

UKRAINIAN MALE CHORUS
PROMETHEUS
PRESS KIT



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ABOUT PROMETHEUS

Founded in 1962, the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus of Philadelphia is one of the oldest Ukrainian male choirs in the world. The Chorus has a long and distinguished history which includes tours of Europe in 1980 and 1984, as well as a tour of Ukraine in 1995. In 1980, the tour included concert stops in England (London, Manchester and Bradford), France (Paris, Lyon, Nantes, Rennes and St. Lorient), Holland (Utrecht), Austria (Salzburg) and Germany (Munich, Stuttgart, Hamburg and Dusseldorf). In 1984, the Chorus visited Switzerland (Montreux Choral Festival, Bern, Luzerne, Zurich and Lausanne), France (Strasbourg) and Germany (Munich). Its first appearance in a free and independent Ukraine took place in 1995 with concert performances in Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, Strij, Drohobych, Ternopil, Truskavtsi and Chernivtsi. Over the years, Prometheus has performed at Carnegie Hall and Town Hall in New York City, NY,

Lincoln Hall in Chicago, IL, John Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and DAR Constitution Hall in Washington D.C., Mont Royale in Montreal, QC, Roy Thomson Hall and Massey Hall in Toronto, ON, and the Academy of Music in Philadelphia, among many other prominent venues around the world.

The Chorus started its long journey in 1962 with 15 singers. Rehearsals were conducted by Petro Kurylenko and accompanied on the mandolin by O. Kobylnyk. Soon after, Prometheus was able to engage the renowned choral conductor Ivan Zadorozhny as its permanent artistic director. At the time, he was also leading the Dumka Chorus of New York and the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus based in Detroit, MI. With Ivan Zadorozhny's unexpected death in 1967, the Chorus filled the void with two interim directors, Roman Stepaniak and Wolodymyr Trytiak.





Ukrainian Independence Day Concert (2014)
Jenkintown, PA

In 1968, Mychajlo Dlaboha was hired to carry the torch and would serve as permanent director until 1991. Under his direction, the Chorus achieved numerous memorable milestones including two tours of Western Europe. With his youthful exuberance, he was able to integrate many young singers into its ranks. At one time, the choir had over 70 performers and a youth preparatory group of over 20 young men which allowed the Chorus to record three LPs and two CDs. The repertoire included not only the works of Ukraine's finest composers (Lysenko, Stetsenko, Liudkevych, Hayvoronsky, Nyzhankivsky, Koshetz, Nishchynsky, Kos-Anatolsky, Sichynsky, Kudryk, Hulak-Artemovsky, Bortniansky, etc. but also those of international masters (such as Wagner, Schumann and Schubert). With Dlaboha's departure in 1991, talented violinist and orchestral conductor Adrian Bryttan was selected to lead the Chorus. It was under his tenure that Prometheus successfully completed its concert tour of Western Ukraine. Next to take the helm was Nestor Kyzymyshyn, who served as artistic director from 1998 until 2008.

With a youthful revival, current artistic director Roman Kucharskyy has reinvigorated the efforts of Prometheus. Since his arrival in 2008, Mr. Kucharskyy has brought together a diverse range of male singers committed to musical excellence. In 2012, the Chorus celebrated its 50th Anniversary in front of a sold out, standing room only audience at the Ukrainian Educational & Cultural Center in Jenkintown, PA. Since this milestone concert, the Chorus has also performed at the annual Yonkers Ukrainian Heritage Festival twice (2013, 2014), the 200th Anniversary Commemoration of the birth of Taras Shevchenko at the United Nations in New York (2014), the 50th Anniversary of the Shevchenko Monument in Washington D.C. (2014), a joint concert series with the Dumka Chorus of New York celebrating the life of Taras Shevchenko (2015) as well as many other Christmas, Shevchenko and local events. In 2014, the Chorus also received an Honorable Award from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in Ukraine for its 50 years of hard work in preserving and popularizing the Ukrainian culture. Always striving for the highest degree of musicianship, Prometheus continues to maintain a rich and colorful repertoire to enable audiences to experience the great beauty of Ukrainian choral tradition.

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ABOUT ROMAN KUCHARSKYY

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



Roman Kucharskyy received his primary music education from the Chortkiv Pedagogical School. After graduating in 1973, he worked as a performer with the Hutsul Ensemble of Song and Dance of the Ivano-Frankivsk Regional Philharmonia. He later completed his higher education at the Vasyl Stefanyk Pedagogical Institute of Ivano-Frankivsk. In the years that followed, he was employed as a school teacher in the Lviv region. In 1984, he moved with his family to Yakutia in the Far East of Russia, where he served as music director at the Nezhdaninskoye Music School. Throughout his career he has performed extensively in shows as a soloist and a conductor. Currently, he serves as the conductor of the St. Josaphat Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir in Trenton, NJ and as the Artistic Director of Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus of Philadelphia.

Irene Pelech Zwarych, pianist, earned her Bachelors and Masters of Music at Temple University and also received a certificate in Elementary Education from Holy Family University. Presently, she performs as a soloist at mostly Ukrainian community events in the Philadelphia metropolitan area as well as in other cities. She also performs as an accompanist for other musicians and is the accompanist for the Prometheus Ukrainian Male Chorus in Philadelphia (1979-1997; 2008-present) For over 20 years, Pelech Zwarych has been working as an elementary music teacher for the School District of Philadelphia. She has also been the co-director of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ukrainian Catholic Church Choir in Melrose Park, PA since 1991. In addition to her musical activities, she is also an active member of the Philadelphia Branch of the Plast Ukrainian Scouting Organization and is a member of the Plast Sorority "Spartanky."



ABOUT IRENE PELECH ZWARYCH

ACCOMPANIST