



The Third International Music
KYIV FESTIVAL 2006
20 -27 April 2006

Press release

Britten Festival Kyiv 2004, the inaugural edition of the Kyiv Festival, was held under the auspices of the Benjamin Britten International Violin Competition London. The Britten Competition is owned and operated by Goodenough College, a London academic institution whose patron is HM The Queen. The aims of the first Kyiv Festival were not only to promote the Britten Competition in Ukraine and provide the platform on which one of the future editions of the Competition could be brought to Kyiv, but also to promote British music as a whole and the works of Benjamin Britten in particular, to support Ukrainian music and artists and to facilitate and encourage cultural cooperation between the United Kingdom and Ukraine.

While the first Festival's theme could be described as "Ukraine – Great Britain" (the climax of the Festival was a staged performance, the first time in Ukraine, of Britten's *War Requiem*), the leitmotif of the Second edition of the Kyiv Festival was "Ukraine - Europe". It aimed to promote Ukraine's deeper integration into European political and cultural life whilst retaining the Festival's strong ties with Great Britain and the Benjamin Britten International Violin Competition. Kyiv Festival 2005 was held over two weeks in the most prestigious concert halls of Kyiv and Lviv featuring outstanding Ukrainian and foreign artists performing diverse, often unusual repertoire.

The second Festival also incorporated a Week of Cooperation, unique of its kind, between two distinguished music academies: the Guildhall School of Music and Drama (London) and the National Music Academy of Ukraine (Kyiv) - an artistic and educational project that included an opera performance (*Turn of the Screw* by Britten), concerts and masterclasses.

The Third Kyiv Festival will take place 20 - 27 April in Kyiv at the National Philharmonic Hall and the National Music Academy and will continue the trends established by the earlier festivals. Once again works by Ukrainian and other composers will be performed by a number of distinguished international artists. In addition, the Festival will pay special tribute to W. A. Mozart whose 250th anniversary is celebrated this year worldwide. Mozart's works will be strongly featured as well as music by 20th and 21st century composers who were particularly inspired by Mozart's genius such as Alban Berg, Benjamin Britten and Valentine Sylvestrov. Most importantly, the Festival will consistently place Ukrainian music within a pan-European framework, since the development of a strong profile for Ukraine in the family of leading world nations is only possible through an active promotion of unique Ukrainian culture in an international context.

The Festival Director is Alla Andreicheva. The artistic vision and programming is shared between Bogodar Kotorovych, Yevhen Stankovych, Dmytro Tkachenko and Vasyl Vovkun. Major General Tim Toyne Sewell, chairman of the Britten Competition, is the Festival Chairman for the third year running. The Festival takes place in association with the National Music Academy, National Philharmonic Society, National Symphony Orchestra, Kyiv Philharmonic Orchestra, National Chamber Ensemble "*Kyiv Camerata*", State Chamber Ensemble "*Kyiv Soloists*" and others. Major sponsors are Gilles Hondius Foundation (The Netherlands) and ISA Corporation (Ukraine); the official carrier is Ukraine International Airlines. The Closing Concert, commemorating 20 years from the Chornobyl tragedy and 75 years from composer Michael Tariverdiev birth, is a joint project with the Embassy of Russian Federation in Ukraine, the Fund Promoting Development of Arts (Ukraine) and the Michael Tariverdiev Foundation.

Kyiv Festival is organised annually by the BUU International Music Agency – London, Kyiv, Tokyo.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

20 April, Thursday, 19:00 – Opening Concert at the National Philharmonia with the National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine conducted by Victor Ploskina. Soloist – Valeria Kucherenko (piano). Programme to include pieces by Brahms and Mussorgsky.

21 April, Friday, 19:00 – Concert at the National Philharmonia with the Kyiv Philharmonic Orchestra conducted by Mykola Diadiura. Soloist – Dima Tkachenko (violin). Programme to include works by Mozart, Skoryk, Berg and Britten.

21 April, Friday, 19:15 - "*Camerata Time*" - Concert at the House of Scientist (vul. Volodymyrska 45) with the National chamber ensemble "*Kyiv Camerata*" conducted by Valery Matiukhin. Soloists - Bohdana Pivnenko (violin), Bohdana Stelmashenko (flute), Dmytro Tavanets (piano) and Oles Yasko (violin). Programme to include works by Almasi, Pärt and Stankovych. Free admission

22 April, Saturday, 17:30 – Piano recital by Stephen Gutman (Great Britain) at the Maly Hall of the National Music Academy. Programme to include pieces by Berg, Sylvestrov, Tippett and a selection of piano versions of Ukrainian folk songs specially written for the concert by composers O.Bezborodko, Y.Braha, M.Denysenko, M.Kovalinas, H.Liashenko, O.Skrypnyk, I.Taranenko and V.Yantso (first performances). Free admission.

24 April, Monday, 10:00 – "*Johanna Hondius Prize*" – winner announcement, award ceremony, concert and reception – at the Embassy of The Netherlands in Ukraine. Invitations only. Winner announced at the Festival website after 11am.

24 April, Monday, 12:00 – Pianist Stephen Gutman's masterclass at the Choir Hall of the National Music Academy. Free admission.

25 April, Tuesday, 19:00 – Concert at the Great Hall, National Music Academy, with the Chamber Ensemble *Kyiv Soloists* conducted by Bogodar Kotorovych. Soloists – Myroslava Kotorovych (violin) and Oleg Bezborodko (piano). Programme to include pieces by Mozart and Britten.

26 April, Wednesday, 12:00 – "*Violin Queen of Music, or what distinguishes instruments of great makers*" – masterclass of the violin expert Florian Leonhard (Germany – UK) at the Choir Hall, National Music Academy. Free admission.

27 April, Thursday, 19:00 – "*Quo vadis*" - commemorating 20 years from the Chernobyl tragedy and 75th anniversary from composer Michael Tariverdiev birth, in association with the Embassy of Russia, the Fund Promoting Development of Arts and the Michael Tariverdiev Foundation - Closing Concert at the National Philharmonic Hall with the Choir of the Kyiv Municipal Theatre of Opera and Ballet for Children and Youth under Angela Maslennikova and the *Kyiv Camerata* Chamber Ensemble conducted by Valery Matiukhin. Soloists – Vitaly Alfavitsky (clarinet), Taras Bahynets (organ), Oleksandr Gurets (tenor), István Matias (organ), Max Rysanov (viola), Bohdana Stelmashenko (flute), Andriy Tuchapets (viola) and Taras Shtonda (bass). Programme to include Symphony for organ "*Chornobyl*" by M. Tariverdiev and works by Britten, Hulak-Artemovsky, Mozart, Stankovych and Sviridov.

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