



Spring 2010 Newsletter

St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church, Egremont



President's Message

Russell Dmytryk



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ!

Welcome to all of our members and guests who attend our parish to worship and pray.

I wish to thank Father Alex, our board, and all members for their dedication and achievements over the past year. Our parish held our annual general meeting on January 19, 2010 with Father Alex and eight members in attendance. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some highlights from the meeting.

With the support of all our parish members and others who assisted by volunteering their time and other resources, we had a very successful year.

A major project undertaken in 2009 was the work completed on the Educational hall. The old siding was removed and new siding was installed, along with new windows and doors. We applied for a grant to assist with these expenses; however, the grant will not cover the total cost.

The back door to the church has been replaced. To improve security of the church property we would like to proceed with erecting a fence and gate. We are appealing to our faithful and their families to give

generously toward this next project. Every donation is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Stanley and Terry Dmytryk for donating a stove to replace the old stove that we presently have in the kitchen at the hall.

This summer we will be meeting with our Heritage Conservation Advisor from Historic Resources, Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. We need to consult with the Advisor about appropriate design and other requirements for replacing the front doors on the church.

Please join us for our XPAM on Sunday, July 4, 2010. On that occasion, we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of the M. Hrushevsky Educational Hall. Below is a photo of the original hall.

Yours in Christ,
R. Dmytryk



M. Hrushevsky Educational Hall, Egremont



Food for Thought

Very Reverend Father Alexandre V. Palamarchuk

One should receive the Sacrament of Holy Unction, so that your body and soul may be healed through the power of God. According to the Orthodox Church, "A sacrament is an outward sign of inward grace. It is holy because Christ instituted it especially to convey the saving power of God, Who works mysteriously upon those in His spiritual household."

The Purpose of Holy Unction

"The Sacrament of Holy Unction is one of these seven sacraments. It is the anointing with oil of the body of the sick person for the purpose of healing him of his spiritual and physical afflictions. Holy Unction has a threefold purpose: the forgiveness of sins, the healing of the soul, the curing of bodily illness."

The Requirements for Holy Unction

"In order to receive the Sacrament of Holy Unction,

it is necessary first to confess one's sins and to receive Holy Communion. The person desiring to receive this sacrament must be a member of the Holy Orthodox Church.

The priest administers this sacrament to the sick by anointing the person with holy oil on the forehead, the nose, the eyes, the ears, the lips, the chest, the hands and feet, praying and making the Sign of the Cross with each anointing."

In times of illness a person should not hesitate to call their priest, to spiritually assist in these matters.

Jesus Christ is the answer. It is written that, "If you call upon me in time of trouble, I will come to your rescue and you shall honor me." (Psalm 50:15)



Becoming a Cantor

V.A. Chorney

The office of cantor, initially an honorary position, originated in the Jewish synagogues. From early times it was the custom to appoint a lay member to represent the congregation in prayer. In the sixth century poetic prayer forms were developed, and with them more complicated music, thus requiring professional cantors. In the early Christian church, cantors, known as "precenters", had charge over the musical portion of the service. As the music developed into harmonized choral singing, the leadership of responsorial singing fell to the choir master. The cantor was left to sing or chant the many special hymns and psalms specifically included in the Divine Service.

A cantor must know the church music and the structure of the services. Each service is composed

of constant elements to which changeable elements are added, depending on the liturgical calendar. There are in excess of thirty basic books and the Good Shepherd prayer book in the church library that the cantor must be thoroughly familiar with. There is actually so much to learn that, for example, in the Ukraine, to become an accredited cantor one must attend cantor school for two full years.

As opposed to the cantor in Ukraine who learns everything, we in Canada learn only the limited services served in our parishes. Never the less, I and other cantor students find ourselves in a life-long apprenticeship with the support from our parish priests and the Alberta Benevolent Cantor Association (ABCA) which is based at the St .Elia's

Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Edmonton.

The ABCA provides funding for all instruction requirements, maintains a website, facilitates workshops and the weekly cantor school.

Each cantor student receives a personal critique of their singing, is provided with singing lessons and has access to voice training. This is all available to anyone for a mere \$2.00 annual membership fee.

The cantor workshops and school began under Very Rev. Fr. Georg Podtepa's leadership. He also developed the Cantors' Association website (www.albertacantors.ca) through which he provides assistance to all cantors.

The cantor school of 2009/10 has four components: first is the theory with Fr. C. Zubritsky; second is the USTAV practicum with Fr. G. Podtepa; thirdly is the St. John's Cathedral practicum, an English liturgy every second Sunday of the month with Fr. C. Zubritsky; and fourthly, a weekday practicum at St. Elia's with Fr. G. Podtepa and cantor, Dan Kobasiuk.

In this year's program there are a total of seventeen students and student instructors. The students are encouraged to participate in special services such as the Liturgy of Pre-sanctified Gifts at St Anthony's, or attend an All Night Vigil for St. Barbara at the St. Barbara Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Edmonton. The entire cantor school is expected to be "the choir" for a Passia Service at St. Elia's.



There are additional requirements of cantors as to decorum and etiquette in church. This may include anything from the cantor's attire, to payment. For example, remuneration is referred to as "Gift's of Love" and is entirely voluntary. Cantors should not negotiate fees; if any payment is offered, it should come through the priest. Cantors are expected to go to confession and take communion frequently.

My spiritual journey began as a parish member; the parish then became in need of a president; next there was a need for a delegate to attend Sobor; our church choir needed male singers; finally, Fr. Alex suggested that I consider cantoring.

My spiritual growth has never been planned, nor have I had any specific goals. It has just been the result of my love for music, a keen interest in history, a "habit" of lifelong learning and my Faith. Hardly a day goes by that I don't play my accordion, sing church music for practice, learn something new, or prepare for the following Sunday Divine Liturgy.



It is not uncommon for student cantors to begin preparing themselves as early as Wednesday for the following Sunday Divine Liturgy.

Rarely do I need to stand in for our cantor, but I am almost always prepared simply because I enjoy music, and an important requirement of a cantor is to be prepared.

Remembering Mike Buhay

On October 4, 2009, our parish lost a loyal, long time member when Mike Buhay passed away at the age of 93.

Mike was born at home on the farm in Egremont on August 12, 1916 to Harry and Katherine Buhay. He was the second child in a family that grew to seven girls and two boys.

The Buhay family have been constant supporters of this church since its inception. Mike joined the church in his youth. He sang in the choir, participated in services and picnics and especially enjoyed going from house to house caroling at Ukrainian Christmas.

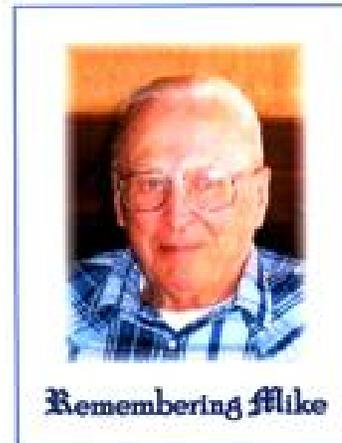
He took great pride in helping to maintain not only the church building itself, but the surrounding grounds as well. He could often be seen driving his riding lawn mower down the road to cut the grass at the church, hall, and cemetery. His dedication to these tasks will never be duplicated.

Mike loved the land and all the various animals he had over the years. He was particularly proud of his cattle which he treated like pampered pets.

Mike liked to curl and won many prizes and trophies, he enjoyed playing Bingo and cards, and having coffee at least twice a day, with his buddies.

He was a good friend and neighbour – always willing to lend a helping hand to whoever needed it.

Mike will be remembered for his ready smile and gentle nature. He took delight in life's simple pleasures and lived his life with integrity, caring and a generous spirit. He is deeply missed by all who knew him, but will always be remembered.



Ukrainian Voice Celebrates 100 Years

The Ukrainian Canadian newspaper published in Winnipeg, Ukrainian Voice (“Ukrainski Holos”), celebrates its 100th anniversary in 2010. The newspaper is the oldest Ukrainian newspaper in Canada and one of the oldest multicultural newspapers in Canada.

“Ukrainian Voice” was initiated by a circle of bilingual Ukrainian-English teachers in Winnipeg in 1910. It soon grew to a newspaper that embraced the entire country and especially the prairie provinces.

The newspaper reported on world issues, on life and problems in Ukraine, on Ukrainian Canadian matters and highlighted the life of the many organizations and

institutions in Canada and the diaspora.

The newspaper was a life line to all things Ukrainian for the first three waves of Ukrainian pioneers to Canada. At its height the newspaper had a circulation of 40,000 subscribers. In the beginning the newspaper was published exclusively in Ukrainian; however; in the last two decades it has adopted a bilingual Ukrainian-English format.

According to Prof. Roman Yereniuk of the University of Manitoba’s Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies, “the ‘Ukrainian Voice’ was the first newspaper in the world to carry in its masthead the name Ukrainian.”

Reflections and Reminiscences of Egremont Hall

Caroline Malayko

The Michael Hrushevsky Ukrainian Education Hall (Egremont) was organized 90 years ago. It was a place for the Ukrainians' to gather every Sunday (mostly men) to have drama rehearsals, production of plays and reading of many interesting books. Some of the very outstanding recollections I have as a young girl may bring back memories to some of you who lived through these historical nine decades.

I recall attending many a dialogue (a play on the stage) with my parents. Many of the dialogues were presented by Fedorah Drama Club, Radway or Eldorena. The hall was packed full of people. The hall never had chairs but everyone sat on the wooden benches that the members made. On the small stage they had a canvas curtain in which local businessmen did their advertising. This helped pay for the coal that was used to help heat the hall in the winter.

The dialogues were at least one hour long. I recall the plays would all be in the Ukrainian language. Although I do not recall the titles, the plots were usually about the Polish fighting the Ukrainians or the Turks. The guns and swords were made out of wood. There was always a love story as well.

The prompter would sit in a lowered position in front of the stage with a box over him. It was very cold there and one time he probably went to warm up when one of the actors forgot his next line. He looked desperately for the prompter and when he could not find him, he put his hands up in the air and said in Ukrainian, to the crowd, "I forgot". At that moment the play turned into a comedy as the crowd roared with laughter.

.../Continued on Page 7



Our Friend, Our Father, Our Priest

Darlene Chizen / Reschke

Very Rev. Father Alex Palamarchuk has been our parish priest for 27 years. During this time he has been an exceptional and comforting presence in our parish. From delivering meaningful sermons as if he was speaking directly to you; to being a close family friend, Father Alex is a man who is well respected, compassionate and dedicated to his work and his family.

Through him we have witnessed a growth in the number of parishes within the Radway district, the continuation of religion classes and the development of the choir which is now singing in English. He also exhibits total patience with his alter boys, offers counseling sessions, makes house calls, and performs many other duties in his role as priest.



When I asked parishioners to describe Father Alex in one word, this is what they told me: caring, personable, approachable, friendly, patient, honest, understanding, punctual, even-tempered, and many wished he was their priest!

Upon speaking to a colleague of Father Alex, he expressed that Father was a very special individual amongst his fellow colleagues, always helpful, willing to share his experiences, offering guidance and above all, he is a genuine friend.

As Our Friend, Our Father, Our Priest, Father Alex is a well respected and well rounded individual who we love dearly and are proud to say, he is OURS!!



Reflections and Reminiscences of Egremont Hall

The girls were always dressed in Ukrainian embroidered blouses and the men wore white shirts with embroidery and wide kosack pants called (sharvare). After the dialogue, the actors all stood on the stage and sang, (She nev merla Ukraina), Ukraine has never died.

I remember when the hall held a box social where the girls would decorate a shoebox with crepe paper. In the box would be two meat sandwiches and two pieces of cake or cookies. Just before midnight there would be a local boy who would auction off the box of lunch. The boy that bid on the box for no more than 50 cents had to eat lunch with the girl that he bought it from. He then had the next dance with her and walked her home that night. By the way, I usually got the boy that was not popular.

The left side of the hall had a booth with orange pop, chocolate bars and gum for the whopping price of 5 cents. Cigarettes were 25 cents. The boys supplied the pop.

The All Star Orchestra was organized in the 1940's with Bill Cholach playing guitar, Mike Hawreliuk and Phillip Zolkewski on saxophone, Steve Prodeniuk on drums and Victor Barnes on accordion. The Silvertones band consisted of Bill Hrynuika, Paul Kolach, Steve Kolach and Andy Maksymec. The band usually played for six hours earning \$3.00 each. The patrons were charged 25 cents for the boys and 15 cents for the girls. At the dance the boys sat on the left of the hall and the girls on the right.

The hall floor was maple and was waxed to a perfect shine so that dancing was like floating on air. The girls always enjoyed dancing with the boys from Radway, Fedorah and Redwater. Before the dance

would start there was always a bootlegger in the bush. The boys would go out to have a drink and while the boys were out the girls danced with each other. The bottle was marked into 25 cent sections. If the boys drank more than they paid for, they got a good lecture and did not dare do it again. At times they even ended up with a black eye.

When the Beatles music came there were a few boys that did the jitterbug. Cecel Mack was just like a machine and with his partner, Alice Daymond of Egremont, it was a sight to see. Many a wedding dance was held at the hall. The bride and groom paid for the band so the dance was free. When the war took the local boys into the army the dances began to dwindle down. I recall a dance instructor by the name of Avramenko who came to teach us Ukrainian dancing. He would put a record on the gramophone and he would teach us the steps. The boys were very good at dancing the Arkan or the Sword Dance.

Many a politician had their campaign meetings there. Izadore Hlynka and Peter Chaba were ones that I recall. Peter Chaba of Egremont was a person of many talents. He taught Ukrainian, was a natural with musical instruments and a wonderful director of singing groups and we were grateful for his input.

The hall was also used for C.Y.M.K. gatherings. We also had a Swine Club under the leadership of William Pidruchney. On one occasion, the Swine Club had a picnic. There were ball games with Moose Hill, Thorhild and Egremont teams. They were selling ice cream for five cents a cone. They had more ice cream than cones. With no refrigeration they told us kids to bring back the cones and they will refill them for nothing. What a treat!

Reflections and Reminiscences of Egremont Hall

There was a wood stove by the stage where the ladies made coffee and a hot meal for their Patron Saint Day (St. John the Baptist). I was asked to wait on tables which I felt was a great honour.

Every fall when the threshing was done, Ukrainian Orthodox Church members of St. John the Baptist would have a bazaar on a Saturday night. The members of the church donated the bingo prizes. The prizes were all set up neatly on the stage near the bingo caller. Cards were sold for 5 cents each.

Most of the prizes were Pyrex bowls or pie plates, towels, a box of apples, and one time a beautiful doll that I wanted mom to take if she won bingo, but no, she took the box of apples instead.



Two years ago, at this hall, we did have a few games of bingo using the original cardboard cards (some of which the mice chewed) and some of the wooden bingo balls were missing so we made up the numbers and carried on playing bingo. I did win that doll after all.

The hall is newly renovated and looks fantastic with all these memories held inside. I still go back to the hall with my family whenever possible and cherish these times and continue to build more memories.

SUMMER 2010

Ukrainian Cultural Heritage Village Feature Exhibit

"Ukrainian Weddings"

This exhibit explores Ukrainian wedding traditions in four different settings and time frames - from traditional village settings in Ukraine to the way these traditions have been continued in Canada. Highlights include video clips from several weddings in both Canada and Ukraine, bringing together a variety of sight, sound and movement in this unique exhibit.

The One-Room School House

Olga Dmytryk

It was the most beautiful building I ever saw. I would watch in envy as my older sister, Mary, would run down the short strip of road everyday, enter, and disappear, for what seemed forever, into this small wonder of a building. Finally, I was allowed to enter. I was in grade 1.

I came through a small porch, where your coat, boots and lunch bag were dropped off. The next door was opened and I shyly entered. My world came alive. Immediately to my left was a tiny book cabinet – the library. Then there was a row of tall windows

spanning the length of the next wall. The wall in front of the room had black chalk boards across it. The Union Jack and a picture of the English King hung above them. The next wall had a map of the world on it.

In the back area, an ornate metal grate was on the floor, which I later found out was atop a heater which was in a small basement. In the middle of this majestic room, were rows of desks and at the very front of the room sat an imposing desk, a few books placed on it, and a bell which I was sure made all that racket

which I could hear at regular intervals from my home. This was my introduction to the now famous “one-room school.” The place was Carbondale, and my life was complete.

The teacher’s name was Mrs. Shelenko. She was a wonderful, soft-spoken, gentle person. Even at my young age, I soon became aware that she was not entirely suitable for the job. She would become easily flustered, unable at times to hide her frustration as she taught approximately 25 children from grades one to 12. Sensing her weakness, the class at times became rather unruly. I remember a couple of older

brothers who made her job, at times, pure misery. But she did continue.

I would watch Mrs. Shelenko spend a short time with each grade, assign them some work and move on. I

don’t recall learning anything specific, as I could read and write before I started school, thanks to my older sister. It seemed I was always printing my letters and some words. I loved my scribbler and pencil. I especially remember the sparkling gold stars Mrs. Shelenko would paste on my pages. I would spend much of my time at the book cabinet, reading the small collection of books, many times over.

There were fun times. Many times, instead of classes, we would all go out and enjoy “organized” games. Three-legged races, sack races, and ball games were some of them. There was a small skating rink in winter, and since hardly anyone had skates, sliding along the ice while wearing our boots, amidst peals of laughter, was great fun.



Mrs. Shelenko somehow put together a Christmas concert. I vividly remember the excitement of it all - the tree being brought in and everyone making decorations. Practice sessions were held, the small play and the singing of Christmas carols became a reality. At the end of the concert, Santa Claus appeared, handing out small, brown bags which contained an orange, some peanuts and a few candies. What an end to a magical evening.

During the school term, we would have a visitation once or twice from a school superintendent. Again, I

recall the anxiety these visits would cause Mrs. Shelenko. The room had to be cleaned and we were to be at our best behavior.

He would walk up and down the classroom or stand and watch

Mrs. Shelenko teach. He would occasionally ask us a question, and Mrs. Shelenko would positively glow if anyone was able to give a correct answer. I think she was slowly unraveling.

The next year, I was in grade two and very knowledgeable. A new teacher, Mr. Ferguson, appeared. He was young with a “mean demeanor,” and when he spoke, everyone listened. He soon straightened out the “Lavallee” brothers. I recall them being told to stay after school. We all knew they were going to get “The Strap.” He struck terror in our young hearts. I now know he was appointed to our school to “clean up.”

.../Continued on Page 10

Continued from Page 9

The One-Room School House

And, oh my, we can't forget the yearly track meet. It was, without a doubt, the highlight of the school year. In preparation, every student was run through the racing and jumping events, and the "better athletes" were chosen. Then we all walked to the railway station, not far away, where we were weighed (for some reason) and our height was recorded. When we were finally categorized, we would practice every day for this monumental event.

The big day finally came and we could hardly contain our excitement. Somehow we were transported to Namao School where the event took place. Children from other schools gathered to compete, and I was

one of them. The events were all run off and finally, all the red, blue, green, yellow and white ribbons were handed out. What an amazing day it was. We went home with our ribbons proudly displayed on the front of our shirts. Memories to last a lifetime!

I was in grade three when we left Carbondale. My fondest and most poignant memories I can honestly say, are related to the time spent in this one-room school. I treasure the short time that I spent there. I wonder what happened to Mr. Ferguson???

My Mother's Trunk

Caroline Malayko

My mother, Sophia (Hamernyk) Bachynski, came to Canada with her mother, sister, one nephew and two nieces. She came from the village of Boldury, Brody, in East Galicia, in the year 1910. With her she brought a wooden trunk with leather straps and a lock.



In the trunk she and her mother packed all they could. The beautiful colored shawl she brought was purchased in Lviv. It had a "Made in China" label. I asked Mom why it was from China and she told me that the merchants in Lviv

(mostly Jews) used to go to the Chinese wholesales and bring back a lot of goods such as shawls, embroidery threads, shoe laces, thread for sewing, combs and yard goods. In the early 1700's the people of Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Hungary found a route to China where they could trade their furs, grain and other items for goods from China. The road was named Silk Road to China.

Some of these goods were placed in the trunk and brought to Canada. She also brought garden seeds consisting of peas, carrots, cabbage, garlic and flower seeds. She also brought pillows and a pyryna (feather quilt). Skirts and blouses were packed neatly, as well as her holy pictures and prayer book.





I recall the trunk being set in the bedroom where mom and dad slept. It was usually locked so the children would not destroy anything that was inside. All that was packed was treasured and precious to mom. I recall seeing her naturalization papers and her baptismal certificate. I remember my father's white shirts, ironed and folded perfectly next to pillows.

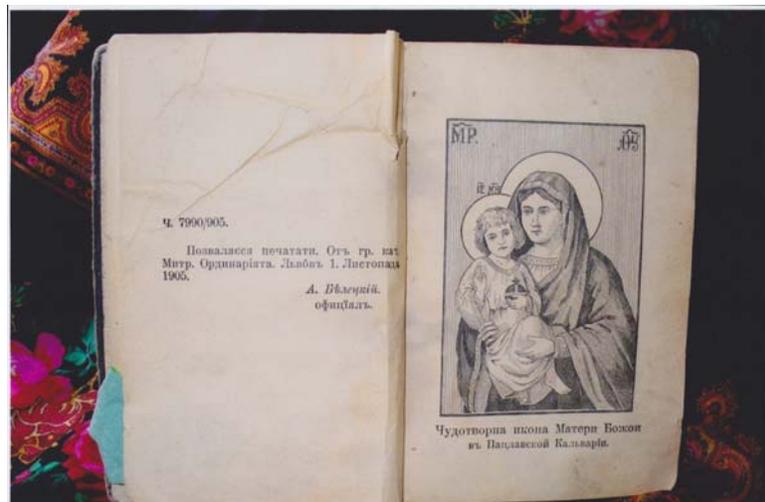
Somehow, the key from the trunk disappeared. My brothers Mike, Walter and myself were happy as mom kept her raisins and walnuts there for safe-keeping. What a treat for the three of us. When mom went to bake a cake she asked who ate her baking goods and all she got was silence. She also kept her nickels, dimes and quarters neatly tied in a handkerchief. When the grandchildren came, she would place a few coins in each of their hands and say, "Don't tell Dido."

In neatly tied packages she had letters from her brother Philip who remained in the Ukraine and from her brother Nickolay who lived in Argentina. She missed them dearly and on Sunday mornings she would take out her prayer book and letters and read them over and over again. She longed for them to come to Canada but neither ever did.



After 100 years the trunk is still around. What a wonderful keepsake. The trunk brings me back to a treasured and precious time in my life. My mother died 30 years ago but memories of her live on in our hearts forever. God bless you mom.

I want to thank Sylvia Holt for supplying the picture of the trunk for me.





Schedule of Services at Egremont in 2010

Our parish invites everyone to join us for Divine Liturgy at
St. John the Baptist Ukrainian Orthodox Church

July 4: "XPAM" – Nativity of St. John the Baptist
November 25: Thanksgiving service

22nd SOBOR UKRAINIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH OF CANADA

July 12 – 18, 2010
Winnipeg, Manitoba

The SOBOR is a Meeting of our highest legislative body, the General Council of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada. Presently, it meets every five years. Each parish/congregation of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada may have one voting delegate attend per 25 members. If there are fewer than 25 members in a parish they do have the right to send one voting delegate to the SOBOR. Guests are welcome as observers at the SOBOR; however, guests do not have the right to vote. Guests at the SOBOR must be members of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of Canada and must pay a guest registration fee.

XXIII CONGRESS OF UKRAINIAN CANADIANS - UCC 70th ANNIVERSARY

November 5 - 7 2010

Edmonton, AB, Westin Hotel

The Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) has announced that the 23rd Triennial Congress of Ukrainian Canadians will be held in Edmonton. It is the first time this gathering of the leadership of the Ukrainian Canadian community will be held outside Winnipeg, Manitoba.

This event will also mark the 70th Anniversary of the Ukrainian Canadian Congress and 120 years of settlement of Ukrainians in Canada. The 2010 Triennial Congress will provide three full days of networking, policy forums, exhibits and awards. For additional information contact: UCC National by email ucc@ucc.ca; phone 204-942-4627 or visit the website at www.ucc.ca

EDMONTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Tales from Ukraine

January 13, 2011

Winspear Centre

Lucas Waldin, conductor
Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Company
Gene Zwozdesky, narrator

The rich legacy of Ukraine has left an indelible mark in western Canada, and the ESO celebrates the culture of Ukraine with an unforgettable night of music and dance.

Prokofiev: Peter and the Wolf
Tchaikovsky: Symphony No. 2 "Ukrainian" Finale
Various: Ukrainian Christmas Medley
Leontovych: Carol of the Bells
Traditional: Hopak

