

PHILADELPHIA CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY

a life more beautiful

PREVIEW
NOTES

Ukraine in the Eyes of Others

Solomiya Ivakhiv, Juliette Kang, & Hirono Oka, *violin*;
Burchard Tang, *viola*; Thomas Kraines, *cello*; Marija Stroke, *piano*

Tuesday, March 5 – 7:30 PM

Benjamin Franklin Hall, American Philosophical Society

PROGRAM

Fantasia Krushelnytska

Bruce Adolphe

Born: 1955, New York, NY

Composed: 2016

Duration: 18 minutes

This work was commissioned by violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv to celebrate and commemorate the life of her namesake, Solomiya Krushelnytska, a Ukrainian soprano whose career was cut short by the Soviet occupation. Krushelnytska (1872-1952) left home at the age of 21 to study voice in Italy, where she became a very successful opera performer and played a crucial role in Puccini's *Madame Butterfly*.

String Quartet No. 7, *Siege of Mariupol* [Public Premiere]

Philip Maneval

Born: May 16, 1956, New York, NY

Composed: 2022

Duration: 17 minutes

"In late February, 2022, the armed forces of Russia and Donetsk brutally attacked Mariupol, the largest Ukrainian-controlled city in the region, and home to Azovstal Iron and Steel Works. Azovstal was a major steel rolling company and a plant built, during the cold war, with a network of tunnels and bunkers capable of withstanding a nuclear attack. Brutal bombardments and combat ensued for three harrowing months, through a period described by the Red Cross as "apocalyptic," and by the Ukrainian authorities as a major humanitarian crisis. Some 25,000 civilians are thought to have lost their lives in the siege, and virtually the entire city was destroyed. Yet the Ukrainian forces held out valiantly, living with the remaining civilian population in the underground bunkers, and fighting back with whatever weapons, ammunition and strength they

had left. While the Ukrainian forces finally surrendered in mid-May, it would be a pyrrhic victory for Russia. The Ukrainians had demonstrated—to themselves and the world—their tenacious, ironclad will to resist, to persevere, and to remain a free and sovereign people."

"My quartet, *The Siege of Mariupol*, is a response to this brutal, unprovoked invasion, and to the immense suffering of the Ukrainian people. It is a testament to their resilience, sacrifice, nobility, and courage in the face of seemingly impossible odds. While the work does not quote Ukrainian music, it strives to capture the sound and sense of their culture. This one-movement piece is not tonal in a traditional way, but it passes through shades of related keys—F-sharp minor, A minor and C-sharp minor, and then with a late cloud of E-flat—all interspersed with passages of varying degrees of dissonance. Throughout the work, the music seeks to convey the emotions and dualities of the siege: loss and strength, fear and valor, cruelty and virtue, defeat and triumph." —Philip Maneval.

String Quartet in F Major, Op. 59, No. 1, *Razumovsky* Ludwig van Beethoven

Born: December 16, 1770, Bonn, Germany

Died: March 26, 1827, Vienna, Austria

Composed: 1806

Duration: 40 minutes

Beethoven wrote three quartets in 1806 and dedicated them to the Russian nobleman Count Razumovsky. As Razumovsky was Ukrainian royalty, Beethoven used Ukrainian (not Russian) folk tunes in two of the Op. 59 works. This F Major effort is the first—and generally regarded as the greatest—of the set, as well as one of the composer's finest chamber works.