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TALENT AUDITIONS: Left to right: W. Robitsky, Alice Kuciw, M. Minsky, L. Carson—judge, J. Moskowa, L. Mittman—judge, A. Trocianecky-Haines, W. Cyeyk, M. Bonar, C. Gayowsky; Front: Mrs. Stowe, accompanist, L. Negres.

THE MOTHER IN SHEVCHENKO'S
POEMS

Taras Shevchenko turned more than once to the theme of mother and child. Out of childhood remembrances the poet carried away a memory of his own mother whom poverty and drudgery drove to an early grave. He recalled a step-mother, not a very kindly one, and the contrast between the two, no doubt, colored much of his later thinking.

One Christmas Eve, so goes the story, a few months after the death of the poet's mother, he and his brother were sent to take some food to an aged kinsman. They entered the hut, and according to custom offered greetings of the day:

"Father and mother—"

But at the thought of their own who was not with them anymore, the boys burst into sobs. The Older Taras, never forgot the incident.

His heart, so sensitive to human suffering, dealt especially tenderly with the unwed mother. The Ukrainian village, consisting of a few hundred huts, was strict in its moral standards. The mother and father of the girl, who loved too well rather than wisely, often suffered social ostracism no less than their daughter.

Shevchenko's heart went out to her whose only riches were "dark eyes and dark brows" and these not serving her well, though men jeered and women drew their skirts away and children pointed fingers at her, the "pokritka" found a staunch defender in this protector of lonely human being.

In Katerina, Naimichka, Maria, Shevchenko deals sensitively with the theme, rises against the injustices of man and speaks with anger against those who would cast the first stone.

One of Shevchenko's earliest was "Katerina," written when the poet was in his early twenties. It begins with the poet's admonishment to the girls not to love the "Moskaly," for their love is brief and trifling. They will love and leave with never a thought for the one they loved.

Katerina did not heed mother nor father. She loved a soldier from Moscow Land, met him secretly, and when the troops were called away, Katerina found herself alone in a village whose ways

were strict and severe. They covered Katerina's head with a kerchief as a sign that she was a woman, and though tongues wagged and months passed with no word from her lover, Katerina's heart continued hoping that he would return. For did he not promise?

Days went by but Ivan did not come back. A child was born to Katerina, and Shevchenko asks:

Woe is yours!
Where will you go
In this wide world
With your child?
Who will greet you?
Who will meet you
Without a beloved?

There was no peace for Katerina. She walked in the orchard but people stared and only when the sun went down, wrapping the earth in darkness, did she carry her little boy out. She whispered:

Here I looked for him,
There I spoke to him...

Father and mother turned away from Katerina, for she had brought disgrace to their home and family. They were kindly people but they felt that it would be better for her to leave, to seek Ivan in Moscow Land. With the little child in her arms Katerina left the village home. Shevchenko asks, why must this be? Why must human being be cruel to one another.

God alone doth know!
The world is wide,
But nowhere a place
For the lonely soul.

He continues,
Where are they,
The kindly souls,
With whom the heart
Once dreamed to live
And love?

They are no more, no more...

Katerina wandered far away from home, on the road to Moscowchina. People met her. They wondered.

Why is she sad?
Why does she grieve?
Why tearful eyes?
A patched garment,
A bag, in hand a staff,
And in the arms
A sleeping child.
Hungry and weary, without home or kin, the young mother continued

Ex-DP's Fire Heroes

The heroism of a Ukrainian sister and brother, former DPs, in a four alarm fire a week ago last Saturday morning on Thomas street in Newark, N. J. was front-paged, with pictures, in the Newark Evening News and the Newark Star-Ledger.

As reported in the News, Miss Dafia Ratycz, 36, was credited with saving the life of John Hoskins as he lay in his flame-filled apartment adjoining the Ratycz third-floor quarters. Miss Ratycz's brother, Yaroslav, 35, ran through the ill-starred building arousing the other sleeping families, then ran outside, turned in an alarm and then sprinted to nearby Clinton avenue to guide arriving apparatus to the scene.

Miss Ratycz said she was awakened by smoke shortly before 1 A.M. and she felt the wall at the head of her bed hot, indicating the adjoining apartment occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Hoskins was afire. She awakened her brother and sister-in-law in an adjoining room and then ran to the Hoskins' apartment. She said the door was unlocked and on entering she found Hoskins lying on the floor.

She dragged him by the hands to the head of the stairway and he was then able to make his way to the street. She said she did not see Hoskins' wife who was found dead in the apartment soon after the arrival of firemen.

Vital Papers Lost

When Ratycz was awakened by his sister, he donned a few clothes and then ran through the building, shouting the alarm in Ukrainian and pounding on doors. He was still crying the alarm as he ran into the street to summon firemen.

her search. Sometimes a roadside served for a bed. Girls should not ask why this is so, why people will shun an outcast soul;

Do not seek an answer,
Dark-eyed maid,
Men themselves
Don't know.
Whom the Lord hath
Punished in this world,
At him
They cast another stone...

Winter covered the fields of Ukraine.
The storm moans,

Metropolitan Area Committee's Town Hall
Audition Winners Announced

Winners in the auditions held in New York City's Fashion-Institute on Sunday, March 5, under the auspices of the Ukrainian Metropolitan Area Committee, have been announced by Olya Dmytriv, Concert Chairman. In addition to receiving the announced prize money, the winners of the contest, as adjudged by Leopold Mittman, internationally famous pianist, and Leon Carson, editor of the "Musical Courier" and nationally known voice authority, will appear in the Metropolitan Area Committee's Town Hall Concert in New York City on May 28, reports Ann Mitz, the organization's publicity director.

Out of a field of some 26 applicants, only 11 of whom actually auditioned, the judges with some difficulty and after long and hard discussion, finally made their selections. Their deliberations resulted in tying Jennie Moskowa-Vinnichenko, dramatic soprano, and Ann Trocianecky-Haines, lyric soprano, for first place as female vocalists, and, therefore, both will appear, instead of just one, at the Town Hall Concert.

Sheer amazement at her mastery of the piano after a comparative short period of study caused the selection of 10-year old Lois Nerges as one of the winners in the instrumentalist class. Cornelia Gayowsky, pianist, who has been heard in several concerts throughout the country and Canada, was the choice of the judges as being of such high caliber as to warrant a Town Hall concert appearance, and will be the other instrumentalist in the Metropolitan Area Committee's Town Hall Concert.

In the male vocalist category Michael Minsky, baritone, a recent arrival to this country, was the judges' choice as the winning contestant.

Chicago Arts Club to Present Music
Festival

The Ukrainian Arts Club of Chicago has announced the presentation of the Second Annual Music Festival on Saturday evening, April 1, 1950, in Chopin School Auditorium, 2440 Rice Street, Chicago.

The Festival has a double purpose, to promote, recognize and encourage musical talent of Ukrainian extraction in Chicago and to raise additional funds for the Ukrainian Arts Club Scholarship. The scholarship has been established at DePaul University to aid talented students of Ukrainian descent who are not able financially to continue with their college education. This scholarship is awarded to students who show evidence of superior scholastic ability and who will satisfy all the entrance requirements of DePaul University. Applications are received by the scholarship chairman Miss Marian Panko, 1242 N. Laramie Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The Music Festival program will include selected Ukrainian choruses of Chicago, vocal and instrumental soloists, and dancing groups. Any information regarding the Festival may be obtained by contacting the Festival chairman, John H. Barabash, 2830 N. Parkside Avenue, Chicago 34, Illinois.

Ukrainian Opera Ensemble in New York
Debut

The Ukrainian Opera Ensemble under the direction of Bohdan Piurko gave its first New York concert at the School of Fashion and Design on West 24th Street. Taking part in the program were Lydia Horn, dramatic soprano, Natalia Nosenko, lyric soprano, Ihor Sayfert, tenor, Michael Minsky, baritone and Michael Olchowy, basso. Mr. Piurko accompanied the singers at the piano for all selections.

The program consisted of the first portion containing several excerpts from Ukrainian operas and the rest from well known operas of the Italian school. The second portion was made up of various folk songs, duets and ensemble numbers.

The concert was thoroughly enjoyable which vouches for the artistic abilities of the singers. However it was interesting to note that a major portion of the audience was pleased more with the singing of folk songs than of the operatic arias. This is certainly nothing new under the sun and yet it is surprising how few singers realize it. It would have been far better if the group had chosen even more numbers from "Kozaks Beyond the Danube" than from "Tosca" and "Pagliacci." In America today, it is possible to hear the very finest voices sing the famous operas. However, seldom do we hear our own operas. Therefore it might be well if the Ukrainian Opera Ensemble realized this and acted accordingly.

Such excellent talents as Mr. Olchowy's mimicking and interpretations should not be confined to a strict recital type of concert. Too the other singers were much more appealing when they were singing the more popular folk songs and Ukrainian operatic excerpts. Ukrainians like opera just as much as any other nation does, however, it is seldom that we hear of an opera company, no less of a recital group, making a living. Since the Ukrainian Ensemble is primarily concerned with this fact it is suggested that it heed the suggestions offered.

The concert was sponsored by the Ukrainian American Veterans Post No. 7 of New York City.

The storm roars,
Sweeps across the fields...

the dogs he will sleep and play. Perhaps,

The dogs will bite,
But they won't talk,
And they won't laugh
Talking...

More troops are on the way. Maybe Ivan is among them. Katerina leaves the child, rushes out to meet them, and then sees her Ivan, her own, heading the marching men. She speak to him. She cries out to him, she rushes back to fetch her little one. When she returns, Ivan

FRANKO'S EULOGY OF TARAS
SHEVCHENKO

Once again Ukrainians the world over are observing this month the anniversary of the birth of Taras Shevchenko, the greatest poet and the national prophet of Ukraine. This year's anniversary, however, takes on added significance, for it coincides with the 110th anniversary of his "Kobzar," the famous collection of his poetry, generally regarded as the national Gospel of the Ukrainian people.

In the course of such celebrations, which will last throughout this month, it is worth recalling a characterization of Shevchenko written by another great Ukrainian writer and patriot, Ivan Franko (1856-1916). The characterization, one of the finest and tersest of its kind, is taken from Franko's article about Shevchenko, which appeared in its English translation in a 1924 issue of the London "Slavonic Review." It is as follows:

"He was a peasant's son, and has become a prince in the realm of the spirit.

"He was a serf, and has become a great Power in the commonwealth of human culture.

"He was an unschooled layman, and has shown to professors and scholars newer and freer paths.

"He suffered for ten years under the Russian soldiery, and has done more for the freedom of Russia than ten victorious armies.

"Fate pursued him cruelly throughout life, yet could not turn the pure gold of his soul to rust, his love of humanity to hatred, or his trust in God to despair.

"Fate spared him no suffering, but did not stint his pleasures, which welled up from a healthy spring of life.

"And it withheld till after death its best and choicest prize—undying fame and the ever new delight which his works call forth in millions of human hearts."



Taras Shevchenko (Born March 9, 1814; Died March 10, 1861)

SELECTIONS FROM THE "KOBZAR"

THE TESTAMENT

Dig my grave and raise my barrow
By the Dnieper-side
In Ukraina, my land,
A fair land and wide.
I will lie and watch the cornfields,
Listen through the years
To the river voice roaring,
Roaring in my ears.

When I hear the call
Of the racing flood,
Loud with hated blood
I will leave them all,
Fields and hills; and force my way
Right up to the Throne
Where God sits alone:
Clasp His feet and pray...
But till that day
What is God to me?

Bury me, be done with me,
Rise and break your chain,
Water your new liberty
With blood for rain.
Then, in the mighty family
Of all men that are free,
May be sometimes, very softly
You will speak of me?
(Trans. by E. L. Voynich)

BUT I CARE!

I care not, shall I see my dear
Own land before I die, or no,
Nor who forgets, buried here
In desert wastes of alien snow;
Though all forget me,—better so.
A slave from my first bitter years,
Most surely I shall die a slave
Ungraced by any kinsmen's tears,
And carry with me to the grave
Everything; and leave no trace,
No little mark to keep my place
In the dear lost Ukraina
Which is not ours, although our
land.

And none shall ever understand:
No father to his son shall say:
—Kneel down, and fold your hands
and pray:
He died for our Ukraina,
I care no longer if the child
Shall pray for me, or pass me by.
One only thing I cannot bear:
To know my land, that was beguiled
Into a death-trap with a lie,
Trampled and ruined and defiled...
Ah, but I care, dear God; I care!
(Trans. by E. L. Voynich)

THE REAPER

Through the fields the reaper goes
Piling sheaves on sheaves in row;
Hills, not sheaves, are these.
Where he passes howls the earth,
Howl the echoing seas.

All the night the reaper reaps,
Never stays his hand nor sleeps
Reaping endlessly:
Whets his blade and passes on...
Hush, and let him be.

Hush, he cares not how men writhe
With naked hands against the
scythe.
Wouldst thou hide in field or town?
Where thou art there he will come;
He will reap thee down.

Serf and landlord
Great and small;
Friendless wandering singers,—all,
All shall swell the sheaves that
grow to mountains;

Even the Tsar shall go,
And me too the scythe shall find
Cowering alone behind
Bars of iron; swift and blind,
Strike, and pass, and leave me stark
And forgotten in the dark.
(Trans. by E. L. Voynich)

is gone. She begs marching soldiers to take the little boy to his father. But they pass on and Katerina, crazed with grief, leaves her little son alongside the road. In the deep waters she finds peace.

A wind blew o'er the waters
And left not a trace.
Years pass. Katerina's child is now a little boy to whom
She gave fine brows
But gave no luck!

By the roadside they sit, the little fellow and an aged kobzar. Both are on their way to Kiev. Kindly people pass, drop a coin, a bit of food, a piece of bread...

A carriage comes along. A carriage driven by six horses, and inside, a lady, a gentleman and their family. The lady wavered her hand to the little fellow, the little fellow with the fine eyes.

The gentleman glanced at the boy. He recognized "those dark eyes and dark brows." The lady dropped a coin in the boy's hand, the carriage rolled away. Dust covered the little boy.

The aged kobzar and little Ivan counted their coin, sent a prayer, and made their way along the road.

