

SEASON OPENING CONCERT- OCTOBER 7- EMBASSY OF UKRAINE

by Gary Tischler

Over time, the Embassy Series have evolved into yearly journeys full of musical events and occasions that can be deemed as very special. We have memorialized, and we have celebrated at the embassies within our midst in this city, at cultural centers and at the residences of ambassadors.

Our official season-opening concert October 7 at the Embassy of Ukraine 3350 M Street in historic Georgetown is just such an event, made special by remarkable talent and by history, musical and otherwise.

We will celebrate the presence of two rising, gifted, graceful and beautiful artists in the duo of violinist **Solomiya Ivakhiv** and pianist **Angelina Gadeliya**, who will be playing selections from their CD “Ukraine-Journey to Freedom: A century of Classical Music for Violin and Piano.”

Valeriy Chaly, the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Ukraine to the United States, will be our host on an evening that will reach across time to present musical works for violin and piano composed by Ukrainian composers over the last 100 years. The works speak to musical achievement while being cognizant of the way history has worked upon the people, the region and the geography of Ukraine.

History moves on, but music is always being music, being written, being performed. This music, particular to the Ukraine in its origin and creation, will be performed by two Ukrainian-born artists, violinist Solomiya Ivakhiv and pianist Angelina Gadeliya, who have played and received high praise for their performances at a variety of venues and festivals, including the MATI series at the Ukrainian Institute of America in New York City, the Institute of Modern Art in Chicago, the Bach Festival of Philadelphia, Pickman Hall at the Long School of Music, and Lisner Auditorium in Washington.

The two women met and then performed their musical partnership at Stony Brook University while working on their Doctor of Musical Arts Degree. They have collaborated with the Emerson Quartet, members of the New

York Philharmonic, pianist Gilbert Kalish and violinists Ani Kavafian and Pamela Frank.

They are known for their fervor for new as well as traditional music. Two years ago, they gave the world premiere performance for Oleksandre Sehehetynsky's "An Episode in the Life of a Poet" which was specifically written for them at the Ukrainian poet Taras Schevchenko's Bicentennial celebration in New York.

"Journey to Freedom" celebrates and casts a musical spotlight on the works of Ukrainian composers and begins with Mykola Lysenko, the acknowledged composer, pedagogue, organizer and founder of the national movement in Ukrainian music. "Journey to Freedom" will also include works by such composers as Victor Kosenko, Myroslav Skoryk, Ivan Karabyts, Boris Lyatoshynsky, Bohdan Kryvopust, Yevhen Stankovych, Alexander Shchetynsky and Valenty Silvestrov.

It's fitting that the Embassy of Ukraine, where history, tragic and turbulent and enduring, has played such a major role, finds itself at home in Georgetown, in a structure where George Washington is said to have stayed and signed a document bringing the District of Columbia into existence.

Freedom is a word that often a political *provocateur*, but here it means "an artistic endeavor by the brilliant Ivakhiv-Gadeliya duo to bring to audiences a program of major works for violin and piano music composed by Ukrainian composers over the course of a century.