

Dear members of the International Association of Music Libraries, Archives and Documentation Centres (IAML),

On behalf of the artistic group of the Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater named after M.V. Lysenko / Skhid Opera (KhNATOB), I would like to kindly request your assistance in organizing a tour of our theater, aimed at presenting the culture of Ukraine to a wide circle of audiences.

Considering the fact that from the very beginning of the Russian aggression, Kharkiv became a front-line city, which is constantly under fire from the invaders, we are the only opera and ballet troupe in Ukraine that does not have an opportunity to perform on its own stage. At the end of April, the theater has been relocated to Slovakia, touring Europe.

We have expanded the theater's current repertoire to fit various types of performance venues, such as small concert halls and churches, by adding different performance formats (chamber, choral, symphonic, organ and vocal music), please see the attached folder.

Due to the ongoing war, the artistic group of the theater was divided. The majority of the theater company went on the European tour, which gave the artists an opportunity to stay in their creative shape. And those who remained in Kharkiv were organized by the management of the theater into a concert group that performs in bomb shelters and at small concert venues, where the conditions are safe for the artists and the audience.

I am hereby asking you to support our team, and during this difficult time for Ukraine - help protect its independence, including the cultural front. Any referrals you can make to the concert halls, theaters and impresarios worldwide, and any suggestions you might have for organizing our tours, would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Oleg Orishchenko
Director General - Artistic Director
KhNATOB named after M.V. Lysenko / Skhid Opera

ABOUT KHARKIV:

Kharkiv is the second largest city in Ukraine after the capital by population - a significant cultural, scientific and industrial center, which has been awarded with a full set of Awards of the Council of Europe. It is recognized by UNESCO as the "city of music" due to a large number of festivals and music venues. The largest and most powerful of these institutions is the Kharkiv National Academic Opera and Ballet Theater, which is an outpost of Ukrainian culture in the Eastern part of Ukraine.

ABOUT THE THEATER:

KhNATOB is an artistic company in which loyalty to the best cultural traditions is organically synthesized with brave searches for the most modern forms of artistic expression. Created in 1925 by the prominent figures of the Ukrainian avant-garde art, on the basis of an already existing stationary collective, the First Ukrainian Opera and Ballet Theater currently holds membership in the European Association "Opera Europa". The high level of performing and artistic skills of the Kharkiv musicians, opera singers and ballet dancers has been recognized in the world, on numerous occasions making them welcomed guests on the theater stages of Belgium, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Japan and many other countries.

The theater's repertoire includes many gems of the world opera and ballet masterpieces - over 50 operas and 30 ballets. Moreover, some recent premieres had a significant resonance in Ukraine and Europe. For example, one of the brightest and most creative performances is the ballet "Spartacus" by A. Khachaturian, where classical choreography is combined with acrobatic elements and stunts, creating a unique example of a powerful "male" ballet. The artistic solutions of the opera "Cinderella" by J. Massenet are unique and innovative, featuring unusual experimental stage design technologies.

A considerable portion of the repertoire is directly connected with Ukrainian culture, demonstrating a wide temporal and stylistic spectrum, from the first examples of the national opera art to the modern avant-garde, including "Taras Bulba" by M. Lysenko, "The Poet" by L. Kolodub and others. The premiere of the modern avant-garde opera "Vyshyvany. King of Ukraine" by Alla Zagaikevych to the libretto by Serhii Zhadan, which took place in October 2021, had a significant resonance. This is the first large-scale Ukrainian opera staged since independence, based on actual historical material. The project is based on the story of Wilhelm von Habsburg, supporter of the Ukrainian national liberation struggle of the first half of the 20th century, known under the name of Vasyl Vyshyvany. Being an Archduke from the Habsburg dynasty, he was an ardent supporter of Ukraine's independence. For many years, he defended the interests of our state and eventually paid with his life for loyalty to the national ideas. The dramatic story about the fate of Vasyl Vyshyvany, besides specifically operatic means, combines elements of cinematography and electro-acoustic technologies, emphasizing the fusion of the past and the present. Karl von Habsburg, the current head of the House of Habsburg, Wilhelm's great-nephew, sent his congratulations to the theater on the occasion of the premiere of the opera.