

# United for Ukraine | April 30th

## TRANSLATIONS & NOTES

### **Beneath thy Mercy**

Beneath Thy Mercy, we take refuge, O Virgin: disdain not our supplications in our distress, but deliver us from perils, o only pure and blessed one. Most Holy Virgin, save us.

### **The Echo of the Steppes**

Notes: This iconic piece illustrates the tumultuous events that have played themselves out on the fertile plains of Ukraine. The unique use of the instrument depicts the co-existence of man and nature on the vast steppe, catching the essence of the breeze sweeping through the tall grasses.

### **Son, the Ducks Are Flying**

In this song, wide and lyrical vocal lines are used to portray a mother's feelings of sadness and longing for her grownup son. As the mother awaits her son's return, she lets you experience her entire life filled with sadness, emotional distress, happiness and motherly love.

### **There Beyond the Sea**

There beyond the sea are tall mountains  
Shrouded in Fog  
There beyond the woods are vast fields  
Covered in Black Jackdaws  
Oh you crested jackdaws - lift yourselves skyward!  
Oh you boys, warriors - return home!

### **Alleluia**

An adaptation of Leonard Cohen's Hallelujah, with verses in Ukrainian which speak to the hardships faced by Ukrainians during the Holodomor famine, and the importance of remembering homeland and faith.

### **Ukraine Has Slept a While**

The black crow has slept a while  
As he dreamt, he recalled how he used to be free  
He waved his gray wing, and gathered all his countrymen  
O Brothers, do not fret, we will build heaven in Ukraine.

### **Stand, You Oak**

*Translation by Lidia Wolansky*

A little girl went walking on the street, wearing very red shoes on her feet.

*Chorus:*

Stand, you oak so green on oak acorns seen.

Dew fell on the cleared-out field, washed the street on St. John's feast.

Wearing very red shoes on her feet bought by a Kozak boy on Market Street.

Mother would not ever let me go, locked me in the larder, just so.

Sit there, darling daughter, in the shop until the evening parties all break up.

I dug my way right out of there, dear Mum, went on the street and simply had my fun.

### **Fire**

*Translation by Lidia Wolansky*

So for John on St. John's Day we had a little bonfire, yea.

As it burned, so it smoked, Anna dirtied up her coat.

Couldn't wash it clean at all, Vasyl had to help withal.

Couldn't wring it out so well, Vasyl had to help, so swell.

On St. John's just for a laugh, we'll roast the boys a tasty calf.

### **To My Son**

A mother addresses her son with the words: "You can choose your friends, son, and your soul brother, but one thing you can't choose is your own mother. You can choose anything you might want in this wide strand, one thing you cannot choose, son, is your motherland."

### **The Kozak is Riding Away**

The kozak is riding away,

The young girl is crying:

Where are you going, oh kozak?

Oh kozak - my dear falcon,

Take me with you

To the distant far off country

My dear beloved girl,

And what will you do there

In the distant, far off country?  
I will wash my scarves,  
And look after you, my dearest,  
In the distant far off country.

My dear beloved girl,  
And what will you eat  
In the distant far off country?

Dry bread, with water,  
If only my heart can be with you

In the distant far off country.

My dear beloved girl,  
Where will you sleep  
In the distant far off country?

On the steppe, beneath the willow,  
Just to be with you, my dearest,  
In the distant far off country.

### **Don't Cry, Mama**

*Translation by Lidia Wolansky*

Don't cry, Mama, don't you weep, until we pass the Danube deep.

*Chorus:*

Lullaby once, twice lullaby, until we pass the Danube by  
Until we pass the Danube's swell, and beat upon the drum as well,

That's when, Mama, you can cry, when you see him on the fly.

He is serving in the war, On a horse as black as tar.

On a tar-black horse he rides, with sword and rifle at his side.

### **Red Kalyna in the Meadow**

In the meadow, there a red kalyna, has bent down low ,  
For some reason, our glorious Ukraine, has been worried so.

And we'll take that red kalyna and raise it up,  
And we, our glorious Ukraine, shall, hey - hey, cheer up - and rejoice!

Do not bend low, Oh red kalyna,  
You have a white flower.

Do not worry, glorious Ukraine, You have a free people.  
And we'll take that red kalyna and raise it up,  
And we, our glorious Ukraine, shall, hey - hey, cheer up - and rejoice!  
In the field, of early spring wheat, there's a golden furrow,  
Then began, the Ukrainian riflemen to engage the enemy,  
And we'll, that early wheat and gather it,  
And we, our glorious Ukraine, shall, hey - hey, cheer up - and rejoice!  
When the stormy winds blow forth from the wide steppes,  
They will glorify, throughout Ukraine, the Sich riflemen.  
And we'll take the glory of the riflemen,  
And we, our glorious Ukraine, shall, hey - hey, cheer up - and rejoice!

**Notes:**

The kalyna - Viburnum; the high bush cranberry - a symbol of Ukraine. It blooms white. In the fall it is heavy, bent over with red berries.

The green field - a young country, vibrant.

The golden furrow - wheat in that field that has matured and is ready to defend Ukraine.