



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Ukrainian Institute of America  
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June 7, 2023

**The Ukrainian Institute of America Presents an Evening of Chamber Music,  
in support of Ukrainians affected by the recent catastrophic destruction of Kakhovka Dam**

New York, NY - The Ukrainian Institute of America, a leading cultural institution dedicated to protecting and showcasing the culture and heritage of the Ukrainian people, is pleased to announce a chamber music concert as part of the *Music at the Institute ('MATI')* series, showcasing the artistry of renowned musicians Solomiya Ivakhiv (violin), Amit Peled (cello) and Bernadene Blaha (piano). The concert takes place on Friday, June 16, 2023 beginning at 7:30pm at the Institute.

The concert, "*Roots and Heritage*", aims to foster a sense of community through the universal language of music, highlighting how much of our heritage and history we have in common. The concert will feature a work by Ukrainian-Canadian composer, Larysa Kuzmenko, dedicated to the victims of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. In light of the recent destruction of the Kakhovka dam in Ukraine and the resulting humanitarian and ecological catastrophe, this composition is timely and highly relevant as a reminder that history can and does repeat itself.

Among the composers also featured in the concert is Joachim Stutschewsky. Born in the Poltava region of Ukraine into a musical family and having studied in Kherson, Stutschewsky developed a deep interest in Jewish music, especially Hasidic melodies, leading him to write several works based on Jewish folklore. Amit Peled, a student of the renowned cello studio established by Stutschewsky in Palestine (now Israel), will take part in performing Stutschewsky's *Hasidic Fantasy, for piano trio*.

Before a final work by Brahms, the concert will feature Zoltán Kodály's *Duo for Violin and Cello Op. 7*, written in 1914 in the heart of Europe on the eve of WWI.



The intimate setting of the UIA's Concert Hall provides a wonderful venue for the musicians to showcase their talents, weaving together the diverse themes in the repertoire while creating connections with and among the audience.

**The Institute has decided to allocate proceeds of ticket sales from this concert, as well as donations received in connection with the concert, toward humanitarian relief efforts urgently being deployed as a result of the war crime perpetrated by Ukraine's invaders in their destruction of the Kakhovka dam and the resulting catastrophic flooding of southern Ukraine. Purchase tickets on the UIA website [HERE](#). Donations can be made [HERE](#).**

#### **About the Artists**

Solomiya Ivakhiv is a Ukrainian-born internationally performing classical violinist and Head of Strings faculty at the University of Connecticut.

Bernadene Blaha is a Canadian pianist of Polish descent who teaches at the University of Southern California's Thornton School of Music.

Amit Peled is an Israeli-born cellist and is a professor at the Peabody Institute of The John Hopkins University.

#### **About the Ukrainian Institute of America**

The Ukrainian Institute of America, Inc. is a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to protecting and showcasing the culture and heritage of the Ukrainian people, both in Ukraine and in the diaspora. It serves both as a center for the Ukrainian-American community and as a place "Where the World Meets Ukraine."

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