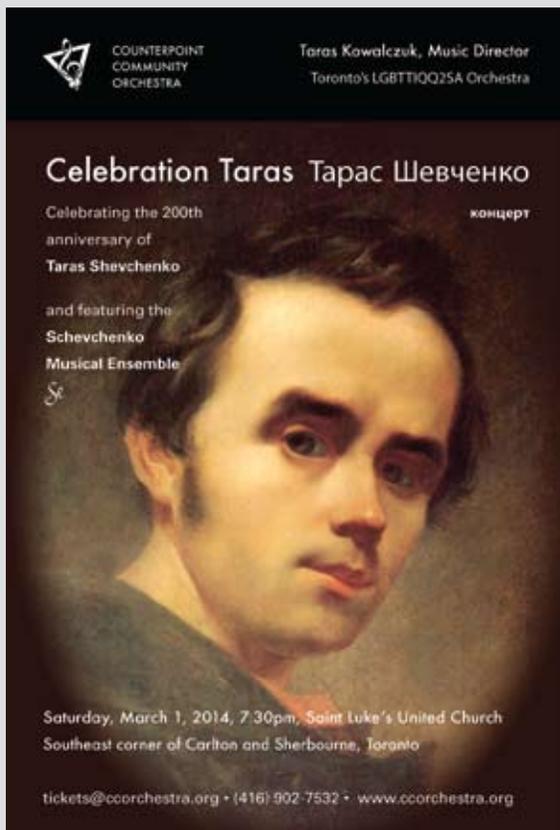


Celebration Taras

Saturday, March 1, 2014, 7:30pm
Saint Luke's United Church, Toronto



Taras Bulba Overture by Mykola Lysenko

Featuring the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble:

Lichu v Nevoli

(I count in captivity days and nights) by Denis Sichynsky, lyrics by Taras Shevchenko

Hommage à Shevchenko

(from "Suite Canadienne") by Morris Surdin, lyrics by Taras Shevchenko

Unharness the Horses, Lads

Ukrainian Folk Song, arr. Alexander Veprinsky

Featuring soloists Jennifer Rasor (Soprano) and Hassan Anami (Tenor), and the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble:

Finale from A Zaporozhian Cossack Beyond the Danube, opera by Semen Hulak-Artemovsky, arranged by Alexander Veprinsky

Symphony No. 2 "The Ukrainian" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. This performance is dedicated to the late Galina Bugaeva.

Message from your Music Director

Upon reflection of this upcoming concert, it dawned on me why I am involved with CCO. It is because this is a very enriching experience. As I further reflect on this point, I realize that our orchestra exists because everyone in it feels enriched and they only come together to create joy for themselves and others. There is no other reason, really, to have to do anything like this, especially coming out to rehearsals in -26 degree weather.

We wish to enrich you on March 1, so please come out and hear what our musicians have been excited about for the past month. We are pleased to perform our very first Ukrainian-themed program, Celebration Taras, a birthday bash in commemoration of the 200th anniversary of the great Ukrainian poet and artist, Taras Shevchenko. We have a double surprise this March, as the celebrations will be enriched by the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble of Toronto. The Shevchenko Ensemble will join us in 4 works for choir and orchestra, culminating in the opera finale, A Zaporozhian Cossack Beyond the Danube, with soprano Jennifer Rasor and tenor Hassan Anami. We will round off the evening with Tchaikovsky's tuneful Symphony No. 2, which is based on Ukrainian folk songs.

In this concert you will notice a new face in the front row. That's right, we have a new concertmaster! Please welcome Emma Vachon-Tweney. Emma has a long relationship with our orchestra, having been a violin and viola player, a board member, a soloist, and now, having turned professional, our new concertmaster.

Our audience is one of the most loyal in the Toronto area. I have never reached out financially in a message before, but for this coming concert I do. CCO is a huge source of richness for our community and we have some exciting ideas in mind for the future. Please reach out to us in whatever way you can, no amount is too small, so that we may continue collaborations with different groups around this great city. If we can raise an extra \$3000 by the end of the year, we will surprise you. Look for the envelope in your programme.

In the meantime, please enrich us with your presence, joy and enthusiasm.



Taras Kowalczyk,
Music Director



The Shevchenko Choir of the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble

The Shevchenko Choir counts its beginnings from 1951 with the formation of the

Shevchenko Male Chorus by a group of young Ukrainian men in West Toronto. From its earliest days the chorus was more than a Ukrainian choir, including in its repertoire songs of other peoples, Canadian folk songs and more. As the quality grew, so grew a pride and professional attitude in the performance of the chorus. By the 60s the chorus began to perform with the Toronto Mandolin Orchestra, and soon folk dancers were included to form the unique Canadian song and dance ensemble, the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble. In 1994 the artistic leadership was assumed by Alexander Veprinsky and in the fall of 1997 the male choir opened its ranks to female voices, paving the way to new challenges. The Shevchenko Choir performs with Counterpoint Community Orchestra on March 1st in celebration of the 200th birthday of Taras Shevchenko.



Counterpoint at a break during a rehearsal at the 519 Church Street Community Centre, circa 1985

Counterpoint Community Orchestra is an incorporated nonprofit organization in the province of Ontario, Canada

Established 1984, Counterpoint was the world's first lesbian/gay/gay positive orchestra. Counterpoint now has a 30 year tradition of orchestral performances in the downtown Toronto community.

The Counterpoint Community Orchestra Newsletter is published 3 times per year (Fall, Winter and Spring).

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Poster for March 1 Concert, shown on Page 1, designed by Philip Hoyt, violin I

Building Thirty Years of Community... Thanks to you and you, and YOU

Our Counterpoint Community Orchestra was founded circa 1984 near the beginning of the AIDS epidemic, and in part these historical roots informed the consciousness of the Counterpoint Community Orchestra founders in a struggle for our human rights, against discrimination and violence, for social inclusion and PRIDE. As Joe Lauzon wrote in 1986, "Counterpoint! strives to provide a unique musical and social forum... and hopes to be a source of Pride and unity." Sadly, we lost three of CCO's founding members to AIDS: Joe Lauzon (clarinet), Bruce Ewen (cello) and Colin McEnery (bassoon).

Counterpoint Community Orchestra couldn't have made its contributions without the support of community volunteers, the 519 Community Centre, financial grants from the community itself through the Community One Foundation (formerly, Lesbian & Gay Community Appeal of Toronto), individual contributors and many community businesses who contributed through advertising in our newsletter and concert programmes, or benefit nights held at Woody's bar. In other words, without the help of our audiences and people like "you".

Bill McQueen, Clarinet

Upcoming CCO Concerts

NB: 7:30 pm new start time

Celebration Taras

Sat., Mar. 1, 2014, 7:30pm

Pride and Counterpoint

Sat., **June 7**, 2014, 7:30pm

Saint Luke's United Church
353 Sherbourne St., at Carlton

Please note:

7:30pm new concert start time. Season Finale Concert has been moved to June 7th to coincide with World Pride 2014 Toronto.

PS: Did we mention the 7:30 start?

PPS: **June 7th!!!**

\$5000 Fundraising Challenge for CCO's 30th Anniversary

Help Counterpoint raise funds to meet our goals! Your contributions, both large and small, will ensure that we can continue to bring great music to the community. Donations can be made at the concert, cheques sent by mail, or online through our website powered by Canada Helps. Thank you for your support!

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CounterpointCommunityOrchestra



CounterpointCCO

Board Bulletin

At the Annual General Meeting on January 13, 2014, Robert Bell and Barbara Mellman were approved by the membership as new Board members. The Treasurer's report indicated that we are on solid financial footing. We will be seeking grant money for new programming this year. The membership expressed gratitude to all the volunteers who have helped the orchestra in various capacities during the year.

We are very interested in having more community Board members. Please consider becoming a Board member and helping with the administrative functions required to keep the orchestra going.

In Board meetings we have been discussing possible places to hold our concerts when Saint Luke's does major renovations next year. It is hard to find an affordable space that has a large

enough stage for the orchestra. We would appreciate suggestions from others.

As you have heard, Canada Post is suggesting a major price increase for mailed items. This will impact our newsletter distribution significantly. Please consider asking us to switch you to an emailed newsletter (please do this by writing a note to info@ccorchestra.org and asking us to stop sending you a mailed newsletter) or giving us a donation to help with postage.

The current Board makeup is:

Acting Chair	Lana Chou Hoyt
Vice Chair	Vacant
Treasurer	Robert Bell
Secretary	Holly Price
Director	Michael Hwang
Director	Barbara Mellman
Director	Larry Reid

Taras Hryhorovych Shevchenko (1814-1861) is widely considered the founder of the modern Ukrainian literary language, who instilled into the national consciousness the fervor for freedom and democracy. He dreamed of a sovereign state in which the people of Ukraine would celebrate their own culture and language.

Shevchenko was born on March 9, 1814 into serfdom in the village of Moryntsi, Ukraine. Conditions for serfs were brutal. According to Shevchenko, his mother would toil all day and often refuse to eat so there would be more food for the children, claiming she was not hungry. His youngest sister, Mariyka, who was forced to fast during the Lenten period before Easter and after a winter of food shortages, went blind as a result of malnutrition (Larry Prokop). Taras was orphaned early and was treated cruelly by his mentor, and eventually he left with his owner P. Engelhardt who took him to St. Petersburg. Here, his exceptional talent for art was discovered by noted writers and artists, and his freedom purchased for 2,500 rubles, the price for one of his paintings. At 24, he enrolled in the Academy of Arts where he also studied zoology, physics, history and French. He was a lover of Homer. He received three silver medals for his work, and in 1860 the title of Academician of Engraving was bestowed upon him.

His first poems, compiled in a book entitled *Kobzar* (The Bard), expressed and played an important role in awakening the Ukrainian identity, as well as the formation of Ukrainian language and literature. The collection had a great effect on educated Ukrainians and word of it spread rapidly through Ukraine. Taras longed for his beloved homeland and he returned for a visit in 1843 and again in 1844. His career was flourishing, and his wandering in Ukraine was a very happy time for him. Taras' ideals for a nation that was a family of brothers endowed with equal rights helped Kievan intellectuals form the Brotherhood of Saints Cyril and Methodius. However, the society was discovered and all of its members, including Shevchenko, were arrested.

Taras Shevchenko



Taras Shevchenko
(self portrait)

Two of his poems were discovered during the arrests, poems that Tsar Nicholas regarded as an insult to himself and his consort. Shevchenko was imprisoned and then sent to military service for life without promotion. He was forbidden to write, but write he did in little notebooks, whether he was in a damp prison, on the sun-scorched steps outside the walls of the Orsk fortress, or on the lonely shores of the Caspian Sea.

Ten years of exile had broken his health but not his spirit, and he dreamed of returning to his beloved Ukraine. He died in St. Petersburg in 1861.

Taras' poetry was not only of the highest quality but was also lyrical, closely allied to folk song and the rhythm of Ukrainian Christmas Carols (D. Cizevsky). He used the speech of the common man, idiomatic yet not ordinary, and he had the ability to use this language and style for the utmost literary expression. In his art, he criticized idealism and utilized life and human beings as his main subjects. In his writings, Shevchenko yearned for a life for people, where humanity had the ability and option to expand. He was deeply and equally moved by the sufferings of humanity and injustice towards humanity. Petro Hovya writes, "I know of no poet in the literature of the world who made himself so consistently, so hotly, so consciously the defender of the right of woman to a full and human life. The sacrifice of one's own individuality for works of mercy, the surmounting of one's own sorrows and the dedication of all one's strength to the noble dream of the welfare of humanity—this ideal of woman has been left to us by Shevchenko as his dearest legacy."

Counterpoint is excited to be collaborating with the Shevchenko Musical Ensemble, as well as soloists Jennifer Raser (Soprano) and Hassan Anami (Tenor), in our March 1st concert celebrating the 200th birthday of Taras Shevchenko.

Come and celebrate the legacy of Taras with us on March 1, 2014.

Taras Kowalczyk, Music Director

Counterpoint Community Orchestra

Tickets

Celebration Taras

Saturday March 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m.
Saint Luke's United Church
353 Sherbourne Street at Carlton

**Please Note: 7:30pm
new concert start time**

\$18 Advance; \$20 at Door
\$15 Student with ID, \$10 Youth (12 & under)
Group Ticket Deals: Group of 5 for \$75
(Group of 6+ \$15/Ticket)

Ticket Inquiries: 416-902-7532
tickets@ccorchestra.org

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