



Oleksander Koshetz Choir hosts 23rd Annual Concert, Dinner & Draw

Submitted by *Sylvia Todaschuk*

The O. Koshetz Choir, under the direction of Mirosława Pachas, will be hosting its 23rd Annual Concert, Dinner and Draw, Friday May 1, 2009 at Canad Inns Garden City. Cocktails are at 6 p.m. with the formalities beginning at 7 p.m. As in the past, the choir will be providing a preview of its spring repertoire.

The O. Koshetz Choir is a 40-50 member mixed-voice choir that focuses primarily on performing Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian choral works that promote and preserve these choral traditions. Members of the choir come from various ethnic and religious backgrounds, but all share the love and passion of music. Although Ukrainian is the primary language of singing, all music is provided in Ukrainian and English transliterated form, and choir rehearsals are conducted in English. The choir also uses a members-only web system to keep everyone current with the latest news. New members and returning alumni are always welcome.

The choir has performed numerous times with the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and has often partnered with various other choirs and ethnic groups to cross promote cultures and music styles. The choir's mandate is to move forward and bring the Ukrainian choral tradition out of church basements and onto the main stage. In many respects, the choir feels it has accomplished this mission.

The choir is often noted for its rich passionate sound,

where the "women sound like women" - as once noted by Bramwell Tovey. The choir also takes its legacy responsibilities seriously having established the Walter Klymkiw Scholarship at the University of Manitoba for those individuals with an interest in choral conducting in the Ukrainian and Ukrainian-Canadian tradition.

The original recipient of that scholarship, Andriana Chuchman, is currently a member of the Patrick G. & Shirley W. Ryan Opera Center at the Lyric Opera of Chicago, having recently taken the Edmonton opera area by storm. The current winner, Melita Mudri-Zubacz, is continuing her studies while juggling a full family and choral life as a church choir conductor.

This is a particularly exciting year for the choir, as it completes its first season with its new conductor, Mirosława Pachas.

Mirosława is a Registered Music Teacher and a graduate of the Lviv State Music Academy, Faculty of Theory and Composition with a Major in Musicianship. She also has a diploma from the Uzhhorod State Music College with a Major in Piano, Choir Conducting, and Theory of Music. Mirosława was previously senior choir conductor at Vinogradiv Music School in Ukraine and choir conductor, pianist, and organist for Atlantic Garden City United Church in Winnipeg. In addition to conducting the Oleksander Koshetz Choir, Mirosława conducts the Youth and Adult Mixed Choirs at Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of Sts Vladimir and Olga, is a



Members of the Oleksander Koshetz Choir.

- Photo Courtesy Skorsky Photography

music teacher at Tauber Music School, and teaches piano and advanced theory privately. Mirosława has a keen creative interest in music, having composed and arranged numerous compositions for her choirs to perform.

The May 1, 2009 event includes a number of draws, with prizes donated by various choral supporters. The final draw of the evening is for \$1,000 and always draws interest. Last year, Carpathia Credit Union won the \$1,000 final prize, and immediately donated it back to the choir. It is only through supporters like

Carpathia Credit Union that the choir is able to continue its mandate of promoting and preserving Ukrainian Choral Music.

Tickets for the event are \$60 and available from any choir members or Genevieve call at 663-8423 or e-mail kwarzstrong@shaw.ca

Ukrainian Canadian Events in Winnipeg are under the Ukrainian Canadian Congress - Provincial Council compiled by Sylvia Todaschuk 586-3445. (Please phone with further events in the Ukrainian community).