



The Music Department presents

Voices of Ukraine

The Ukrainian Classical Voice Project

Featuring

Yelena Kurdina, piano
Vedrana Kalas, soprano
Casey Gray, tenor
Young Kim, piano
Lucas Lewyckyj, dancer
Floydd Ricketts, choral conductor
Sylvia Stoner, soprano
Zorepad Dance Ensemble
and
Skidmore Students

Sunday, March 30th, 2025, 3:00PM
Arthur Zankel Music Center
Helen Filene Ladd Concert Hall

Program

All soloists perform in collaboration with Yelena Kurdina, pianist

Привіт Greeting

Гуцулка

Zorepad Dance Ensemble

Dr. Andrij Baran, *President of the Capital Region Branch of Ukrainian Congress Committee of America (UCCA)*

Журавка *The Crane*

Oleksandr Bilash
(1931-2003)

Julia Henslee '25, soprano

Віють вітри *The Winds Blow*

arr. by Mykola Lysenko
(1842-1912)

Katerina Kroner '26, soprano

Соловейко на калині *Nightingale
on the Viburnum Tree*

Anatoliy Kos-Anatolsky
(1909-1983)

Emily Landolfi '27, soprano

В кінці греблі шумлять верби
Willows Rustle by the Dam traditional

arr. by Mykola Boychencko
(1894-1947)

Jordan Kempner '28, soprano

Minuet Op. 5, No. 2

Serhij Bortkiewicz
(1877-1952)

Dr. Young Kim, piano

Вечірня пісня *The Evening Song*

Kyrylo Stetsenko
(1882-1922)

Lucia Cicerchia '28, soprano

Українська мелодія *Ukrainian Melody*

Mykola Lysenko

Alyssa Galen '27, soprano and Katrina Lester '27, mezzo-soprano

Хотіла б я піснею стати I *Wish I Could Become a Song*

Kyrylo Stetsenko

Mary Timmons '25, mezzo-soprano

Коли розлучаються двоє *When Two Hearts Part
Ways*

Casey Gray, tenor
Sylvia Stoner, soprano

Арія Марильці з опери “Тарас Бульба”
Maryltsya’s Aria from Taras Bulba

Mykola Lysenko

Vedrana Kalas, soprano

Intermission

Рече та стогне Дніпр широкий *The Mighty Dnieper*

Danylo Kryzhanivskyj
(1856-1894)

Зоре моя вечірняя *The Evening Star*

Hordiy Hladkyj
(1849 - 1894)

Skidmore Chorus
Dr. Floyd Ricketts, conductor
Daniel Huh, piano

Пастушка *The Shepherdess*

Anatoliy Kos-Anatolsky

Lalita Stromayer '28, soprano

Прокляте місце *The Cursed Place*

Borys Lyatoshynsky
(1895-1968)

Arielle Lam '25, mezzo-soprano

На білу гречку впали роси *The Dew Fell Onto White Fields*

Mykola Dremlyuha
(1917-1998)

Rhea Fitzpatrick '25, soprano

На човні *On a Boat*

Lesya Dychko
(b. 1939)

Naomi Wagner '26, soprano

Жасміни *Jasmines*

Stefania Turkewych
(1898-1977)

Isadora Zucker '25, soprano

Пливе човен *The Boat is Sailing*

Mykola Lysenko

Rhea Fitzpatrick '25 and Mary Timmons '25

Лукашева сопілка "Lukash's pan flute"

Anatoliy Kos-Anatolsky

Vedrana Kalas, soprano

Березянка

Zorepad Dance Ensemble

Молитва Андрія з опери "Запорожець за Дунаєм" Andriy's
Prayer from "Cossack Beyond the Danube"

Semen Hulak-Artemovsky
(1813-1873)

Casey Gray, Sylvia Stoner, soloists
Skidmore Student Voices of Ukraine
Members of the Skidmore Chorus
Dr. Floyd Ricketts, conductor, Yelena Kurdina, pianist

The Ukrainian Classical Voice Project is a newly founded groundbreaking educational initiative which focuses on giving voice to the underrepresented composers of Ukraine, while also celebrating and promoting the nation's stunning musical heritage.

Introducing American and global audiences to these rarely-heard musical treasures strongly aligns with our convictions about social justice, supporting the marginalized creative groups and the concept of equality at large. To us at UCV, fighting for Ukrainian voice means fighting for inclusion, fair representation, diversity and artistic integrity.

The UCV offers Ukrainian diction coachings for singers, provides music scores, IPA transcription resources, organizes workshops, presentations and seminars on Ukrainian art songs and operatic arias in colleges and universities across the United States and beyond. We frequently put together concerts, recitals and community events meant to spread the word about these unique masterpieces, delivering easy access to the immersive experience for both the audiences and performers.

It is endlessly exciting and meaningful to be able to introduce the world to the magic of Ukrainian vocal repertoire. We invite you to explore it and sincerely hope you will fall in love with its timeless beauty, wisdom and centuries-old legacy, just as much as we have.

As Ukraine reclaims its national identity, we can all be a part of the Ukrainian spirit through song.

IT IS TIME FOR THE VOICE OF UKRAINE TO BE HEARD.

Extraordinary pianist, recitalist, coach, prompter and assistant conductor, **Yelena Kurdina** is among the most sought after collaborators in the opera world today.

A specialist in Russian repertoire at The Metropolitan Opera for over 25 years, Ms. Kurdina became Plácido Domingo's private coach for his preparation of "one of the most important roles of his career," Germann in Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades". Ms. Kurdina joined Mr. Domingo for the productions in New York, Los Angeles, Washington and the Vienna Staatsoper, and also accompanied him in concert on the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in a program of Spanish music. Indeed, Ms. Kurdina has partnered with many of the most outstanding singers of our time. Yelena was the coach and consultant for Renee Fleming's recordings of "Night Songs" and "Homage: The Age of the Diva", as well as her televised appearance as Tatiana in "Eugene Onegin" with the New York Philharmonic on PBS' Great Performances and later on the Met HD telecast. Ms. Kurdina's recitals with the remarkable Dmitri Hvorostovsky, have been called "rich and haunting collaborations, beautifully judged and impeccably ardent".

No stranger to the leading international opera houses, Ms. Kurdina has brought her distinguished musicianship to such renowned festivals and opera houses as the Opéra national de Paris, Houston Grand Opera, Saito Kinen Festival in Japan, Summerscape in the Frank Gehry theater at Bard College, Cincinnati May Festival, Teatro de la Maestranza in Sevilla, Spain, the National Symphony Orchestra and Washington National Opera in Washington, DC. and recently San Francisco Symphony. Ms. Kurdina has been the assistant to a host of extraordinary conductors - Yannick Nézet-Séguin, Seiji Ozawa, Vladimir Jurowski, Antonio Pappano, James Conlon, Valery Gergiev, Jiří Bělohlávek, Fabio Luisi, Michael Tilson Thomas among others - with whom she has worked not only on Russian operas, but also on many Italian operas, as well. Among the highlights of her operatic career are Verdi's "Otello" and "Don Carlo", Tchaikovsky's "The Queen of Spades", Shostakovich's "Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk" and Prokofiev's "Gambler" and "War and Peace".

Hailing originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, Ms. Kurdina is a protégé of John Wustman - the "Dean of American accompanists" - with whom she studied at the University of Illinois. Like her illustrious mentor, an important part of Ms. Kurdina's career has centered on working with young artists. Ms. Kurdina has been on the faculty of the International Vocal Arts Institute in Tel Aviv for many years, she is a regular guest of the Domingo - Cafritz Young Artist Program at the Washington Opera and Domingo - Colburn - Stein Young Artist Program at the Los Angeles Opera, SIVAM in Mexico City, and maintains a vibrant private studio in New York City, where she has coached innumerable singers who have gone on to major operatic careers.

Ms. Kurdina has also developed an outstanding system of transliteration for Russian opera that has been lauded by houses across the country. Ms. Kurdina's transliterations of such scores as "Eugene Onegin", "The Queen of Spades", "Khovanshina", "Boris Godunov", "The Gambler", "Mazepa", "The Nose" and "The Maid of Orleans", as well as many others, are currently in use by such companies as the Metropolitan Opera, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Houston Grand Opera and the American Symphony Orchestra.

In her recent appearance as Mimì (*La Bohème*), **Vedrana Kalas** "touched hearts bringing a specific vocalism to every situation she was in." According to the critics, "It is not often that one encounters a young singer who can sing the first act and act the fourth act equally well." Her Mimì was sung "with great emotion and impeccable diction in a soaring voice that resonated throughout the space." In her performance as Norina she was acclaimed for her "glorious, dramatic, and soaring voice and enchanting personality" at Hubbard Hall Opera Theater's production of *Don Pasquale*. Some of her other operatic repertoire includes Violetta (*La Traviata*), Donna Anna

(*Don Giovanni*), Euridice (*Orfeo ed Euridice*), Vittelia (*La Clemenza di Tito*), and Constanze (*Dialogues des Carmélites*), Juliette (*Roméo et Juliette*), Manon (*Manon*), Lucia (*Lucia di Lammermoor*), Pamina (*Die Zauberflöte*), and Micaëla (*Carmen*). Equally comfortable as a concert soloist Ms. Kalas performed with the Nacre Dance Company of Saratoga Springs, Opera Saratoga, Octavo Singers, Jubilate Singers, Mendelssohn Club of Albany, and Albany Pro Musica. Most recently, Ms. Kalas appeared as a soprano soloist with the NYC Ballet and Orchestra in *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at SPAC in Saratoga Springs.

Kalas is a native of Bosnia, a war torn country, where she emigrated from as a teenager with her family. She graduated from Crane School of Music at SUNY Potsdam with honors and several vocal awards. Currently, she enjoys her vocal studies with Grammy-nominated soprano Monique McDonald, and her coaches Michael Clement, Đorđe Nešić, Brian Garman, Arlene Shrut, and Jorge Parodi. Throughout her training she has worked with world renowned artists such as Ruth Falcon, Justino Diaz, Sherrill Milnes, Warren Jones, and John Wustman. Recently selected as the finalist for the prestigious Jenny Lind-Barnum Festival Voice Competition in Bridgeport (CT), Ms. Kalas is also a two time recipient of the Joel Dolven Vocal Award from the Mendelssohn Club of Albany.

Growing up through the Bosnian war she is particularly sensitive to children who come from similar underprivileged circumstances. In September of 2013 she dedicated her solo recital *Ouvre ton coeur* to children and youth of Bosnia who don't have the opportunities that many of us are blessed with every day. The program includes folk-inspired art songs by Ravel, Bizet, Dvořák as well as a set by former Yugoslav composers. The concert was reprised in different venues around the region in the past several years. Following her passion for bringing awareness to those in need, Ms. Kalas is a proud ambassador of the Bosana Foundation based in California. She has given fundraiser recitals to support their mission. Ms. Kalas appeared as the guest artist at the 11th Annual Bosana Foundation Gala in Los Angeles.

Praised for her "vivid presence" and "radiant luscious timbre", the Kyiv-born Ukrainian American soprano and UCVP founder **Irina Petrik** is quickly gaining popularity as a charismatic singing actress of today in the United States and beyond. Once a performer with Kazka children theater, and later a resident soloist with the Kyiv Youth Symphony and Choir, Irina graduated with honors and obtained an Artist Diploma from the historic Glière Municipal Academy of Music, where she studied voice performance upon receiving a full four year scholarship from the Ministry of Culture of Ukraine.

After moving to the United States, Irina obtained her Bachelor of Music degree in Voice Performance from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music in California and a Master's degree in Vocal Pedagogy from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, New Jersey. She is currently pursuing her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Voice Performance at Shenandoah Conservatory in Winchester, VA.

Ms. Petrik has performed as a soloist and featured guest artist with the National Operetta Theater of Ukraine, National Philharmonic of Ukraine, Harpa National Concert Hall in Reykjavik, Iceland; New York City Ballet and Orchestra, Opera Saratoga, Syracuse Opera, Arizona Opera, San Francisco Lyric Opera, Hubbard Hall Opera Theater, Lowell House Opera at Harvard University, First Coast Opera, Schenectady Saratoga Symphony, among others.

A versatile and gifted performer, Irina is equally comfortable in genres ranging from opera, operetta and sacred music to musical theater, jazz, contemporary commercial music and traditional ethnic music. However, Irina's heart undisputedly belongs to Ukrainian traditional music, and she recently celebrated this affinity by releasing

an album titled "Songs From The Heart", dedicated to this unique genre. It is currently available on all platforms worldwide, including Amazon Music, Apple Music, iTunes, Spotify and Pandora.

Irina is a passionate advocate of cultural diplomacy and strives to promote and bring awareness to Ukrainian music, traditions and rich heritage to audiences throughout the globe as an artistic ambassador and educator.

She has performed as a featured guest artist at the Festival of the United Nations, O-Fest International Festival, Montreal Ukrainian Festival, Denver Ukrainian Festival, Stanford Ukrainian Festival, Soyuzivka Ukrainian Festival, among others. She serves as a music director for the Capital District Ukrainian Festival in Albany, NY.

In light of the political unrest in Ukraine, Irina was proud to present a Ukrainian opera "Cossack Beyond the Danube" in New York which she co-produced in collaboration with Boston-based Commonwealth Lyric Theater and Zorepad Ukrainian Dance Ensemble. The project was met with much critical acclaim and enthusiasm, premiering to a sold out audience at the SUNY Albany Performing Arts Center in 2015.

In 2018 Irina received a Top 40 Under 40 Award from the Department of Culture of Ukraine and was given an honored alumna status by her alma mater Glière Municipal Academy of Music on its 150th anniversary in Kyiv.

After a full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Putin in 2022, Irina launched UCVP, the Ukrainian Classical Voice Project, a groundbreaking and timely educational initiative focused on illuminating Ukrainian vocal music, bringing up the subject of cultural appropriation of Ukrainian repertoire and popularizing Ukrainian classical arias and art songs among students and professional performers of all ages.

Since the beginning of the war, Irina made it her mission to spread the word about her nation's fight for freedom in academic circles and beyond. She conducted Ukrainian diction workshops, seminars on underrepresented composers of Ukraine and lecture recitals in collaboration with NATS National Association of Teachers of Singing, Rio Hondo College in California, Philomela Women's Ensemble in Virginia, University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Westminster Choir College of Rider University, Troy Music Hall in New York, The Friday Club of Chicago, State University of New York at Oswego, with many more exciting events coming soon! Irina extends heartfelt thanks to her Skidmore family for their overwhelming support in time of dire need.

Casey Gray (tenor) is an active performer in the Capital Region and throughout New York State. He has performed with the Western New York Chamber Orchestra, Chautauqua Opera Company, Hillman Opera, Octavo Singers, Saratoga Voices, Schenectady-Saratoga Symphony Orchestra, Catskill Symphony Orchestra, Catskill Choral Society, Schenectady Light Opera Company and Auriel Camerata. Notable roles include Peter Quint (*Turn of the Screw*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*), Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), Little Bat (*Susannah*), Pitichinaccio (*Les Contes d'Hoffmann*), Alfred (*Die Fledermaus*), Pirelli (*Sweeney Todd*), Ferrando (*Così fan tutte*), Don Ottavio (*Don Giovanni*). Notable performances of Oratorio works include Satyavān (*Savitri*), Evangelist/Victim (*Samaritan*) premier performance by composer Sean Doyle, Evangelist Bach's *St. John* Passion, Händel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, and Dubois' *Seven Last Words of Christ*. His concert works as a Tenor Soloist include, Mozart's *Requiem*, Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* as well as concerts showcasing the works of George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, Rodgers and Hart, Andrey Lloyd Webber, Cab Calloway, and Cole Porter (under the baton of William Jon Gray, & Glen Cortese).

Mr. Gray is in demand as a voice teacher, vocal coach, and accompanist for various programs throughout the Capitol region. Currently he serves as Organist at Jonesville United Methodist Church and is a member of the voice faculty at Skidmore College.

Pianist **Young Kim**, a Steinway Artist, has performed internationally as a soloist in recitals and with orchestras, in addition to appearing numerous times as a chamber musician. A native of South Korea, Kim performed in major concert venues in Korea including the Seoul Arts Center. In Russia, she appeared as a soloist with the Saint Petersburg State Capella Symphony Orchestra, performing Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto to great acclaim. Since moving to the Capital District of NY in 2000, she appeared as a soloist with Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and Glens Falls Symphony Orchestra several times and performed solos and chamber music actively in the area.

Dr. Kim has been frequently invited to present lectures, recitals, and piano master classes in colleges and universities in Asia, Europe and in the US. In October 2019, she was inducted into the Steinway & Sons Teacher Hall of Fame. She was the recipient of the 2016 Thomas A. Manion Distinguished Faculty Award at the College of Saint Rose, where she was a Professor of Piano from 2002-2021. She holds a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Minnesota, an Artist Diploma from Yale University, a M.M. from The Juilliard School, and BM from Seoul National University. Dr. Kim is currently a Senior Artist-in-Residence at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY.

Lucas Lewyckyj - My name is Lucas Lewyckyj. I am twenty-one years old. I grew up dancing with the Kalyna Ukrainian Dance Ensemble in Rochester, New York. I started dancing at the age of four and have danced ever since. I began assisting with teaching in the ensemble, while in high school and have continued to do so. I have had the opportunity to work with dancers from ages 4-18.

I am currently a college student studying at Skidmore College, with a focus in computer science. I have also taken a variety of dance classes at the school and plan to continue taking more. Due to this opportunity, I have studied multiple styles of dance and plan to incorporate techniques and steps from many of these into classes and dances.

Floydd Ricketts is an award-winning conductor, music director, educator, and activist whose work bridges choral artistry, orchestration, and theatre. He is an Artist-in-Residence and Director of Choirs at Skidmore College, where he leads dynamic vocal ensembles and fosters an inclusive approach to choral music-making. In addition, he serves as the associate chorusmaster for L'Orchestre Philharmonique et Chœur des Mélomanes in Montreal and is the former Head of Music at the National Theatre School of Canada.

Equally at home in the worlds of choral and theatrical music direction, Dr. Ricketts has worked extensively in musical theatre across Canada, collaborating with leading institutions such as The Grand Theatre (London), Arts Club Theatre Company (Vancouver), The Citadel Theatre (Edmonton), Canadian Stage and Factory Theatre (Toronto), The Shaw Festival (Niagara-on-the-Lake) and the Royal Manitoba Theatre Centre (Winnipeg) where he most recently served as music director for the Canadian production premiere of *Waitress*. His work in theatre is marked by a deep commitment to musical storytelling, ensuring vocalists not only meet technical demands but also connect meaningfully with their material.

A dedicated scholar, Dr. Ricketts explores the intersections of historic Black musics, gender, and social justice, examining how these influences shape both past and present choral traditions. His research and pedagogy emphasize cultural preservation, artistic excellence, and the evolving role of choral music in institutional and community settings.

Sylvia Stoner has performed across the country in opera and theater. Regional opera credits include the Des Moines Metro Opera, Shreveport Opera, Opera Omaha, Union Avenue Opera, Kentucky Opera, Mobile Opera, Lake George Opera, and the Lyric Opera of Kansas City. Favorite roles include Mimi in *La Bohème*, Countess in *Figaro*, Tatiana in *Eugene Onegin*, and Marguerite in *Faust*. A proud member of Actor's Equity, she toured nationally in Terence McNally's "*Maria Callas: Masterclass*" in the role of opera singer Sharon Graham. Internationally, she performed in Italy with Orvieto Musica and the InterHarmony International Music Festival. Recent soloist engagements include the Schenectady Symphony, Saratoga Voices, the Battenkill Chorale, the Northern Berkshire Chorale, and the Skidmore Orchestra.

Dr. Stoner co-created "*Sister--Show me Eternity*" based upon the life of Emily Dickinson and her sisters. This unique staging of art song and narrative celebrates the artist-teacher, as the production included a student chorus at each performance. There are now over 40 students nationally who have appeared in this work at various colleges and universities on the East coast and in the Midwest. Her next collective endeavor includes co-commissioning and touring new operas based on the stories of past generations called "*A Mosaic of Motherhood*."

She obtained her Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree with honors in Voice at the University of Kansas and is currently the Senior Artist-in-Residence in Voice at Skidmore College.

Zorepad Dance Ensemble - The official name of our ensemble is the "Zorepad Ukrainian Dance Ensemble". Zorepad performs traditional Ukrainian Folk dancing. We have dancers ranging from 4-23 years old. The entire group performs at our end of year recital in June, and our older groups perform periodically throughout the year at different events.

Upcoming Events

Skidmore String Festival
w/ Sphinx Virtuosi
Saturday, April 5, 7:30pm

Skidmore String Festival w/Sphinx Virtuosi
and Skidmore Students
Sunday, April 6, 2:00pm

Senior Bass Recital: August DuClos
Friday, April 11, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Brass & Woodwind Ensembles
Saturday, April 12, 3:00pm
in Wilson Chapel

Young Kim & Skidmore Pianists
Saturday, April 13, 4:00pm

Senior Voice Recital:
Mary Timmons
Saturday, April 19, 1:00pm

Senior Recital: Alex Ciardullo
Saturday, April 19, 4:00pm

Senior Voice Recital:
Rhea Fitzpatrick
Saturday, April 19, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Orchestra
Tuesday, April 22, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert: Chorus
Thursday, April 24, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
String Ensembles

Skidmore in Concert:
Global Music Showcase
Saturday, April 26, 1:00pm
In Thomas Amphitheater

Skidmore in Concert:
Concert Band
Sunday, April 27, 1:00pm

Senior Guitar Recital:
Rimmele Wood
Sunday, April 27, 4:00pm

Senior Recital: Arielle Lam
(Piano & Voice)
Sunday, April 27, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Big Band + Cuban Music Ensemble

Skidmore in Concert:
Vocal Soul Collective
Tuesday, April 15, 7:00pm
in Filene Recital Hall

Friday, April 25, 4:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Guitar Ensemble
Friday, April 25, 7:00pm

Monday, April 28, 7:00pm

Skidmore in Concert:
Small Jazz Ensembles + Guitar
Wednesday, April 30, 7:00pm