



# AUUC VANCOUVER

Summer 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the inaugural AUUC Vancouver Newsletter. We are hoping to publish two to four newsletters each year, keeping you informed of the events and activities happening at our Hall. We hope you enjoy learning about what we've been up to!

[www.auucvancouver.ca](http://www.auucvancouver.ca)

## President's Message

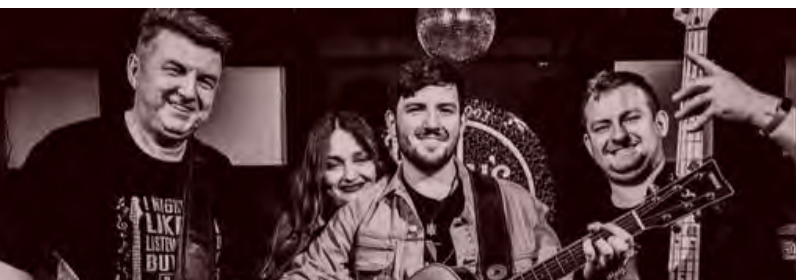
The AUUC Vancouver branch has once again had a busy and successful season of cultural and community programming. Along with our regular cultural group rehearsals and our hall concert presentations, our cultural groups presented and participated in a variety of special events and performances outside of the hall, keeping our organization's profile alive in the Vancouver multi-cultural community. Our executive continues to meet monthly to carry forward our planned events and make decisions about keeping the hall active and relevant. Thank you to everyone who gave of themselves, either as a performer or volunteer to share our beautiful culture and show our support of Ukraine. Please come and join us in September for the upcoming season.

## Hall Events in 2023/24

### Heart of the City (HotC) Festival

*Zabava - Friday, November 3, 2023*

This event was an evening dance and socializing, featuring the live band, New Wave. Dovbush Dancers did much of the organizing and volunteering. The Zabava was the first event of this kind and we hope to do more such events in the future.



*Concert & Reception - Sunday, November 5, 2023*

Our annual collaboration with the Heart of the City Festival, celebrating the festival's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the AUUC Vancouver's partnership with the festival. This year's theme was Grounded in Community - Carrying it Forward. We presented a concert programme featuring all of our cultural groups plus guest performers: Squamish Elder Bob Baker, poet Diane Wood, and Tzimmes, a musical group presenting Jewish music. A cocktail reception followed with a display of historical Ukrainian costumes and archive photos of the AUUC, plus a historical collection of HotC programs.



### Dovbush School of Dance recital and Christmas party

*December 10, 2023:* The annual event presented the work of the DSUD students. It included a Christmas singalong led by the Barvinok Choir director, Olesia Shewchuk, a visit from Dyid Moroz with gifts for the children, and potluck refreshments following for guests and family members. Prior to the concert event, DSUD students, parents, and staff participated in a Kolach-making activity. Each child formed and decorated an individual Kolach which was then baked and packaged by the school staff for the children to take home the next day, following the concert.

## Perogy-making

*October, November, January and March 2023:* Our core volunteer staff worked to prepare the perogy filling prior to the pinching day, followed by a Sunday community 'perogy pinching' event with between 15 and 25 pinchers and dough makers at each event. On average approx. 2,600 perogies are made at each session - 80 lbs of potatoes. Borsch was also made in November and sold frozen in one-litre containers. Online perogy sales are held in November in conjunction with the Downtown Eastside Culture Crawl, and in April. Perogies are also made for our Malanka event in January.



## Malanka

*January 2024:* Our annual Malanka event was held on Saturday, January 20. The event included a concert programme featuring the Vancouver Ukrainian Folk Orchestra entertaining during the cocktail hour, Schedrivky sung by the Barvinok choir, and dances performed by the Dovbush Dancers and senior DSUD students. A Ukrainian buffet dinner was provided by Kalyna Catering that included perogies made by our Hall volunteers. Dancing to a live band, The Silver Stars, was followed by the highlight of the evening - a Kolomeyka - where everyone is encouraged to show off their best dance tricks and solos. A variety of fundraising activities included a silent auction sponsored by the Dovbush Dancers, a Toonie Toss, and a Mystery-Key Box with a high-value prize including homemade perogies and tickets to next year's Malanka. Proceeds from special drinks at the bar went into the Humanitarian Aid fund which is currently being directed to the United Way to support displaced Ukrainians in Metro Vancouver. This was a sold-out event; we could sell many more tickets if we had a larger facility. Many also appreciate that having the event at the Hall is part of attraction due to our history in the community. Our thanks to the core organizing crew who did an amazing job.



## Perogy Sale and Craft Market

*November 2023 & April 2024:* Volunteers were on site for perogy sales pickup for online sales, with reserved perogies also available for on-site purchase. Our Craft Market, *Baba's Treasures*, was held on the same day with 15 to 20 vendors participating in our Craft Markets. Our branch's Craft Club sells their wares, with a Ukrainian focus, as well as vendors selling Ukrainian clothing, Ukrainian traditional crafts, and various other handmade items. Donated home baking sales contribute to our Humanitarian Aid funds for displaced Ukrainians in Canada and humanitarian needs in Ukraine.



## Special Events in Spring 2024



Gerdan Concert, March 13, 2024

### Gerdan Concert

*March 13, 2024:* The AUUC Vancouver Hall supported a performance by Gerdan Theatre by providing our Hall free of charge for their first Canadian tour. Gerdan is a talented group of Ukrainian singers from Chernivtsi. The branch provided technical support, some members billeted performers, and we provided a concession stand for the show. This was a sold-out show, with many members of Vancouver's Ukrainian community attending an event at our hall for the first time. The Honorary Consul of Ukraine for BC, Mir Huculak, attended and spoke as part of the program. Many positive comments were offered to our Executive members for our sponsoring of this event and the welcome we provided for the performers and audience.

*Ukrainian spring*  
**FASHION**  
SHOW & MUSIC  
Sunday, April 28, 2024

Featuring:  
**FASHIONS** by Tanya Znak  
Barvinok Ukrainian Folk Choir  
Olesia Shewchuk, singer  
Taras Luka, accordion player  
Maryna Popova, violinist

**SHOW AT 4PM**  
Doors open at 3pm  
**Ukrainian Hall**  
805 E. Pender St  
Vancouver BC

A woman in a traditional Ukrainian folk costume, featuring a white blouse with colorful embroidery and a dark skirt, stands against a soft, pinkish background. She is wearing a floral headpiece.

### Barvinok Choir performance and Fashion Show

*April 2024:* The Barvinok Choir presented a Fashion Show and concert on April 28 at the Ukrainian Hall, featuring works by designer Tetyana Znak who lives in Vancouver and has trained and worked with a Ukrainian designer in Lviv, Ukraine.

The choir members setup and organized the event and performed as part of the programme. Guest musicians were also part of the afternoon's programming. This successful event was the first fashion event to be held at the Hall since the Dovbush Dancers held a fashion show event in 2011.

## Vancouver Fashion Week

*October 2023 and April 2024:* Vancouver Fashion Week is the second largest fashion week in North America after New York Fashion Week, and is an opportunity to showcase Ukrainian Culture, as well as our Hall, for a new community. The Dovbush Dancers collaborated with Ukrainian designer Tetyana Golota of *Ecostylist* in four previous Fashion Week presentations, with the dancers performing a unique piece of choreography designed for the runway at three of these events, and participating as models at the October 2023 show.



The Fashion Week event in October 2023 featured clothing from the AUUC Vancouver's Costume collection and at the April's event, the focus was on Vyshivanka (embroidered shirts and blouses) and with select costume pieces from the AUUC's costume collection being showcased. The Dovbush dancers performed a newly created Hutsul/Bukovyna dance as part of this show. This collaboration will continue and is a unique opportunity for our branch to highlight its history.



## Our Ongoing Programs

**Please come and join us as a singer, dancer, or musician as we begin our new cultural season in September. Our cultural groups are always open to new members to help us preserve and share our beautiful Ukrainian culture!**

### **Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance (DSUD)**

*Caitlynn Schell, Director*

The DSUD continues to develop the skills of younger dancers with a new Director and staff brought on during the 2023/2024 cultural season, and introduced Contemporary Dance classes as part of the school program. Various Ukrainian cultural craft classes will continue to be offered in the upcoming season, including Kolach-making, Pysanka design, and paper-crafting. The DSUD holds classes on Saturdays, from 9:30am to 2:30pm. Dancers from 3 yrs. to 16 yrs. old are invited to register for classes.

### **Dovbush Dancers**

*Debbie Karras, Director*

The Dovbush Dancers continue to rehearse and perform under the dynamic direction of Debbie Karras with assistance from Taralyn Karras and Nicole Bizovie. The dancers showcase Ukrainian dance with passion and professional flair at events at the Hall and in the wider community. Dovbush rehearses Mondays and Thursdays from 7:00pm to 9:30pm Please check the Dovbush Dancers website for more information.

[dovbushdancers.com](http://dovbushdancers.com)

### **Barvinok Choir**

*Olesia Shewchuk, Director*

The Barvinok Choir membership has grown this year from 15 to almost 40 members, in part due to the amazing energy of choir director Olesia Shewchuk. In addition to regular rehearsals, Olesia conducts monthly workshops to help develop different skills, such as *Body & Voice*, *Vocal Colours*, and sight-reading. If you enjoy singing and wish to learn beautiful Ukrainian songs, please check the AUUC Vancouver website for contact information. Barvinok Choir rehearses on Wednesdays from 7:15pm to 9:15pm.

## Our Ongoing Programs

### Vancouver Ukrainian Folk Orchestra (VUFO)

*Pavel Rhyzlovsky, Director*

The VUFO rehearses on Tuesdays from 4:00pm to 6:00pm. Musicians who would like to be part of a group and help preserve our rich Ukrainian musical culture are welcome to participate. Please check the AUUC Vancouver website for contact information. The orchestra is working towards once again accompanying the dancers at our Hall performances and has presented a number of pieces with the Barvinok Choir.

### Craft Club

Our Vancouver Craft Club typically meets two Tuesdays per month and helps organize and sell items at our biannual craft market.

### Other Programming

This year, the Vancouver Branch offered the lower hall as rehearsal space for a Ukrainian theatre group, composed mostly of Ukrainians new to Canada. They continue to rehearse on Mondays and Thursdays during Dovbush rehearsal hours, presenting pieces in the Ukrainian language.

Below is a review posted on our Social Media channels by the director of the theatre group:

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*This is an appreciation post to AUUC Strathcona Ukrainian Hall & Performing Arts Society - Vancouver for supporting and development of Ukrainian in Vancouver! And this is:*

*A wonderful choir "Barvinok" under the direction of Olesia Shewchuk without exaggerating a professional sound in which I sing and, which I am very proud of.*

*A wonderful band I don't play in because I can play unless I'm nervous and not really, so I won't be taken there, but if you play musical instruments, try and join. These are very very cool.*

*Incredibly professional dance collective Dovbush Ukrainian Dancers on dancing which can really be watched forever. Btw, with my vast experience in ballroom dancing I don't really get to the level of female participants, they are incredible and so are the sets and costumes. If you see their performance - go, you won't regret it!*

*And, most importantly for me, a huge thank you for supporting the Ukrainian theater! When the issue of the rehearsal room was overwhelming, they were the only ones who opened their doors! Very and very thank you to all theater and all viewers of the pageant! If it weren't for AUUC, there wouldn't be PEREBERIA theater from @TAG!*

*And Ukrainian Hall holds many concerts, interesting events that popularize Ukrainian culture and this is because most were born in Canada and never even been to Ukraine. Saturday is dancing for the kids. And there are definitely many more events that I don't know about or forgot, so I advise you to follow their page and join the events and activities!*

*Together we have POWER!*

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# What's Happening in 2024

A look at what's to come in 2024 at the Vancouver Branch Ukrainian Hall.

## Fall Registration:

Visit the AUUC Vancouver website for more information about registration.

[www.auucvancouver.ca](http://www.auucvancouver.ca)

### Rehearsals

- **Dovbush Dancers rehearsals begin**  
Thursday, September 5
- **Dovbush School of Ukrainian Dance classes begin**  
Saturday, September 7
- **Vancouver Ukrainian Folk Orchestra rehearsals begin**  
Tuesday, September 10
- **Barvinok Choir rehearsals begin**  
Wednesday, September 11

### Upcoming Events

- **Perogy-making**  
Sunday, October 20
- **Heart of the City Concert at the Ukrainian Hall**  
Sunday, November 3
- **National Orchestral Workshop**  
Friday, November 8 to  
Monday, November 11
- **Perogy sale and Craft Market**  
Sunday, November 17

## Vancouver Association of United Ukrainian Canadians

805 East Pender Street  
Vancouver, BC V6A 3H6

Tel. 604-254-3436

Email: [auucvancouver@gmail.com](mailto:auucvancouver@gmail.com)

Visit us on the web:

[www.auucvancouver.ca](http://www.auucvancouver.ca)

