

# Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association

(Tovarystvo Ukrainskoi Opery Kanady)

The Canadian Ukrainian Opera Association set up in 1974 and later incorporated has as its goal the promotion and production of Ukrainian operatic and classical music in Canada. Under the baton of musical director, Maestro Wolodymyr Kolesnyk, formerly the director of the Kyiv State Opera, productions of operas: "Kupalo", "Zaporozhian Kozak Beyond the Danube", "Natalka Poltavka", "Roxolana", "Alchides" were performed with full symphony orchestras. Other accomplishments were performances of choral works, oratorios, and symphonies in Carnegie Hall with the American Symphony Orchestra (1981), Lyric Theatre in Chicago, O'Keefe Centre, Hamilton Place, Roy Thomson and Massey Halls. The Lysenko Opera Chorus, the performing arm of the CUOA, was acclaimed by William Littler as "the best operatic chorus singing heard in Toronto in years". The last concert under Maestro Kolesnyk, before his death, dedicated to the Tenth Anniversary of tragedy of Chornobyl, saw the performance of "Sacred Dnipro" by composer, Valerij Kikta, in Massey Hall (1996), which was recorded.

Since then, the Chorus sang V. Kikta's "Liturgy" twenty-three times in various churches in Canada and the USA, including South Bound Brook under musical director. Alla Shklar.

Recently, the CUOA has jointly sponsored the the recording of Ukrainian classical composers "art songs". These recordings by Kyrylo Stetsenko and Mykola Lysenko are sung by Pavlo Hunka, an opera singer from Great Britain, who has recently performed several roles with the Canadian Opera Company. Visit [www.musicaleopolis.com](http://www.musicaleopolis.com) for further information on the DVDs.