINA SERDYUK

1. При долині кущ калини - Pry Dolyni Kushch Kalyny-Viburnum Tree in the Meadow (folk song)

ZOREPAD

1. Hutsul Dance 2. Hopak

JOHN SENETA AND ROMAN KARPISHKA

1. Chas Mynouv (Time Gone By)
2. Chervona Ruta

IRINA

1. Micto

2. Dva Kolopy

3. Donyou

IRINA'S KIDS

1. Sofia, Solomia, Oleksii, Nastya, little Irynka -Заспіваймо Пісню За Україну

TFRFN KUZMA

1. Вечірня Пісня- my arrangement of an art song by Kyrylo Stetsenko
2. Воля- piece by Maryna Krut'
3. Надія Є- my own cover of song by the Mad Heads

YURIY KONEVYCH

1. Чорної брови, карії очі 2. Мальви 3. Гей, ви, козаченьки!

UKRAINIAN SCHOOL CHOIR

1. Ой у лузі червона калина 2. Sche Ne Vmerla Ykraina

ALISA SERDYUK

Alisa Serdyuk is a Ukrainian-American performing artist, singer and actress. Throughout her career, Alisa was privileged to perform as a singer, speaker and actress at various events and celebrations with numerous Ukrainian organizations and communities at Capital District and beyond.

MARINA SERDYUK

Marina Serdyuk is a 10th grade student at Albany Academies, a Graduate of the Capital District School of Ukrainian Studies, as well as a singer, actress, and a dancer at Zorepad Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. Both, Marina and Alisa feel very strongly about this year's Festival goal and encourage you to please do all you can to support this valuable cause - freedom, peace, democracy and prosperity in Ukraine. A special gratitude goes to all the Festival organizers, sponsors, Reverend Fathers, participants, volunteers and welcoming community for their dedication to this noble cause and making this year's event a huge success - we could not have done this without you! Please enjoy the show - you are in for a wonderful treat!

IRINA PETRIK

Praised for her "vivid presence" and "radiant luscious timbre", the Kyiv-born Ukrainian American soprano Irina Petrik is quickly gaining popularity as a charismatic singing actress of today in the United States and beyond. Once a performer with Kazka children theater, and later a resident soloist with the Kyiv Youth Symphony and Choir, Irina graduated with honors and obtained an Artist Diploma from the historic Glière Municipal Academy of Music, where she studied voice performance upon receiving a full four year scholarship from the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

After moving to the United States, Irina obtained her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in California and a Master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey.

Since then Ms. Petrik has performed as a soloist and featured guest artist with the National Operetta Theater of Ukraine, National Philharmonic of Ukraine, Harpa National Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland; New York City Ballet and Orchestra, Opera Saratoga, Syracuse Opera, Arizona Opera, San Francisco Lyric Opera, Hubbard Hall Opera Theater, Lowell House Opera at Harvard University, First Coast Opera, Schenectady Saratoga Symphony, among others.

A versatile and gifted performer, Irina is equally comfortable in genres ranging from opera, operetta and sacred music to musical theater, jazz, contemporary

commercial music and traditional ethnic music. However, Irina's heart undisputedly belongs to Ukrainian traditional music, and she recently celebrated this affinity by releasing an album titled "Songs From The Heart", dedicated to this unique genre and produced together with her dear friend Roman Karpishka, a brilliant Canadian-born guitarist. It is currently available on all platforms worldwide, including Amazon Music, Apple Music, ITunes, Spotify and Pandora.

Irina is a passionate advocate of cultural diplomacy and strives to promote and bring awareness to Ukrainian music, traditions and rich heritage to audiences throughout the globe as an artistic ambassador and educator.

She has performed as a featured guest artist at the Festival of the United Nations in NYC, O-Fest International Festival in Kyiv, Montreal Ukrainian Festival, Denver Ukrainian Festival, Soyuzivka Ukrainian Festival, among others.

In light of the political unrest in Ukraine, Irina was proud to present a Ukrainian opera "Cossack Beyond the Danube" in New York which she co-produced in collaboration with Boston-based Commonwealth Lyric Theater and Zorepad Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. The project was met with much critical acclaim and enthusiasm, premiering to a sold out audience at the SUNY Albany Performing Arts Center in 2015.

In 2018 Irina received a Top 40 Under 40 Award from the Department of Culture of Ukraine and was given an honored alumna status by her alma mater Glière Municipal Academy of Music on its 150th anniversary in Kyiv.

After a full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Putin in 2022, Irina launched UCVP, the Ukrainian Classical Voice Project, a groundbreaking and timely educational initiative focused on illuminating Ukrainian vocal music, bringing up the subject of cultural appropriation of Ukrainian repertoire and popularizing Ukrainian classical arias and art songs among students and professional performers of all ages.

Since the beginning of the war, Irina made it her mission to spread the word about her nation's fight for freedom in academic circles and beyond. She conducted Ukrainian diction workshops, seminars on underrepresented composers of Ukraine and lecture recitals at the NATS National Association of Teachers of Singing at Skidmore College, Rio Hondo College in California, Philomela Women's Ensemble in Virginia, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Troy Music Hall in New York, The Friday Club of Chicago, SUNY Oswego, with many more planned for 2023-2024 school year. In addition to her busy performing schedule, she

serves as a voice professor and lecturer at The College of Saint Rose in Albany, NY and Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY.

YURIY KONEVYCH

Ternopil, Ukraine - Montreal, Canada

Yuriy Konevych is a lyrical tenor from Montreal with a large experience of in stage performance and who possesses classical vocal talent. Yuriy has been singing with multiple choirs as well as the OSM choir. He performed at various festivals and official events around Canada. In his repertoire, there is mainly classical music, Ukrainian baroque works, Ukrainian folk songs, world classical arias, and art songs. Yuriy mastered vocal at McGill Conservatory.

TERYN KUZMA

Ukrainian-American soprano Teryn Kuzma is a versatile performer and musician of classical, contemporary, musical theater, and folk repertoire. She is thrilled to be joining the team of OnSite Opera in NYC to cover the roles of "Frog" and "Mechanical Nightingale" in their new production of Song of the Nightingale, a contemporary work with music by Lisa Despain and libretto by Melissa Tien. Most recently, she sang in the chorus of the Bard SummerScape's production of Camille Saint-Saëns' opera, Henry VIII. This past year, she sang in her culminating Masters Degree recital, "Songs of Strength", at Bard Conservatory, and had the immense pleasure of workshopping the lead role of "H'ala" in Layale Chaker's dynamic new opera, Ruinous Gods, with Spoleto Festival USA. Her performance credits include the title role of "Vixen" in Leoš Janáček's opera, The Cunning Little Vixen, and singing the role of "Luisa" with Ohio Light Opera in The Fantasticks.

Since the escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War in February of 2022, she has taken part in over a dozen benefit concerts for humanitarian aid, in addition to organizing and performing in "Bard Musicians in Support of Ukraine", a student-led concert which raised over \$4,000 in aid for the Help Us Help Charity. Over the past five years, Teryn has performed as a featured artist with Hartford Opera Theater, UConn Opera Theater, Toronto Summer Music Festival, Berkshire Opera Festival, and the Ukrainian Art Song Project in Toronto. In addition to her emerging singing career, Teryn is also devoted to maintaining the art of the bandura and Ukrainian music. In these solo recitals and special performances, she brings together the unique beauty of bandura with her voice. Since moving to Brooklyn, she has been working alongside Zoya Shepko of the band, Korinya, to revive the New York Bandura School, and looks forward to many performances to come in NYC. Originally from Connecticut, she began studying voice at the Hartt School of Music. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Connecticut and her recent Masters Degree from the Bard

Graduate Vocal Arts Program. There, she studied with esteemed faculty members Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Kayo Iwama, and Stephanie Blythe. For more information and upcoming events, visit www.terynkuzma.com

IOHN SENETA

John's musical career started at the tender age of five when he first began playing the mandolin. Perhaps because it was his first, the mandolin became his best-loved instrument.

John is a multi-instrumentalist who was formally educated at Berklee College of Music in Boston (Arranging &Composition) and received his degree in Music Theory from the University at Albany.

He began honing his performance skills with a number of ethno-centric groups (primarily Music of Ukrainian origin) until his Berklee days. From that point on he has performed with rock/jazz fusion groups; as a soloist (where in Manhattan he performed regularly at Folk City as part of the Young Composers Concert Series); performed and recorded with no less than twenty performing groups in the Long Island, New Jersey, and Philadelphia areas. He appeared as a guest classical mandolin soloist with Sinclair Productions, as well as being principal mandola in the Munier Classical mandolin and guitar Orchestra of Philadelphia.

His eclectic writing and playing styles are uniquely his own. He continues performing with various ensembles as well as a soloist.

ROMAN KARPISHKA

A Canadian-born music enthusiast living in upstate New York for over 20 years, Roman Karpishka has been refining his guitar skills for over 4 decades. As a musician performing in bands since the tender age of 13, Roman has dedicated most of his musical career to the pursuit of creating, interpreting and refining folk and modern music for audiences throughout North America. A self-professed musical gear nut, Roman enjoys collecting guitars and all kinds of musical equipment to add to his studio where the band rehearses on a regular basis. As a founding member of Code Groove, Roman is very excited and proud to be part of a well-oiled funk machine whose membership is graced by some of the Capital Region's finest musicians. Aside from his musical interests, Roman is a dedicated husband and father of three amazing children.



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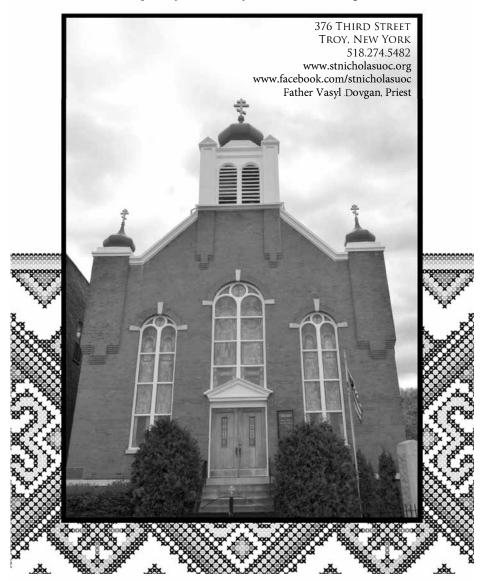
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a note from Paul Tonko





The Capital Region Ukrainian community has contributed so much to the rich tapestry that our region celebrates today.

Yet today overseas, Ukrainians are yet again needlessly fighting for their lives and their very national identity. In Congress, I will continue to support the aid Ukraine requires to end this new fight.

The resilience and spirt of Ukrainian people is an example to the world. Thank you for all you do for the Capital Region.

Paid for and authorized by Paul Tonko for Congress





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Yuliya Loytra

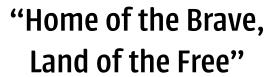
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Capital District Ukrainian Festival





All the Best, **Margaret and John Gatti**

Cohoes, NY



Українська Католицька Церква Св. Миколая St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church 24 Pulaski St. Amsterdam NY 12010



Best Wishes on 32-th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence!

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Україно моя незалежна, ти як поле квітуче, безмежна, Волошкове блакитне роздолля, твоя пісня про Щастя і Волю Ти незламна на стику епох, бо з Тобою Господь сам і Бог!

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Happy Ukrainian Independence Day!

Best Wishes on 32-th Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence!

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"Господи Боже наш, охорони всіх людей України нашої, в час тяжких випробовувань, Ти бо єси кріпость, захист і спасіння людям твоїм, І ми Тобі Славу, Подяку та Поклін засилаємо.'

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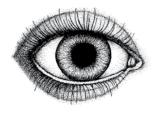
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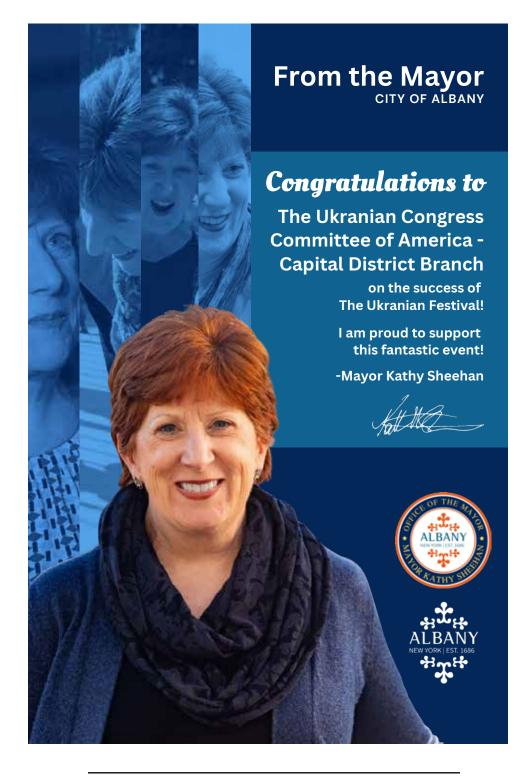
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Cohoes, NY

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Dr. George Boyar & Dr. Myra Rubycz-Boyar





The dedication and hard work the Ukrainian Diaspora has exhibited in their tireless support of Ukraine during these horrifically difficult times is indicative of the love and commitment we have to our ancestral home.

We commend the work that UCCA Capital District and 518 Ukrainians have been doing without abatement or rest in supplying Ukraine with military and humanitarian aid. Working together we are ensuring Ukraine's survival and providing moral support to our brethren in their greatest hour of need.

Orphans Aid Society has been supporting orphans in home environments in Ukraine since 1992. In 2014 we expanded our focus to orphans of fallen soldiers. Today, in addition to aiding orphans, we also provide aid to families who lost their homes, who lost their only sons to the war and returning soldiers, coming home severely wounded and requiring long term care.

We pray Ukraine will be victorious, territorially united, on its way to being the strong, stable world leader it deserves to be.

Слава Україні



Героям Слава