



**THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF  
NORTH AMERICA in honor of Taras Shevchenko**

**OLEH MAHLAY**  
Artistic Director & Conductor

**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ  
ПІВЧІНОЇ АМЕРИКИ ім. Тараса Шевченка**

**ОЛЕГ МАХЛАЙ**  
мистецький керівник та диригент

**A UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS**

**УКРАЇНСЬКЕ РІЗДВО**

**BUFFALO - 12 | 19 | 2025**

*St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church  
Elma, New York*

**ROCHESTER - 12 | 20 | 2025**

*St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Rochester, New York*

**TORONTO - 12 | 21 | 2025**

*Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church  
Mississauga, Ontario*

**bandura.org**

DIGITAL PROGRAM

**THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF  
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**УКРАЇНСЬКА КАПЕЛЯ БАНДУРИСТІВ  
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*National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship winner  
Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize*

**OLEH MAHLAY - ARTISTIC DIRECTOR & CONDUCTOR**

**ANDRIY HLADYSHEVSKY - BOARD PRESIDENT**

**MYKOLA DEYCHAKIWSKY - CONCERTMASTER**

**JOHN KYTASTY - STAGE PRODUCTION MANAGER**

## **A UKRAINIAN CHRISTMAS УКРАЇНСЬКЕ РІЗДВО**

**NATIVITY BELLS ▪ РІЗДВЯНІ ДЗВОНИ**

Hryhory Kontsevych (Ukrainian carol)

*soloist: V. Grabovyy (or M. Labay, S. Szyszka)*

**A STAR SHINES IN BETHLEHEM**

**ВО ВИФЛЕЄМІ ЗОРЯ СІЯЄ**

Oleh Mahlay (Ukrainian carol)

*soloists: Z. Chaikovsky, N. Kalivoshko, I. Krislaty, M. Labay,  
(or R. Beley, T. Bodnar, J. Smolilo, S. Szyszka, V. Troyanovych)*

**BOUNTIFUL SONG / ON THE RIVER JORDAN**

**ЩЕДРИК / ОЙ НА РІЧЦІ**

Mykola Leontovych

(instrumentation by Hryhory Kytasty)

**HARK, I HEAR THE HARPS ETERNAL**

**ЧУЮ ВІЧНІ АРФИ**

Craig Carnahan

(based on a 19<sup>th</sup> century American shape note song)

**GAUDETE ▪ РАДУЙСЯ**

Oleh Mahlay (from the Piae Cantiones publication of 1582)

*soloists: P. Shavykovskyy & S. Szyszka (or Z. Chaikovsky, M. Labay)*

**DO NOT WEEP, RACHEL ▪ НЕ ПЛАЧ РАХИЛЕ**

Oleh Mahlay (anonymous melody)

*soloist: O. Zmiyiwsky (or A. Hryndzio, H. Maluzynsky)*

**OVER IN BAKHMUT ▪ ТАМ У БАХМУТІ**

Oleh Vitvitsky (lyrics & melody) / arr. by Oleh Mahlay  
*soloists: P. Tarnawsky & S. Szyszka, T. Bodnar (or V. Grabovyy, S.Kostiuk, P. Shvaykovskyy, V. Troyanovych)*

**IS THE HOST HOME? ▪ ЧИ ДОМА, ДОМА**

Oleh Mahlay (Ukrainian carol)

**TODAY WE SING ▪ ДНЕСЬ ПОЮЩЕ**

Kyrylo Stetsenko (Ukrainian carol)

*soloists: I Krislaty, P. Shvaykovskyy, O.Zmiyiwsky  
(or Z. Chaikovsky, V. Grabovyy, A. Hryndzio, A. Krok, L. Lashchuk, M. Labay, Y. Metulynsky, P. Tarnawsky)*

*Intermission*

**O MERCIFUL MOTHER ▪ МАТИ МИЛОСЕРДНА**

Dmytro Tuptalo

*Kobzar Choir of the UBC / Кобзарський Хор при УКБ*

**I AM CAROLING! / ОН, CAROL**

**КОЛЯДУЮ! /ОЙ, КОЛЯДА**

Oleh Mahlay (Ukrainian carols)

*soloist: Z. Chaikovsky (or V. Grabovyy)*

**A NEW JOY HAS ARISEN ▪ НОВА РАДІСТЬ СТАЛА**

Kyrylo Stetsenko & Denis Sichynsky (Ukrainian carols)

*soloists: P. Tarnawsky & V. Troyanovych (or Z. Chaikovsky, N. Kalivoshko, A. Krok, S. Szyszka)*

**ADESTE FIDELES ▪ ПРИЙДІТЬ ВСІ ВІРНІ**

Oleh Mahlay (traditional / lyrics by J. Francis Wade)

*soloist: A. Hryndzio (or M. Labay, H. Maluzynsky, O. Zmiyiwsky)*

**SILENT NIGHT ▪ ТИХА НІЧ**

Franz Gruber (lyrics by Joseph Mohr)

*soloist: P. Shvaykovskyy*

**O, WHAT GLADNESS ▪ ЩО ЗА РАДІСТЬ**

Oleh Mahlay (Ukrainian carol)

**THE BRIGHT EVENING ▪ НІЧКА ТА ЯСНАЯ**

Volodymyr Bohachuk (lyrics & melody) / arranged by  
Olha Tokar (bandura accompaniment by Oleh Mahlay)

**GLORY TO GOD ▪ СЛАВА ВО ВИШНІХ БОГУ**

(В Вифлеємі днесь Марія Пречиста)

Oleh Mahlay (Ukrainian carol)

*Program content subject to change*

# UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS PERFORMING ENSEMBLE

CHRISTMAS 2025

## *Instrumentalists*

Roman Beley (Toronto, Ontario)  
Mykola Deychakiwsky (Detroit, Michigan)  
Ivan Khrystenko (Hartford, Connecticut)  
Mark Krasij (Arlington, Texas)  
Arsen Krok (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
Luke Lashchuk (San Diego, California)  
Kyrylo Mahlay (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Oleh Mahlay (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Taras Mahlay (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Boyan Makarenko (Pensacola, Florida)  
Justin Mehes (Minneapolis, Minnesota)  
Yuri Metulynsky (Windsor, Ontario)  
Mykola Rakowsky (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Charlie Sakumachuk (Edmonton, Alberta)  
Alex Schidowka (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Michael Serdiuk (Detroit, Michigan)  
Nick Smereka-Hladio (San Antonio, Texas)  
Joseph Tobianski (Detroit, Michigan)  
Stephan Zaets (Boston, Massachusetts)  
Fred Yasnowski (Youngstown, Ohio)

## *First tenors*

Bohdan Balko (Yonkers, New York)  
Theodore Bodnar (New York, New York)  
Zenon Chaikovsky (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Yarema Hryciw (Scotts Valley, California)  
Ralph Nestorowycz (Detroit, Michigan)  
Petro Shvaykovskyy (Sacramento, California)  
Jeff Smolilo (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Peter Tarnawsky (Sherwood Park, Alberta)

*Second tenors*

Vasyl Grabovyy (Syracuse, New York)  
Roman Jakubowycz (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Nazar Kalivoshko (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Andrew Shrubowich (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Vasyl Troyanovich (Syracuse, Ohio)  
Victor Yurchenko (Detroit, Michigan)

*Baritones*

Adrian Deychakiwsky (Detroit, Michigan)  
Andrij Hladyshevsky (Edmonton, Alberta)  
Joe Kolodka (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Ihor Krislaty (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Ihor Kuszniir (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
John Kytasty (Detroit, Michigan)  
Michael Labay (Winnipeg, Manitoba)  
Stephen Szyszka (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania)  
Rev. Roman Yatskiv (Cleveland, Ohio)

*Basses*

Alexander Hryndzio (Winnipeg, Manitoba)  
Semen Kostyuk (Edmonton, Alberta)  
Hryts Maluzynsky (St. Albert, Alberta)  
Nicholas Schidowka (Cleveland, Ohio)  
Oleh Zmiyivsky (Red Deer, Alberta)



*The “Notes from Ukraine” Centennial Concert of Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells) at Carnegie Hall. The UBC on stage before the historic performance. (December, 2022).*

*Our sincerest thanks to the following individuals and institutions:*



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*Special thanks to Fr. Greg Faulhaber & Kristine Ewankow at St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church, & Emil Bandriwsky & Adrianna Liddell of the Dnipro Ukrainian Cultural Center.*

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*Special thanks to Rt. Rev. Mitred Archpriest Philip Weiner of St Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church, Zhanna Polyanska-Wirlo (director of the Taras Shevchenko School of Ukrainian Studies), the Ukrainian Cultural Center of Rochester, and the Ukrainian National Women's League of America, Branch 120.*

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**Ukrainian World Congress Foundation**

*Special thanks to the Dormition of the Mother of God Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mississauga, Father Jaroslaw Lazoryk, Ray Beley, Bohdan Sklierenko, Orest Sklierenko, and Kontakt.*

# THE UKRAINIAN BANDURIST CHORUS OF NORTH AMERICA

## IN HONOR OF TARAS SHEVCHENKO

For over a century, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America has been committed to its mission: To cultivate, develop, and spread the Ukrainian kobzar and bandura art, recognizing its wide cultural, historical and national worth. This award winning all-male choral ensemble composed of talented musicians from the North American continent is centered on the bandura - a multi-stringed lute-like instrument uniquely Ukrainian. Through performances, educational outreach programs, archival projects, and global partnerships, the ensemble promotes the bandura while sharing the history and culture of Ukraine with the world.



### ORIGINS

The history of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC) can be traced directly to the 12th Archeological Congress in Kharkiv, Ukraine, in 1902. Hnat Khotkevych, a prominent writer, ethnographer, and composer, first presented the question of forming a professional orchestra of bandurists at that historic gathering. He provided stimulus for a renewed interest and remarkable growth in the bandura's popularity at the beginning of the 20th century, and amateur bandura ensembles rapidly formed throughout the country.

The first professional bandurist chorus was formed in Kyiv in 1918 during the height of the country's struggle for independence following World War One. Under the direction of bandura

virtuoso Vasyl Yemetz, the first chorus was named the “Kobzar Choir” («Кобзарський хор») and first performed in Ukraine’s capital on November 2, 1918 at the Bergone Theater (the current Lesia Ukrayinka Theater). In 1925, another bandura ensemble formed in Poltava, Ukraine under the direction of Volodymyr Kabachok, and under the tutelage of Khotkevych.

The mid-1920s were marked by a period of resurgence of Ukrainian arts and culture, and the Bandurist Chorus developed into a professional touring troupe. As the ensemble’s membership, expertise, and repertoire were continually refined and enhanced, the bandura was transformed from a folk to a classical concert form.

The Chorus's history rapidly evolved into a turbulent one. The ideals of the bandurist - *God, truth, freedom, and human dignity heralded through song* - were a threat to the then-newly formed Soviet Union. Under Joseph Stalin's rule, artists and intellectuals were arrested, exiled or executed in an attempt to eradicate every remnant of Ukrainian culture.

Hnat Khotkevych was executed in 1938 in Kharkiv and his compositions were banned throughout the Soviet Union. Many conductors, chorus members, and blind bandurists-minstrels were also accused of enticing the populace to nationalism and were imprisoned or executed. In 1935 the remaining members of the Poltava and Kyiv bandura ensembles were forced to reorganize into the State Bandurist Chorus of the Ukrainian SSR.



## WORLD WAR TWO and EMIGRATION TO NORTH AMERICA

In the years that followed, the Chorus was exploited and persecuted by both the Soviets and the Nazis. As the German army moved East onto the territory of Ukraine in 1941, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was one of the few state-sponsored professional ensembles disbanded and mobilized to the front in order to stop the invading Nazi army as they approached the capital of Kyiv. After German occupation, the musicians re-organized into the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus (Українська Капеля Бандуристів ім. Тараса Шевченка) and began an active touring schedule throughout Ukrainian cities and the countryside. Taras Shevchenko (1814-1861) was the foremost poet of Ukraine and a major figure of the Ukrainian national revival.

However, the German occupation force soon discovered the strength of Ukrainian song and the bandura. They ordered the musicians onto a railroad cattle wagon, transported them to Germany, and imprisoned them in a hard labor camp. The bandurists who survived the Soviet horrors of the 1930s now joined the millions of *Ostarbeiters* from Ukraine. After five months of incarceration in Hamburg, the ensemble began to perform for their fellow Ukrainian slave-laborers who were now in Germany.



At the conclusion of World War Two, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus ended up in the American zone of post-war Germany. They spent the next several years in displaced persons camps throughout Germany, continuing to perform for countless Ukrainian refugees who would face imprisonment or death if they returned to the Soviet Union. It was not until 1949 that through the

assistance of allied forces many of the ensemble members emigrated from refugee camps to the United States, establishing a home base in Detroit, Michigan.

## FREEDOM IN NORTH AMERICA

Freedom was a great blessing but not without its difficulties. Most of the members had to learn new skills that were often unrelated to their musical ability and experience in order to support their families. Approximately 90 percent of the ensemble joined Detroit's automotive industry labor force. This, however, did not prevent the bandurists from launching a series of concerts in their newly adopted homeland. The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus was reborn!

Notwithstanding these difficulties in a new land, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus took part in concert tours throughout North America. In 1958 the Chorus embarked on a triumphant concert tour of Western Europe. The ensemble performed in England, France, Germany, Switzerland, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, all while garnering critical acclaim in leading newspapers.



*Sydney, Australia (1980)*

During the 1960s and 1970s, the ensemble released many more recordings, continued giving concerts, and toured Australia in 1980. This period also saw the educational involvement of the Chorus flourish. To this day, the ensemble continues a robust education program organizing outreach programs and providing instructors for various bandura workshops and seminars.

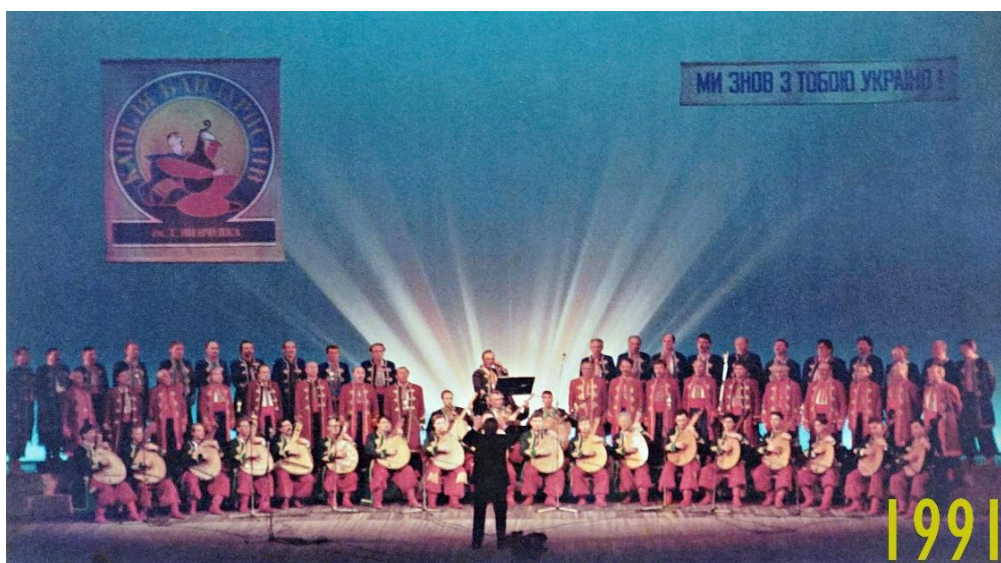
The musical and spiritual leader of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus from the World War II era until the early 1980s was Hryhory Kytasty (1907-1984), the longest serving artistic director in the history of the ensemble. Considered a legend in his own time, this composer, conductor, performer, and teacher was a role model and inspiration to young bandurists. He continued the legacy of the bandurist (also known as a *kobzar*) and furthered the art of the bandura in the free world.



## 1991 – THE RENEWED INDEPENDENCE OF UKRAINE

1991 was a turning point in history as Ukraine declared its independence from the Soviet Union on August 24, 1991. This year also unlocked new opportunities for the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America as musicians of the ensemble could create and renew ties with bandurists in Ukraine – sharing much of the rich musical tradition which was preserved by the ensemble in North America and banned by the Soviet authorities for decades.

In June 1991, under Artistic Director Wolodymyr Kolesnyk, the Chorus completed a historically triumphant 14-city tour through major Ukrainian cities. The performances were received with great enthusiasm and rave reviews, especially in areas of Ukraine where national consciousness had been most dormant. In 1994, the ensemble journeyed to the southern regions of Ukraine, bringing the beauty of the bandura to Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Crimea. Several years later, the UBC was invited to Kyiv in 2001 to represent the American diaspora during the “Ten Year Anniversary of Ukrainian Independence Celebration” in Ukraine’s capital.



*Palace Theater of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine)*

In 1996, the musicians of the ensemble chose Oleh Mahlay, age 26, as the youngest artistic director and conductor in its history. Many new recordings were released and the UBC celebrated its 50th Anniversary in North America in 1999 with him at the helm. After a 45-year hiatus, the UBC returned to Western Europe in 2003 with concerts in England, France, Germany, and Austria. One of the many highlights of the tour was a Ukrainian sacred music performance in the famed *Notre Dame Cathedral* in Paris.

During maestro Mahlay’s tenure over the past 25 years, the ensemble has collaborated with many musicians in memorable musical projects: Metropolitan Opera (New York) soloist Paul Plishka, Eurovision winner Ruslana, the Canadian Bandurist Capella (Toronto), the Vesnivka Choir

(Toronto), the Hoosli Ukrainian Male Chorus (Winnipeg), the Women’s Bandura Ensemble of North America, the Shchedryk Children’s Choir (Kyiv), violinist Vasyl Popadiuk, the Shumka Dance Ensemble (Edmonton), the National Bandurist Capella of Ukraine (Kyiv), and various bandura schools and Ukrainian youth choirs throughout the continent.



*Eurovision winner Ruslana and the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (Massey Hall – 2015)*



ЗАТВЕРДЖУЮ  
Голова  
Національного банку  
України  
Смолій Я. В.

РЕВЕРС



Ескіз реверсу  
пам'ятної монети  
"100 РОКІВ  
КОБЗАРСЬКОМУ  
ХОРУ"



*[Signature]*

*Commemorative coin minted by the National Bank of Ukraine in honor of the centennial of the Kobzar Choir and the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America. (Kyiv, Ukraine. 2018)*



*Joint centennial performance of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America with the National Bandurist Capella of Ukraine . (Ivan Franko Theater – Kyiv, Ukraine. October 2018)*

In 2018, the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with concert tours of the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. Through sound and visuals, the performances highlighted the turbulent and triumphant history of the ensemble, from its roots in early 20<sup>th</sup> century Ukraine, through the crucible of Soviet and Nazi occupation, immigration to North America, and to the continuing mission of the ensemble in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The historic tour of Ukraine included

Divine Liturgies in Kyiv and Lviv, outreach programs at various institutions, and concerts in Kyiv, Chernihiv, Berestechko, Rivne, Lutsk, and Lviv.



*The UBC sang the liturgical responses at St. George Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral (Lviv, Ukraine – October, 2018).*

## **AWARDS**

As a tribute to its role in preserving and perpetuating the legacy of Ukrainian music, the Chorus was selected by Ukraine's Council of Ministers as the recipient of the Taras Shevchenko Ukrainian State Prize, the highest award that can be bestowed for excellence in the contribution to the arts. This award was personally presented by Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk in 1992. That same year, long-time administrator Petro Honcharenko and bandurist Petro Kytasty received the award of Honored Artists of Ukraine. In 2008, Hryhory Kytasty was posthumously awarded the Hero of Ukraine award from the Ukrainian government.

In 2021, Anatoli Murha, long-serving President of the UBC, received the Honored Worker of Culture of Ukraine award (заслужений працівник культури України); and Oleh Mahlay, the artistic director and conductor of the UBC, received the Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts award (заслужений діяч мистецтв України). These awards were presented by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in Washington, D.C. In 2022, the ensemble received a Michigan Heritage Award for teaching, preserving, presenting, and growing its traditional art form. The UBC is a recipient of the 2025 National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) National Heritage Fellowship - the highest honor in the folk and traditional arts category in the United States.



## BEYOND THE CENTENNIAL

PRESENTED NEW COMPOSITIONS TO THE POEMS OF POETESS LESYA UKRAINKA  
REACHED A GLOBAL AUDIENCE THROUGH LIVE-STREAM PERFORMANCES  
INCREASED THE ARCHIVE COLLECTION AND LAUNCHED AN ARCHIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM  
CREATED A NEW CONCERT PROGRAM: UKRAINE LIVES!  
PARTICIPATED IN THE 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LEONTOVYCH'S SHCHEDRYK AT CARNEGIE HALL  
HELPED RAISE OVER \$150,000 (US) FOR HUMANITARIAN AID TO UKRAINE.



*The “Notes from Ukraine” Centennial Concert of Shchedryk (Carol of the Bells) at Carnegie Hall. Oleh Mahlay conducts the Dumka Ukrainian Chorus (NY), the Shchedryk Children’s Choir (Kyiv), and the UBC (December, 2022).*

**bandura.org**

**OLEH MAHLAY** is the artistic director and conductor of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (*Українська Капеля Бандуристів Північної Америки ім. Т. Шевченка*). Maestro Mahlay received the prestigious Honored Artist of the Ukrainian Arts (заслужений діяч мистецтв України) which was presented to him by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in September of 2021. He has served on the teaching staff of the Hryhory Kytasty Cleveland School of Bandura at St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral (Parma, Ohio), as well as the music director of the Kobzarska Sich Bandura and Vocal Program (Emlenton, Pennsylvania).



Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1969 to Ukrainian immigrants, Maestro Mahlay received a bachelor of arts in music history and literature from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, and then a juris doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law. As a musician, he has a varied background as a conductor, pianist, violinist, bandurist, lecturer and composer.

At the age of 16, Mr. Mahlay became the choir director of St. Volodymyr Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral in Parma, Ohio (a post previously held by the legendary bandurist Hryhory Kytasty) and began teaching at the Kobzarska Sich Bandura Camp (Emlenton, Pennsylvania) soon thereafter. He also was the concertmaster of the University Circle Chamber Orchestra, a violinist with the Cleveland Orchestra Youth Orchestra, assistant conductor with the Parma Symphony Orchestra, and music curator at the Ukrainian Museum-Archives of Cleveland.

The Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America (UBC), founded in Ukraine's capital of Kyiv in 1918, has been intertwined with Mr. Mahlay's work as a conductor, composer, and educator. He has been a musician with the ensemble since 1982 (first serving as a vocalist, bandurist, bass bandura player, concertmaster), becoming its artistic director and conductor in 1996. During his two tenures (1996 through 2008, and from 2012 through the present), the UBC has achieved artistic acclaim as a result of nine released recordings, educational outreach programming, and hundreds of concerts throughout North America and Europe, and Ukraine. Most recently, Mr. Mahlay led the ensemble in its historic centennial concert tour of Ukraine in 2018. Maestro Mahlay has spearheaded unique collaborative artistic projects with artists such as Paul Plishka (New York Metropolitan Opera), the National Bandurist Cappella of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine), the Shumka Dance Ensemble (Edmonton, Alberta), the Vesnivka Choir (Toronto, Ontario), the Hoosli Ukrainian Male Chorus (Winnipeg, Manitoba), the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America, and international singing star Ruslana (Eurovision winner).

As a composer, Oleh Mahlay has written over 140 original works or arrangements, with the majority of works for the bandura, chorus, or voice. His compositions have been performed by ensembles in the United States, Canada, and Ukraine. He continues to lecture on various musical topics, focusing on Ukrainian sacred music and the bandura. As a conductor, he has led ensembles at memorable venues such as Massey Hall (Toronto), Lincoln Center (New York), the Ukrainian National Philharmonic (Kyiv), the Lviv Opera House, Mandel Concert Hall at Severance Music Center (Cleveland) and Notre Dame Cathedral (Paris). In December of 2022, maestro Mahlay had the honor of conducting over 120 voices in Mykola Leontovych's world-famous Shchedryk ("Carol of the Bells") at New York's Carnegie Hall during the centennial celebration of this choral classic.

Maestro Mahlay lives in Hinckley, Ohio with his wife Natalia, and sons Kyrylo and Mykola. He continues to be active organizationally and culturally in the Cleveland Ukrainian-American community.

### **Різдвяні дзвони**

А в Єрусалимі рано задзвонили  
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,  
добрим людям на здоров'я.

Там діва Марія по саду ходила  
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір,  
добрим людям на здоров'я.

### **Nativity Bells**

The bells in Jerusalem pealed early,  
Bidding good evening and a  
prosperous New Year,  
And good health to good people.

The Virgin Mary went there to the  
garden,  
Bidding good evening and a  
prosperous New Year,  
And good health to good people.

## Во Вифлеємі зоря сіяє

Во Вифлеємі зоря сіяє,  
там грають, грають.  
Грають ангели на щирозлотій  
бандурі.

Пречиста Діва Сина рождає,  
там грають, грають.  
Грають царіє на щиросрібній  
бандурі.

Сина зродила, Христом нарекла,  
там грають, грають.  
Грають пастирі на мідянії бандурі.

Сина зродила, в яслах лежала,  
там грають, грають.  
Грають кобзарі на ясеновій бандурі.

Сину дорогий, таж це ж нарід твій,  
Дай Боже, Боже.  
Щастя, свободу, долю народу, Дай  
Боже.

## A Star Shines In Bethlehem

A star shines above Jerusalem,  
Where they play and play.  
Angels play banduras of pure gold.

The Blessed Virgin brings forth a Son,  
Where they play and play.  
Kings play banduras of fine silver.

She gave birth to a Son, named Him  
Christ,  
Where they play and play.  
Shepherds play banduras made of  
copper.

She gave birth to a Son, laid Him in a  
manger,  
Where they play and play.  
Kobzars play banduras made of ash  
wood.

These, my Son, are Your people,  
O God, o God, grant the people  
Joy, freedom, and a kind fate. May  
God grant this.

### Щедрик/Ой на річці

Щедрик, щедрик, щедрівочка,  
прилетіла ластівочка,  
стала собі щебетати,  
господаря викликати:  
Вийди, вийди, господарю,  
подивися на кошару.  
Там овечки покотились,  
а ягнички народились.  
В тебе товар весь хороший,  
будеш мати мірку грошей.  
В тебе товар весь хороший,  
будеш мати мірку грошей.  
Хоч не гроші то полова,  
в тебе жінка чорноброва.  
Хоч не гроші то полова,  
в тебе жінка чорноброва.

Ой на річці на Йордані  
там Пречиста ризи прала,  
свого Сина сповивала.  
Ой на річці на Йордані  
там Пречиста ризи прала,  
свого Сина сповивала.  
Прилетіли три янголи,  
взяли Суса на небеса.  
Прилетіли три янголи,  
взяли Суса на небеса.  
А небеса розтворились,  
всі святії поклонились.  
А небеса розтворились,  
всі святії поклонились.  
Прилетіли три янголи,  
взяли Суса на небеса.

### Bountiful song/On the river (Jordan)

Bountiful song, bountiful song,  
A swallow flew here from afar,  
It twittered long and loud,  
It called upon the master:  
Come out, o master, do come out  
Behold the wonders in your sheepfold.  
The sheep have moved about,  
To little lambs they've given birth.  
All your goods are very fine,  
You'll have a bit of money.  
All your goods are very fine,  
You'll have a bit of money.  
If not money then some chaff  
But your dark-browed wife's a beauty.  
If not money then some chaff  
But your dark-browed wife's a beauty.

O on the river, o on the Jordan  
Blessed Mary there washed robes,  
She swaddled there her Son.  
O on the river, o on the Jordan  
Blessed Mary there washed robes,  
Swaddled there her Son.  
Three angels flew down,  
They soared with Jesus up to heaven.  
Three angels flew down,  
They soared with Jesus up to heaven.  
The heavens opened up,  
Saints all bowed their heads.  
The heavens opened up,  
Saints all bowed their heads.  
Three angels flew down,  
They soared with Jesus up to heaven.

## Gaudete!

*Refrain:*

Gaudete, gaudete!  
Christus est natus ex Maria virgine,  
gaudete!  
Радуйся, радуйся!  
Христос родився від Марії Діви,  
Радуйся!

Tempus adest gratiæ  
Noc quod optabamus,  
Carmina lætitiæ  
Devote reddamus.

*Refrain*

Deus homo factus est  
Natura mirante,  
Mundus renovatus est  
A Christo regnante.

*Refrain*

Ezechielis porta  
Clausa pertransitur,  
Unde lux est orta  
Salus invenitur.

*Refrain*

Ergo nostra contio  
Psallat iam in lustro;  
Benedicat Domino:  
Salus Regi nostro.

*Refrain*

## Rejoice!

*Refrain:*

Rejoice, rejoice!  
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary –  
Rejoice!  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Christ is born of the Virgin Mary –  
Rejoice!

The time of grace has come—  
What we have wished for;  
Songs of joy  
Let us give back faithfully.

*Refrain*

God has become man,  
With nature marvelling,  
The world has been renewed  
By the reigning Christ.

*Refrain*

The closed gate of Ezekiel  
Is passed through,  
Whence the light is risen;  
Salvation has been found.

*Refrain*

Therefore, let our assembly  
Now sing in brightness  
Let it bless the Lord:  
Salvation to our King.

*Refrain*

## **Не плач, Рахиле!**

Не плач, Рахиле! Глянь, діти цілі.  
Не умирають, а оживають,  
а оживають.  
Ті діти нині в новій святині!  
За Бога Сина їхня провина,  
їхня провина.  
З Ірода приводу лили кров, мов  
воду,  
Діти убивали, за Христом шукали.  
Діти хоч пропали, душі їх остали,  
За життя утрату прийняли заплату.  
Прийняли заплату.

Не плач, Прамати! Не час ридати!  
Доля багата в Божих палатах,  
в Божих палатах.  
Ірод сердитий, сей кат неситий!  
Має доволі Твоєї долі,  
Твоєї долі!  
Діти твої, Мати, до небес прийняті,  
Ангели їх водлять, без журби дні  
сходять.  
Діти славлять Бога, що зі світа цього  
їх забрав до себе, дав життя у небі.  
Дав життя у небі.

Не плач, не плач!

## **Do not weep, Rachel!**

Weep not, Rachel! Lo, the children are  
whole.  
They do not die, but revive and live.  
Those children now dwell in a sacred  
new shrine!  
Their burden, their burden is for God's  
only Son.  
Blood flowed like water at Herod's  
behest,  
Children were killed, Christ was pursued.  
Though the children are gone, their  
souls are enduring,  
For the loss of their lives they were duly  
rewarded,  
They were duly rewarded.

Grandmothers, weep not. 'Tis not time  
to cry!  
Fate is most precious in God's holy  
chambers.  
In God's holy chambers.  
Herod is livid, this insatiate butcher!  
He has more than enough of Your fate,  
O Your fate!  
Your children, dear Mothers, have  
ascended to heaven,  
They are guided by angels, their days  
pass with no cares.  
The children praise God for lifting them  
up from this earth  
To be with Him in heaven forever.  
Life everlasting in heaven.

Weep not, weep not!

## Там у Бахмуті

Там у Бахмуті, де стріли чути,  
Де стільки цвіту вже полягло...  
Враз тихо стало і залунало:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

Донецька нічка, окопна свічка,  
І ворогам всім лютим на зло,  
– Стали солдати колядувати:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

Під Гуляй Полям кутя на столі,  
Звіздою небо там зацвіло,  
Вітер у степу водить вертепи:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

В місті Марії промінь надії  
Десь над Азовом в небо звело,  
Там нас чекають, тихо співають:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

Під замком львівським, на Личаківським,  
Лицарів військо спокій знайшло...  
Ми ж до Героїв із колядою:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

В древньому Римі Петрик із Криму  
Разом зі світом славить Різдво,  
Юля з Луганська, Настя з Бердянська:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

А в Тернополі маленька Оля  
З фронту чекає татка свого.  
Ручки складає, слізки втирає:  
Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

Наша родина – вся Україна,  
І Збройні сили, і ТРО,  
Під Божим стягом йдемо до звитяги,  
– Христос Родився! Славимо Його!

## Over in Bakhmut

Over in Bakhmut where cannons resound,  
Where so many blossoms were plucked all too soon...  
All abruptly fell silent, and a jubilant sound was heard:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

On a night in Donetsk, in a candlelit trench,  
As if to spite the fierce foes,  
- the soldiers all started caroling:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

There's kutia (Christmas wheat berry pudding)  
On the table near the town of Hulaipole,  
And up in the sky a star has arisen,  
The wind on the steppe blusters 'cross mangers:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

There's a ray of hope in Maria's good city (Mariupol),  
It's shining in skies over the waters of the Azov,  
There they await us, softly they sing:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

Beneath a castle in Lviv, among the graves at  
Lychakiv (cemetery)  
Serenity has found the army's bold knights...  
We come singing carols for the Heroes:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

In age-old Rome, little Pete from Crimea  
Celebrates Christmas along with the world,  
As do Yulia from Luhansk, and Nastia from  
Berdyansk:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

And wee Olya in Ternopil  
Waits for her daddy to return from the front.  
She clasps tiny hands and wipes away tears:  
Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

Ukraine is our family, all - undivided,  
The Armed Forces and TDF (Territorial Defense  
Forces)  
Onward to victory under God's righteous banner,  
- Christ is Born! Let us praise Him!

## Чи дома, дома

(1) Чи дома, дома пан господар?

*Приспів:*

Щедрий вечір! Добрий вечір!  
Добрим людям на здоров'я!

(2) А я знаю, що він дома,

(3) Сидить же він в кінець стола.

(4) А на йому шуба люба,  
А на шубі поясочок,

(5) А на поясочку калиточка,  
А в тій калиточці сім шеляжечків.

(6) Сьому, тому - по шеляжечку,

(7) А нам, братці,- по пиріжечку.

(8) А старим панам - паляниці,

(9) Щоб плодились бики і телиці,  
Барани і ягниці.

(10) Скільки качечок, стільки  
дочечок;  
Скільки дубочків, стільки синочків.

(11) Чи дома, дома пан господар?

## Is the host home?

(1) Is the host home?

Chorus:

Generous evening! Good evening!  
Good health to good people!

(2) And I know that he is home,

(3) He's sitting at the end of the table.

(4) And he's wearing a lovely fur coat,  
And on the fur coat is a belt,

(5) And on the belt is a little bag,  
And in that little bag are seven coins.

(6) Seven, therefore - one coin for each,

(7) And for us, brothers, - one pie each.

(8) And for the old men - a piece of  
flatbread,

(9) So that bulls and heifers may  
multiply, as well as the rams and lambs.

(10) As many daughters as there are  
ducklings;  
As many sons as there are oak trees.

(11) Are you at home, master?

### Днесь поюще

Днесь поюще купно іграймо,  
Царя рожденного всі восхваляймо.  
Поюще, славляще  
"Слава во вишніх" - глаголюще.

Ніщо не може само з себе стати,  
Ірод же хоче царствувати.  
Над Христом новорожденним  
Младенцем во яслах положеним.

Восхваляймо брата Всеблагого,  
Воспіваймо мудрість промислу  
Його  
Поюще, славляще  
Слава во вишніх глаголюще.

### Today we sing

We play today together,  
Let us praise the newborn King.  
Singing, glorifying,  
Exclaiming - "Glory to the highest."

Nothing can happen by itself,  
Herod wants to reign  
Over the newborn Christ,  
The Baby born in a manger.

Let us praise the All-beneficent,  
brothers,  
Let us laud His providential wisdom,  
Singing, glorifying  
Exclaiming Glory to the highest.

## Мати милосерд(н)а

Мати милосердна!  
Ти єси ограда,  
Од лютого врага злого  
Храниши мя всегда.

От лютий рикаєт,  
бідна м`я хищаєт  
Скоро, скоро, Твоя помош  
от того збавляєт.

На всякий час зову,  
В немочі воззову,  
Воплем кріпким, тебе, Мати,  
Чиста Діво, молю.

Прошу тя, прещедру,  
Матер милосердну,  
Глас услиши, мой плач внуши,  
Молю тя, всещедру.

Тебе, Діво, молю,  
Воплем кріпким зову,  
Душу, серце в воздыханї,  
Преклоняя главу.

## O Merciful Mother

O merciful Mother!  
You are my protection,  
From the fierce and evil enemy  
You always protect me.

The evil one roars,  
the poor one preys on me  
Soon, soon, Your aid  
will deliver me from this.

I call upon you at all times,  
In my weakness I cry out,  
With a strong cry, to you, Mother,  
Pure Virgin, I pray.

I beg you, most generous one,  
Merciful Mother,  
Hear my voice, see my tears,  
I pray of you, all-generous one.

I pray to you, Virgin,  
I beseech you with a strong cry,  
My soul, my heart in breathing  
I bow my head.

## Колядую, колядую/Ой Коляда

(вязанка)

Колядую, колядую! Ковбасу чую,  
Святий вечір!

Дайте ковбасу, то я понесу.  
Як дасте кишку і з`їм в затишку.  
Святий вечір!

Давайте хутко, побіжу прудко.  
Коротка свитка - ізмерзла литка.  
Святий вечір!  
Святий вечір!

Ой коляда, ой коляда! Дайте, дядьку,  
пирога!  
Як не дасте пирога, Візьму вола за рога!  
Та виведу на моріг, Та виломлю правий ріг.  
У ріг буду трубити, Волом буду робити.  
Хвостом буду поганяць Та на гречку орать.

Ой коляда, ой коляда! Дайте маку і кутиці.  
Як не дасте одкажіте Моїх ніжок не знобіте.  
Я дитинка маленька, В мене ніжка  
босенька.  
Вечір добрий: Співайте! Пиріг довгий:  
Давайте!  
Та швидше виносіте, Та людей не морозіте.

Ой коляда, ой коляда! Дайте, дядьку,  
п`ятака!  
Як не дасте п`ятака, Візьму вола за рога!  
Та виведу на моріг, Та виломлю правий ріг.  
У ріг буду трубити, Волом буду робити.  
Хвостом буду поганяць Та на гречку орать.

Ой коляда, ой коляда! Ой коляда, ой  
коляда!  
Щедрий вечір, добрий вечір!

## I Am Caroling / Oh, Carol

(Medley)

I go a caroling, caroling! The scent of sausage,  
Christmas Eve!

Hand me a sausage, I'll carry it with me.  
If you give me some kishka, I'll find me a  
haven and eat it. Christmas Eve!

Give it quickly, I'll run off faster.  
My overcoat's short – my calves are freezing.  
Christmas Eve!  
Christmas Eve!

O carol, o carol! Share a stuffed pie, uncle!  
If you give me no pie, I'll take the bull by the  
horns!

I'll lead it to pasture and will break its right  
horn.

I'll blow on that horn, I'll work the ox.  
With the tail I'll drive it and plow me some  
buckwheat.

O carol, o carol! Share some poppy and  
wheat.

If you give none, stop freezing my feet.  
I'm but a kid and my feet are both bare.

Good evening to all: Sing! The pie is large:  
Share some!

Bring it out quickly, don't freeze the people.

O carol, o carol! Give me a five-spot, uncle!  
I you give me no five-spot, I'll take the bull by  
the horns!

I'll lead it to pasture and will break its right  
horn.

I'll blow on that horn, I'll work with the ox.  
With the tail I'll drive it and plow me some  
buckwheat.

O carol, o carol! O carol, o carol!

Benevolent evening, a good evening!

## Нова радість стала

(в`язанка)

Нова радість стала, що на небі  
хвала,  
звізда ясна Над вертепом увесь світ  
осіяла.

Пастушки з ягнятком Перед тим  
дитятком  
На колінця припадають, Царя-Бога  
восхваляють.

Нова радість стала, Яка не бувала,  
Над вертепом звізда ясна світлом  
засіяла.

Де Христос родився, з Діви  
воплотився,  
Як чоловік пеленами Убого  
повився.

Ангели співають, славу, честь  
звіщають.  
На небесах і на землі мир  
проповідують.

Ой Ти, Царю, Царю, Небесний  
Владарю,  
Даруй літа щасливії цього дому  
господарю.

## A New Joy Has Arisen

(medley)

There's a new joy heralded by the  
sky,  
A bright star above a manger beams  
the world over.

Before that Child, lambs and  
shepherds  
Kneel to praise the newborn King.

There's a new joy, such as has never  
been,  
Above a manger, a bright star shines.

Where Christ was born incarnate by  
the Virgin,  
And, like any person, He was humbly  
swaddled.

Angels sing, proclaiming glory and  
honor,  
Preaching peace on earth and  
heaven.

O You, King, o King, Heavenly Lord,  
Grant years of joy to this home's  
master.

## Що за радість

Що за радість для нас всіх настала,  
яка досі в світі не бувала.

*приспів:*

Свят Бог народився, людям  
об'явився, на землі.

Вже й три царі прийшли аж зі  
сходу  
і вітають Творця всього роду.

*приспів*

Дай нам, Спасе, вік прожити,  
щирим серцем все Тебе хвалити.

*приспів*

## What Joy

What joy alights on all  
It's unlike any ever on this earth.

*Refrain*

The Holy Lord is born, He's revealed  
to all on earth.

From the east from far afield  
Three Kings come to greet all life's  
Creator.

*Refrain*

Allow us, Savior, to live our days,  
And to always offer heartfelt praise  
to You.

*Refrain*

### Нічка та ясна

Нічка та ясна зорями світила  
У Вифлиємі  
Пречиста Діва Сина народила  
В яслах на сіні

*приспів:*

Слава Богу, слава на висоті  
На землі мир, спокій  
Слава в горі, мир на землі  
Людям добра воля

В сяйві великому пастухам у полі  
Ангел з'явився  
Він сповістив, що в вертепі убогим  
Христос народився

*приспів*

Сповнені радістю до хліва побігли  
До ясел впали  
Славу Святому Новородженому  
Богу віддали  
*приспів*

Ми також серцем до ясел  
припадимо  
Христа вітаймо  
Йому Одному Новородженому  
Поклін віддаймо.  
*приспів (x2)*

### The night was clear

The night was clear and the stars  
were shining brightly  
In Bethlehem  
The Virgin gave birth to her Son  
In a manger on hay

*refrain:*

Glory to God, glory on high  
Peace on earth, tranquility  
Glory in heaven, peace on earth  
Goodwill toward men

In a great light, to the shepherds in  
the field  
An angel appeared  
He announced that in a poor stable  
Christ was born

*refrain*

Filled with joy, they ran to the stable  
They fell down before the manger  
They gave glory to the Holy Newborn  
To God

*refrain*

Let us also fall down before the  
manger with our hearts  
Let us greet Christ  
Let us bow down before Him alone,  
the Newborn  
Let us bow down before Him.  
*refrain (x2)*

## В Вифлеємі днесь Марія

В Вифлеємі днесь Марія Пречиста  
Породила у вертепі нам Христа

*Приспів:*

Слава во вишніх Богу,  
Слава во вишніх Богу,  
І мир всім на землі.

Ангел з неба пастирям ся являє  
І веселу сю новину звіщає!...

*Приспів.*

Прибігають до вертепу пастирі  
І з собою несуть дари в офірі.

*Приспів.*

А зі сходу за зіздою йдуть царі,  
Три преславні прерозумні зіздарі.

*Приспів.*

Ми також Христу поклін свій  
віддаймо  
І разом з небесним хором  
співаймо.

*Приспів.*

І мир всім на землі.

## Mary this day in Bethlehem

In Bethlehem this day, Maria the Pure  
Gave us Christ in a manger.

*Refrain*

Glory be to God in the highest,  
Glory be to God in the highest,  
And peace to all on earth

An angel from heaven appears before  
the shepherds  
And heralds glad tidings!...

*Refrain*

The shepherds run to the manger  
Offering gifts that they bear.

*Refrain*

While Kings come from the east  
following a star,  
Three glorious wisemen and Magi.

*Refrain*

We also pay homage to Christ,  
Singing together in a heavenly choir.

*Refrain*

And peace to all on earth.