The 2012 Professors Michael and Iraida Tarnawecky Distinguished Lecture Series honoured the Montreal based Piano Duo of Drs. Luba and Ireneus Zuk. The event was held on Wednesday Oct. 3, 2012 at 7 PM in Eva Clare Hall, Faculty of Music, University of Manitoba. The Lecture-Recital was organized by the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (Faculty of Arts, U of M), under whose auspices the series is managed.

The evening was chaired by Prof. Roman Yereniuk, Acting Director of CUCS who provided the background to Prof. Michael and Dr. Iraida Tarnawecky, two longtime professors of the University of Manitoba. Their important vision to establish the Distinguished Lecture Series in 2002 has provided the U of M and the Ukrainian Canadian community of Winnipeg with a most prestigious event every two years that honours prominent Ukrainian Canadian academics. Further Dr. Yereniuk provided the background to the two academics chosen for 2012 – Drs. Luba and Ireneus Zuk.

The Zuks provided the attentive audience with an evening of foremost duo piano music, with an introductory description of each work as well as a critical evaluation and information about each composer. Subsequently music was performed by such Ukrainian or Ukrainian Canadian composers as: Myroslaw Skoryk (1939- ) – “Entrada”; Fedir Akimenko (1876-1945) – “Six Pieces Ukrainnenes – two were performed Dumka and Lystopad”; Ihor Bilohrud (1916-1992) – “Sonatina”; Yuriy Fiala (1922- ) – “Concerto da Camera”; Evhen Stankovych (1942- ) – “Ancient Dances of Verkhovyna”; Gary Kulesha (1954- ) – excerpt from “Mythologies”; Halyna Ovcharenko (1963- ) – “Five Fragments”; Hennadij Lashenko (1938- ) – “Dramatic Tryptych”. The balance between the Ukrainian composers and those from Ukrainian Canadian origins was most appropriate. Also it should be recognized that four of the composers wrote their works especially for the Zuk Piano Duo, a true honour for their outstanding mastery of the pianos.

All the musical compositions provided some form of rootedness in the Ukrainian experience – Ukrainian folklore and traditions. Sometimes folk songs provided inspiration for the music or even church bells as well as the church music Resurrectional chant of “Khrystos Voskres” (“Christ is Risen”). As such, this enriched the music of the XX century composers from Ukraine and Canada.

The two distinguished piano artists were presented with flowers by two students of the Faculty of Music and who are also involved in CUCS’s courses – Melita Mudri-Zubacz and Viktoria Grynenko. The evening ended with the entire audience standing up and singin a vigorous and resounding “Na Mnohi Lita – May They Be Granted Many Years” as a fitting salute to the two performers.

The final remarks and gratitude were expressed by Dr. Denis Hlynka, Chairperson of the Policy Council of CUCS. In his remarks he stated “we have witnessed a cornucopia of music: Skoryk's Spanish melodies, Akimenko's Ukrainian themes, Bilohrud's pedagogic excursions and Fiala's wonderful atonality – the kind that the uninitiated will listen to thinking that every single note sounds wrong(!) and intuitively understand that it was exactly right. Then we heard Kulesha's “Khrystos Voskres” coming from one piano, with contemporary soundscapes coming from the other. There was Stankovych's pounding rhythms from Verkhovyna; there were not one but two women composers – Halya Ovcharenko and Lesia Dychko, the latter departing from her often heard choral music. Finally Lashenko's impressionistic sounds of a storm brewing, coupled with bells and the rustling of leaves and the sound of wind, like an early October blizzard. We have witnessed an amazing evening of piano music and deserving recognition is due to the polished piano duo of Luba and Ireneus Zuk. This event is the quintessential example of the Ukrainian and Ukrainian Canadian contribution to the Canadian arts and the world of fine music”.

Altogether the partnership of the Tarnawecky Distinguished Lecture Series and the Luba and Ireneus Zuk Piano Duo along with the coordinating work of the Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies (U of M) produced the concert event of the year, unmatched in its teamed lecture style, its musical execution and its artistry.
CUCS Honours 29 Students for Excellence in Studies during 2011-12

At the St. Andrew’s College Convocation at the University of Manitoba and Inauguration Ceremony held on Sept 16, 2012, CUCS announced its winners of Excellence in Studies and awarded 25 bursaries to the top three highest marks in the 9 courses offered in 2011-12. The funds, some $4000, for the awards came from the holdings in the St. Andrew’s College Foundation and the Centre’s funds held at the University of Manitoba. Congratulations - “Na Mnohi Lita” to all the winners. They included:

History of Eastern Christianity:
1. Charly A. Wregitt
2. Ellie H. Chouzouris
3. Travis Taylor & Vukasin Hajin

Introduction to Ukraine
1. Sean Giesbrecht
2. Matt Phillips
3. Natalia Vozniak

Ukrainians in Canada
1. Caitlyn Carson
2. Steven Houssin
3. Cory Chetrybok

Economy of Ukraine
1. Orest R. Suchy
2. Mathew C. Kowalchuk
3. Qun Xiao Lu

Early Byzantine Art & Architecture
1. Christine Lylk
2. Jennifer Burgess
3. Jeff Kent

Making of Modern Ukraine
1. Levko Ivanchuk
2. Nevin Bachmeier
3. Darka Burczynski, Sean Giesbrecht & Curtis Urbanowich

Introductory Ukrainian
1. Ivanna Spylachak
2. Sofia Petryk
3. Irina Volchok

Ukrainian Canadian Folklore
1. Courtney Knysh
2. Rev. Fr. Michael Faryna

Ukrainian Culture 2 - Modern Expressions
1. Darka Burczynski
2. Natalia Vozniak
3. Rochelle McKenzie

For further information contact us
phone: (204) 474-8905
e-mail: cucs@cc.umanitoba.ca
or mail to:
Centre for Ukrainian Canadian Studies
Room #203 - 29 Dysart Road
University of Manitoba,
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada,
R3T 2N2

Courses at the Centre for Winter 2012-13

CUCS is offering nine courses in 2012-13 to students for credit and non credit (auditors) – five in Term 1 and four in Term 2. These courses can be taken for majors and minors, as well as for the advanced BA degree. All the classes will be held at St. Andrew’s College, one in the Tier Bldg and two at Oseredok (downtown Winnipeg).

The Winter Semester courses include:

HIST 2610 - Making of Modern Ukraine – Prof. Davis Daycock
UKRN 2410 - Ukrainian Canadian Cultural Experience – Prof. Svitlana Kukharenko
POLS 3720 - Politics, Government and Society in Ukraine – Prof. Davis Daycock
FAAH 3290 - Later Byzantine Art & Architecture – Prof. J. Bugslag
RLGN 2520 - Eastern Christianity in North America - Dr. Roman Yereniuk

To register, phone (204) 474 - 8905