COMMUNICATION AND ARTS FOR PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP AND UNDERSTANDING

Vladimir G. Zakharov[1], Irina A. Avenarius[2]

Abstract— *The disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991 provoked many problems both in politics and in everyday life of its peoples. The frontiers were rather formal and no obstacles for direct communications and cultural exchange ever existed. In 1992 the Moscow Ukrainian Folk Choir was created to restore and strengthen the former ties between two fraternal peoples. The folk songs in Ukrainian and Russian as well as sacred Ukrainian and Russian music are performed by non-professionals: engineers, teachers, doctors, scientists and addressed to all who do not want to see the former friendship broken. Without having in mind any political aspects the choir is an active participant of many international festivals for world peace and progress. This kind of activity is a good example of how vivid contacts and folk art can contribute to loyalty and understanding between peoples.*

Index Terms — Development of cooperation, republics of former USSR, Ukrainian folk culture, links Ukraine–Russia.

INTRODUCTION

The ever increasing tension between Russia and West has created many new problems that seemed to be forgotten in early 2000-s. The political and cultural alienation of former Soviet republics brought many political and economical problems for countries that used to be the parts of the Soviet Union. The Baltic States (Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia) were first to pretend for their independence. Thus, in 1991 the Soviet Union disintegrated. Consequently, step by step, the whole cultural space disintegrated too. A powerful financial and ideological support from Moscow of national cultures stopped to exist and many regional cultural communities found themselves in a very complicated situation.

In order to conserve and save the national culture from the coming decay some internal sources had to be switched on. Moreover, they had to revive not only the national cultures but also the international links lost in the period of the Soviet Union disintegration. The multinational cultural scheme of the Soviet culture was highly appreciated in the West before the disintegration. It is enough to mention the Bolshoi Ballet, the Pyatnitsky Choir or Moiseev's Folk Dance Ensemble to demonstrate the international essence of the Soviet culture. Nowadays, many cultural leaders try to restore the best of their national and international traditions.

UKRAINIAN CULTURE IN RUSSIA

The Ukraine has always been the closest and dearest to Russia fraternal republic in the USSR. One can only wonder how the destructive centrifugal forces supported by the West managed to put Russians and Ukrainians against each other.

FIGURE. 1
VICTORIA SKOPENKO

In 1992 Victoria Skopenko (Fig. 1), the Honorable cultural activist of Ukraine and Russia, created in Moscow the Ukrainian Folk Choir to promote the national culture and strengthen the friendship between peoples of the former Soviet Union and other countries.

The main goal was "to stimulate peoples' friendship and understanding". The geography of travels is very impressive: Poland, Germany, Holland, France, England, Austria, Italy, USA, Canada, Australia not to mention the former Soviet Republics.

The whole atmosphere of concerts is very friendly. The singers are in Ukrainian traditional dress – colorful and picturesque. Figure 2 presents the complete choir and Fig. 3 presents some its members with 99 years old actor Vladimir Zeldin whose contribution into peoples' friendship and understanding can hardly be overestimated. It is really indisputable.

In 1940 he played the main role in the Soviet film "Pig-tender and Shepherd" where a Russian pig-tender girl and a Caucasian shepherd meet and fall in love in their stay at All-Union Agricultural Exhibition in Moscow. They both came to Moscow as winners in their professional activities to represent their local regions

[1] Vladimir G. Zakharov, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Physics, Moscow Automobile and Roads Technical University, Leningradski prosp. 64, 129829 Moscow, Russia. vladimir.zakharov@list.ru
[2] Irina A. Avenarius, Ph.D., Professor, Dept. of Physics, Moscow Automobile and Roads Technical University, Leningradski prosp. 64, 129829 Moscow, Russia. avenarius@list.ru

DOI 10.14684/WCCA.8.2015.8-9
© 2015 COPEC

FIGURE. 2
THE COMPETE UKRAINIAN CHOIR

The film mentioned is just one of many examples of love and fraternal friendship between peoples of the former Soviet Union, and no new barriers carefully and deliberately erected by our new "partners" (as President Putin says) could ever destroy the traditional links. Our common history is not 250 years old as somewhere over the ocean but much longer. The Ukrainian culture can never be separated from the culture of Russia independently from the current turbulence provoked by those who want to sow hostility and hatred.

WHAT WE SING

Our repertoire is very rich – from medieval sacred music to folk songs and even pop-songs. In this latter case the selection is very hard.

The whole repertoire surely depends on the audience. So, in churches we sing catholic or orthodox songs – in Latin, English, Ukrainian or Russian. The folk songs for leisure people in parks in open areas are performed in native local languages.

In any case each performance is normally started with a loud and friendly Ukrainian song "Vitaemo!" which means "Welcome to you!" and ended with "Viva la Musica".

Our songs and contacts with peoples of all the countries have proved that a universal language of friendship and understanding does exist and can never be destroyed by any political motives. No pressure from influent foreign countries, however powerful they might have been could ever destroy the ties created and proved by centuries. The new political trends appear and disappear but an old friendship remains even in difficult times. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

FIGURE. 3
SOME MEMBERS OF THE CHOIR WITH V. ZELDIN

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank cordially the chief organizers of the conference Claudio da Rocha Brito, Melany M. Ciampi, Valnice S. Paiva and J. L, Figueiredo for the invitation to participate in WCCA-15\

REFERENCE

http://www.mos-ukr-capella.ru