

The Gazette

OF MUSIC MISSION KIEV

Music/Widows/Orphans and Children/Church/Victims of War

KYIV SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA AND CHOIR ENDS THE 2018-2019 SEASON

by Anastasiia Tkachuk

Life changes all the time, but music is something that remains forever. Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus ended their 2018-2019 season with a concert of hymns and spirituals. But they had a long season to reach that point.

Here are the greatest highlights of a fruitful KSOC concert season.

It started with the big mid-West American tour in September and October. 40 Musicians performed over 38 concerts in many different towns of the USA. They were received with glowing reviews after each concert.

It doesn't matter what language you speak. It doesn't matter what traditions you follow. Music is the international language which connects people's hearts.

KSOC is involved in different ministries of Music Mission Kiev. One of such ministries is serving widows and IDPs in Druzhkivka. When musicians came back from the American tour, their first concert was in Druzhkivka. The music of KSOC became a valuable spiritual support and joy for people they serve. After concerts, many people came to our musicians and conductors, just to hug and express their gratitude. What a blessing to serve others through music! "Hope" and "Light" were commonly shared as descriptions of people's experience with the KSOC.

Winter is always one big celebration for KSOC because it's the time of the Christmas concert! I'll tell you a secret, dear reader, this concert is a favorite for all musicians! White snow outside the window, fabulous music and the Good News of Christ's birth. All of that fill hearts with joy and hope which musicians share with a grateful audience.

Winter also became a time of changes. It brought a new Principal Conductor and Artistic Director for KSOC — Viktoriia Konchakovska. She has been working with MMK for 26 years. For all of these years she proved her faithfulness and love to KSOC.



Hymns and Spirituals, May 2019

Retiring Principal Conductor, Dr. Wes Janzen, led his last concert before retirement in February with a powerful presentation of *Brahm's Requiem* in Ukraine's native language. There was a full orchestra and choir producing a heavenly sound. Many tributes were made to the Janzens. There were tears of joy and sadness as goodbyes and thank you comments were shared with the Janzens.

Viktoriia's first concert as the Principal Conductor began with a premiere. KSOC performed French music by Poulenc and Faure. One of the compositions was "Cum Jubilo" by Poulenc. This piece was performed for the first time in Ukraine! This music aroused great interest and resonated among the audience. God definitely blessed a new, previously unknown way, for KSOC to bless those attending.

Rachmaninov Vespers was presented by the KSOC at the Patriarchal Cathedral of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church in April. The audience simply loved it. An art critic who works for *MUSIC*, one of the leading Ukrainian magazines in this field, attended the concert. In her article "Rachmaninov's Vespers Heals Human Souls", she praised the KSOC interpretation of this outstanding work. The way it sounded was "second to none," she said.

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On May 13, Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus had their last concert of the season. Music of hymns and spirituals was truly majestic! People attended it from Kyiv, as well as a group of Americans here for the Helping Hands Mission trip. There were tears of joy on the faces of many in the audience, to hear these favorite hymns and spirituals. It was a true worship service.

"The LORD is my strength and my defense; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father's God, and I will exalt him". *Exodus 15:2*



End of Season Concert, May 2019



KSOC Final Concert, May 2019

Ukraine's National Day of Prayer

Ukraine's National Day of Prayer was held Saturday, June 8 in the Sports Palace located in downtown Kyiv. This gathering included all the major denominational leaders and Bishops who spoke as a representative of their individual churches. They each had a specific topic to pray on and seek God's favor. Some read or recited Scriptures, some shared the realistic needs in Ukraine today.

As the Music Mission Kiev group was walking into the Sports Palace, there was a buzz of energy and anticipation of the things we were about to experience together. Serhiy Basarab (VP of Ukraine Operations), Lena Sagun (Director of Widow's Ministry), Oksana Polevichenko (Leader of Outreach to orphans at Stara Basan and to the Young War Widows), and Greg Kannon (CEO) were given special guest passes to the event. The reserved seats were on the fifth row at the very center of the stage. What an experience to worship and pray with 10,000 believers, for Ukraine, Great Britain, and America.

The only fully Protestant orchestra in Ukraine was on stage for all the music and they were fantastic. There were several different soloists, 2 children's choirs, and 3 different adult choirs, plus one Messianic Jewish choir, who shared a rousing song with a Jewish rhythm. Some of the songs were familiar to Americans, although many were not, but the sound of 10,000 voices accompanied by a full orchestra brought chills. It was a preview of heaven stated in Revelations 7, where people of every language, culture, and tribe will gather around the Throne to praise and worship Jesus.

One major theme heard several times was 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says, "If my people, who belong to me, humble themselves, pray, seek to please me, and repudiate their sinful practices, then I will respond from



Ukraine's National Day of Prayer at Kyiv Sport's Palace

heaven, forgive their sin, and heal their land." (See also Jeremiah 29: 12-14)

They prayed for the family, the economic and political crisis, for Ukraine's prosperity and needs. Prayers were said for Peace and the end of the aggression and bloodshed in the East; for the end of corruption in the political and business practices; for their upcoming elections in July; for children and teenagers; and many other specific topics.

However, it was the prayers for the Church, to be the first to **repent** for disunity and enmity so they may become pure and holy as God's ambassadors in Ukraine, which drew the greatest responses in the crowd.

They fervently prayed for unity in the churches and Body of Christ so they may be part of the transformative work Ukraine desperately needs. People prayed loudly for these needs all over the Sports Palace.

Ukraine's situation is reaching unhealthy proportions as over 700 people a day are moving out of Ukraine. This is mainly their young people, their brightest and best, moving to where they can make enough money to live and support their families. The birth rate has dropped drastically and the senior population is growing exponentially.

Ukraine needs **YOUR** prayers too!

Please take this time to pray for Ukraine, for our mission to be worthy of the calling Jesus places upon us. We also covet your prayers for our MMK employees, donors, and finances as we move into the slow months of summer, when everyone is busy and the heat is overbearing.

May the name of Jesus be lifted high!

MMK Leaders Attend the VIII Presidential Prayer Breakfast of Ukraine



Presidential Prayer Breakfast

On May 30, 2019, the VIII Presidential Prayer Breakfast of Ukraine was held in the Ukrainian House in Kyiv. Through Serhiy Basarab's relationships, God opened the door for three leaders from

Music Mission Kiev to attend the breakfast. You had to get up early to get through the security, register, and find your table. Serhiy Basarab, VP of Ukraine Operations, Vika Konchavskya, Principal Conductor for the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, and Greg Kannon, CEO of MMK, were seated in different areas of the hall. It was a true privilege to be invited and included in this major event for Ukraine.

This was the largest Prayer Breakfast held in Europe (to date) with a reported one-thousand plus, people in attendance. In only its eighth year, this event proved to be a historical production for Ukraine. The event was in high demand and many people were not able to attend because they could not obtain the needed special invitations. One of the United States organizers of the US Presidential Prayer Breakfast was in attendance and brought words of encouragement for Ukraine and this special prayer breakfast.

This was the first time, the representatives from all over Ukraine traveled to Kyiv to participate in the prayer breakfast, rather than small regional gatherings. An impressive list of international dignitaries from 20 different countries were present including representatives of the EU and the United States, which had several speakers at the breakfast. Church and denominational leaders, politicians, military chaplains, journalist, celebrities from music and movies in Ukraine, including the Chairperson of the Verkhovna Rada (Supreme Council/Parliament) of Ukraine, Andriy Parubiy, took part in the Prayer Breakfast.

The morning's program began with a minute of silence for the deceased miners from Lviv region (which had recently occurred) and defenders of Ukraine in Donbas. Then a powerful presentation of The Prayer of Ukraine was sung by 24 members of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus. Our KSOC members got up hours earlier to travel and present a single song for the gathering. They then changed back to their normal

clothes and headed off to work for the day. This was such a high level of commitment by our singers.

The Ukrainian Hall of Kyiv was set up on two levels with round tables seating eight people from different groups and areas represented. Many new introductions occurred as well as many reconnections with previous friends and acquaintances. English translation was provided through headphones to anyone who needed it.

"As long as we pray — God hears us, as long as we open our hearts — He will bless us. As long as we pray, His hand will be spread over our country" said Valeriy Antoniuk, Chairman of the All-Ukrainian Union of Churches of Evangelical Christian Baptists. Prayers went on for 3 hours by the many representatives chosen to participate. Traditionally, everyone stands during the prayers and then is seated again at their table. Our team may have gotten more exercise in those prayer times than they had experienced in three months.

The Church was challenged to pray for the authorities and the president, to profess the importance of biblical values and abide by them in the development of the country. The upcoming election of the Parliament, in July, was prayed for righteous and integrity filled men and women to be elected and help change Ukraine for the betterment of all Ukraine's people. Prayer covered every specific topic you can imagine and it felt like it was a thorough time of saturating prayer for the life and culture of Ukraine. Of course, peace and the end of foreign aggression and bloodshed were prayed over multiple times. We forget what a privilege we have to live in America, with no war and destruction on our native soil.

Typically, a charity event is included with fund raising, at the breakfast. This year, the funds were raised for the purchase of medical equipment for cancer patients. It appeared people were generous and supportive of this initiative.

Several times the Lord's Prayer was prayed with everyone participating. This was also how the event concluded.



Presidential Prayer Breakfast entrance

A Good Question on Accountability

Recently, the group of Americans attending the Helping Hands Mission trip, finished the devotional time with the staff and were encouraged to ask about anything they would like to know about Music Mission Kiev's (MMK) operations there in Kyiv. The dialogue was open and encouraging for everyone. It was amazing to hear how God is working in so many facets of the ministries we serve in Ukraine. MMK has a great team in place in our Kyiv office.



St Paul's Church service

A very good question was asked by one of the Americans from the Helping Hands group. They asked Lena Sagun, Director of our Widow's Ministry, "how does the Widows' Ministry team account for the food support and service to our widows and the home-bound widows?" Lena then answered how the process works and we were all thankful for the steps being taken to ensure we are being good stewards of the resources God provides through our donors.

Lena went on to describe the process for the widows/pensioners who receive food vouchers each week after the Thursday Widows' Bible Study and the Men's Study Group, held at Christ Cathedral Church. It is across town from the MMK offices but accessible to our widows through the Kyiv public transportation options.



Ronnie with Widow & Matthew on Home Visit



Trees Planted by Helping Hands Mission Group from 4 Years Ago



Students Gathering at Stara Basan



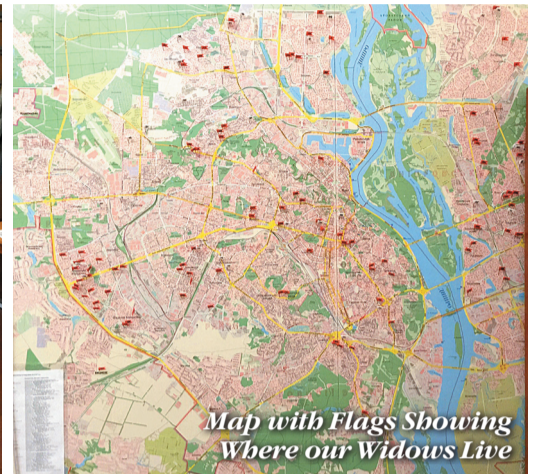
Stara Basan children and Helping Hands Participants



Helping Hands Mission Participants with Dr Vadym & Eye Care Ministry Widows



Widow's Leaving Dinner Gathering



Map with Flags Showing Where our Widows Live



Flowers Helping Hands group planted in the past



Josiah, Domla & Nina Home Visit



Stara Basan children and Helping Hands Mission Participants



Lydia helping with Craft Project at Stara Basan



Girl with Mosaic Cross at Stara Basan

Each person who is part of the program is given a ticket when they check in for the service. The MMK team does a great job of registering them each week, but also noticing who is not showing up. This provides the team the opportunity to follow up and check in on the person who missed the study.

At the conclusion of the musical worship, prayer, and Bible study lesson, they are dismissed by row and their ticket is

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Children Who Have Experienced Trauma or Loss

by Iryna Donochenko

Our Mission was asked to assist with the organization of a seminar. The topic of this seminar was important and relevant. It's summer. We do camps. We work with children.

Children are our inheritance! How can we raise children and help them if they are traumatized?

We do camps for children from the Eastern Ukraine and I know firsthand how many children and youth are traumatized by war and bad family relationships participate in camps. All of them need support. Their souls need healing!



We all experienced a warm, family-like atmosphere. Completely different people who saw each other for the first time bonded quickly.



We learned a lot from our teachers, Dr. James Witty and Dr. Becca Jordan-Irwin. Our MMK team of Iryna Donochenko and Oksana Polevichenko had already completed the Level 1 training with Dr. Witty and were there to assist.

It was a blessed time of studies and fellowship! These are some comments and feedback from seminar participants:

"Iryna, I would like to thank you one more time for the organization of the seminar. It was a blessing for me! Thank you for your care and for my lodging for the night that you organized. Thank you that I received a double blessing! May those seeds that you sowed bring back a hundredfold return — "good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over". I'm grateful to God for you!" *Yuliia, Dobropillia*

The decision to do training — to teach church ministers, leaders of children's ministries and mentors of the upcoming camp was made by our Mission. The original plan was to hold a seminar in Sviatohorsk, but then we moved it to Druzhkivka.

Friendship with local churches allowed us to find a venue for event promptly — Church of Christ's Design.

I called different pastors and told them about the upcoming seminar. They agreed that the topic was relevant.

The seminar was held on May, 24-25. We had 37-40 people, the representatives of 8 churches from Slaviansk, Toretsk, Kramatorsk, Druzhkivka, Dobropillia, Kurakhovo.

"Iryna, thank you so much! It was a blessed and very useful seminar!" *Oksana, Kurakhovo*

"Thanks a lot for invitation! The seminar was very useful and practical! I'll share and apply acquired knowledge". *Nataliia Rostovskaya, Kramatorsk*

"The seminar was very timely. Thanks to the organizers and speakers. May God bless each of you!" *Liubava Bepalova, Druzhkivka*

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punched by an MMK employee. They move to the distribution desk in the foyer where they exchange their punched ticket for their voucher. Each week around 350 widows/pensioners attend and then move through the line to receive their voucher. All of the Americans visiting were impressed with how organized the process was and how quickly it was completed.

Upon the completion of the Thursday widows' program — the leftover food vouchers are brought back to the office and given to Volodya, MMK comptroller, and then placed under lock and key, for safe-keeping. To ensure that all the proper procedures are followed, Volodya regularly reviews the lists of the recipients of food vouchers. This is how we watch out for each other.

We also currently serve about 107 home-bound widows. The volunteer Stephen's Ministry team or one of our employees visits the home-bound each week. They communicate to find out what type of food the person needs, then goes to the grocery store and selects the food. They then



travel to the person's apartment/home and deliver the food, spend time reading Scripture, praying, and visiting in general with our lonely widows stuck at home.

Afterward, the person serving our widows gives a detailed report (sometimes including pictures) of the visit and how the home-bound person is doing over all. They can also report what type of help the widow may need with their health or other challenges. All of this is given to Lena, who is charting our efforts in caring for these widows, so no one is left out or falls through the cracks of the mission.

To expand on this great follow up, our widow's team staff then contact the recipients to ask how they like their Stephen's Minister? Was this a good match for them? How are they being taken care of by our team? This is great accountability and follow through for all of us.

What a great question and answer on accountability to encourage all of us.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT!

Our address: **Music Mission Kiev, 286 Wilshire Blvd., Casselberry, Florida 32707**

You may find more information on our new website: www.musicmissionkiev.org

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Office Telephone: **1-800-467-5051**

Office E-mail: info@musicmissionkiev.org

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