

# SING WITH US

## "What's in a name?"

mused Juliette. She answered herself "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Indeed, what is in a name? In 1978 the AUUC choir decided to perform under the name of the Jubilee Choir. The name was chosen to commemorate the sixtieth jubilee of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians. The name was significant for that time, honouring an organization that was active in the present, prepared for the future and ever respectful of its heritage.

While mindful of the impact the Jubilee Choir has had on its many participants in the last two decades and their happy memories, the choir executive for the 1998-1999 season struck a committee to discuss a name change. Committee members, Vanya Soychuke, Libby Griffin, Betty Thomas, Galina Rudas and Audrey Skalbania felt that our choir should sing under a name that would reflect our current membership and our times.

Much support was given the idea that we perform under a Ukrainian name that bespoke of the whole country. The choir members were asked to suggest names and the committee members researched and soul searched for appropriate names. The task was not an easy one. Regional names and symbols were felt too restrictive. Names and symbols that said "We are proud Ukrainian Canadians" were not that plentiful. After several weeks of musing, the group came up with a short list of four names presented to all choir members. A spirited discussion preceded the secret ballot.



*The drawing portrays a rite from Ivana Kupala, St. John's Day, where the making of floral wreaths signifies the hopes of young women for courtship & marriage*

The Barvinok Choir, evolving from the Jubilee Choir (under the former directorship of John Niechoda), continues its mission to preserve its Ukrainian heritage and thereby enrich our Canadian heritage. There is no doubt that the folk choir of the Association of United Ukrainian Canadians, performing under its new name, Barvinok, will surely "sound as sweet."

--Audrey Skalbania

In the end, two names were very close, *Barvinok* and *Kalyna*. *Kalyna* or high bush cranberry, while known in Canada, is certainly not as prevalent here as it is in Ukraine. When we considered both these symbols in the light of our choir performing its way into the Millennium, it was felt that we could capitalize best on *Barvinok*. It is a beautiful violet coloured spring flower whose leaves lend themselves to weaving wreaths. Indeed, the young women often used barvinok, which is known as periwinkle in English, to make the wreaths they tossed into the rivers during the spring rites of Ivana Kupala [The Feast of St. John]. The wedding bread or *Korovaiv*, was also decorated with a circlet of barvinok.

The committee and all choir members have been thinking of unique ways to express the new name in symbol and song. Current ideas include songs about barvinok, stationery, T-shirts, sweatshirts, performance blouses and shirts with a barvinok logo.

### Calendar of Events

**Sunday, November 8, 1998**  
Variety Concert at 2:00 p.m.  
Dovbush Dancers, Vancouver  
Folk Orchestra & Barvinok Choir  
Dinner to follow concert.

**Saturday, November 21, 1998**  
Annual Fall Bazaar  
from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Flea market, food, bingo, crafts,  
etc.

**Saturday, December 13, 1998 at 2 p.m.**, AUUC School of Dancing  
Christmas Recital & Potluck  
Supper

**Saturday, January 16, 1999**  
"Malanka" Ukrainian New Year  
6 p.m. to midnight

All events at  
805 E. Pender St.  
For further info. call  
254-3436