
MYROSLAV SKORYK

Myroslav Skoryk - outstanding composer, teacher, art critic, conductor, pianist, public figure. Holder of titles "Hero of Ukraine", "People's Artist of Ukraine", laureate of The Taras Shevchenko National Prize of Ukraine, academician of the Academy of Arts of Ukraine.

He was born on July 13, 1938 in Lviv. He came from an intelligent family (his grandmother was the sister of the world-famous opera singer Solomia Krushelnytska, who was the first to notice the boy's musical talent). Began studying music at music school in Lviv in 1945. In 1947, the Skoryks family was repressed for political reasons and sent to Siberia. There, Myroslav Skoryk studied piano with Valentina Kantorova, who was former Rachmaninov's student.

After Stalin's death, the family was able to return to Lviv, where Myroslav studied composition, history and theory of music at the Lviv Conservatory (now the Mykola Lysenko Lviv National Music Academy) under the tutition of professors Stanislav Lyudkevich, Roman Simovych and Adam Soltys in 1955-1960. His graduation work was the "Spring" cantata based on the lyrics of Ivan Franko. In 1960-1963, he studied composition at the graduate school of the Tchaikovsky Moscow State Conservatory under the leadership of Prof. Dmytro Kabalevsky. He completed his studies in 1964 with a dissertation on the topic "Specifics of the music of Sergei Prokofiev" and received the scientific degree of Candidate of Art History.

From 1963 Skoryk worked at the Lviv Conservatory, and from 1966 - at the Kyiv Conservatory (now the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music), teaching composition and music theory (from 1971 - associate professor, from 1985 - professor).

Myroslav Skoryk educated a real galaxy of famous composers. Among them were Osvaldas Balakauskas (Lithuania), Yevhen Stankovych, Ivan Karabyts, Hanna Havrylets, Oleg Kyva, Viktor Stepurko, Oleksandr Kozarenko, Bohdana Frolyak, Viktor Telychko, Ivan Nebesny, Lesya Horova, Volodymyr Zubysky, Mykhailo Shved and many others.

The composer's artistic heritage includes almost all musical genres: opera, five ballets, "Requiem", instrumental concertos (10 violin concertos, 3 piano concertos, 2 cello concertos, Concerto for viola and Concerto for oboe), music for symphony and chamber orchestras, chamber music, works for piano both solo and duo. The generation of the 60s knows his famous popular songs:

the blues-tango "Draw me a night", the first Ukrainian twist "Don't trample the lilies of the valley". Skoryk took a direct part in the creation of the epochal film "Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors" directed by Serhiy Parajanov. His opera "Moses" was the only musical work from Ukraine that received the blessing of Pope John Paul II. The legendary "Melody" by Skoryk has become Ukraine's spiritual anthem.

Myroslav Skoryk edited the opera scores of Ukrainian classics, including Mykola Leontovych's "On Mermaid's Easter", Anatoly Vakhnianin's "Kupalo", Denys Sichynskyi's "Roksolana", Semen Gulak-Artemovsky's "Zaporozhian Beyond The Danube", Mykola Lysenko's «Natalka-Poltavka».

With his compositional style, Skoryk continued the traditions of the Lviv school, gave a modern author's vision of Ukrainian, in particular, Carpathian folklore and Lviv urban and salon music, as well as modern popular music and even jazz.

During his lifetime, Skoryk headed the leading artistic institutions of Ukraine, among them - the First Festival "Chervona Ruta" (1989, Chairman of the jury), the International Festival "KyivMuzykFest" (2002-2019, Artistic director), the National Union of Composers of Ukraine (2006-2010, Co-Chairman), National Opera of Ukraine (2011-2016, Artistic director).

Today, Skoryk's works can be heard on all continents except Antarctica. Among the foreign countries the leaders in terms of performances for the last 5 years were Poland, Germany, France, Austria, the Baltic countries, Great Britain, the USA and Canada.

Today, the Lviv National Philharmonic, a music college of the town of Kamianske, the "Center of Ukrainian Studies" of the Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky Academy of Music, concert halls and numerous streets in Ukraine are named after Myroslav Skoryk.

Any work by Myroslav Skoryk fascinates, first of all, with its melodic sound. This feature of his music unites everyone - those who are not in music at all, amateurs, and professional musicians. From the most delicate lyrics and defiantly cheerful splashes to tragic and mournful feelings - the widest range of the imaginative world of Myroslav Skoryk sounds with music addressed to the human soul.

"Music should be written in such a way that people want to listen to it." the composer was always convinced.