

IMAGINING MAZEPA: FROM BYRON TO BROADWAY TO HOLLYWOOD



A Performance by

Alexander Motyl and Vasyl Makhno

"An intrigue he had in his youth with the wife of a Polish gentleman was discovered. The husband tied him completely naked to a wild horse and let him ride away in this condition. The horse, which was from the country of Ukraine, returns thereto with Mazeppa, who is half-dead from fatigue and hunger."

Voltaire, History of Charles XII, King of Sweden

**The Ukrainian Museum
May 1, 2010**



Hetman Ivan Mazepa as a Tatar prince? As an American Indian maiden?
Sophia Loren as Mazepa?

Alexander Motyl and Vasyl Makhno take you on a romp through unusual historical representations of the famed Ukrainian Hetman—from the European Romantics to American and British theatre and dime novels to a Hollywood Western.

The evening will consist of readings, music, a slide show, and film.

PROGRAM

1. Franz Liszt, Symphonic Poem, “Mazeppa”

2. Lord Byron, “Mazeppa”

Readings by Alexander Motyl and Vasyl Makhno

Paintings:

- Mazeppa is bound to the horse, Louis Boulanger
- Mazeppa and the wolves, Horace Vernet
- Crossing of the river, Théodore Géricault
- Mazeppa and the horses, John Frederick Herring
- The raven appears, Eugène Delacroix
- Mazeppa and the Cossack girl, Théodore Chassériau
- Mazeppa is freed, Nathaniel Currier

3. Alexander Pushkin, “Poltava”

Readings by V. Makhno and A. Motyl

Painting:

- Charles XII of Sweden and Ivan Mazepa after the Battle of Poltava, Gustaf Cederström.

4. Victor Hugo, “Mazeppa”

Reading by A. Motyl

5. Juliusz Slowacki, “Mazeppa”

6. Henry M. Milner, “Mazeppa; or The Wild Horse of Tartary!”

Reading by A. Motyl

Music:

- Liszt, Symphonic Poem, “Mazeppa”

7. Adah Isaacs Menken

Reading by A. Motyl



8. Mazeppa Bourbon Whisky
9. Horace Greeley—as the “Modern Mazeppa” in *Harper’s Weekly*
10. Albert Aiken, “The Indian Mazeppa or The Madman of the Plains”
Reading by Katherina Motyl
11. Frederick Whishaw, “Mazeppa”
Reading by A. Motyl
Music:
 - Liszt, Symphonic Poem, Mazeppa
12. Buffalo Bill, “Story of the wild West and camp-fire chats”
Reading by A. Motyl
13. George Cukor, Heller in Pink Tights (trailer)
with Sophia Loren and Anthony Quinn

Special screening of the documentary film *The Baturyn Excavations: Rebuilding the History of the Cossack Hetman Capital*.

RECEPTION



IMAGINING MAZEPPA is presented by The Ukrainian Museum in conjunction with its new exhibition *Ukraine–Sweden: At the Crossroads of History (XVII–XVIII Centuries)*.

Vasyl Makhno is a Ukrainian-language poet and playwright and author of *Thread*, *38 Poems about New York and Other Things*, *Cornelia Street Café*, and the play, *Coney Island*. Since 1993, when his first collection of poetry, *Schema*, appeared in Ukraine, he has published seven collections of poetry, translated the Polish poet Zbigniew Herbert, *String of Light* (1996), and compiled *Poets of the Nineties: An Anthology of New Ukrainian Poetry* (1998). He is poet-in-residence at the Shevchenko Scientific Society in New York.

Alexander J. Motyl is the author of four novels, *Whiskey Priest*, *Who Killed Andrei Warhol*, *The Jew Who Was Ukrainian*, and the work in progress, *My Orchidia*. Motyl has translated V. Makhno’s play, *Coney Island*, into English and is currently collaborating on a play with *Ultra Violet*, *Adolf & Andy*. Also a painter, Motyl is represented by The Tori Collection. He teaches at Rutgers University-Newark and is the author of six academic books. His website is: www.AlexanderMotyl.webs.com.

The Powerpoint presentation was prepared by **Vasyl Lopukh**.

The Ukrainian Museum was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America as a showcase for Ukrainian culture. Over the past 32 years, the Museum has amassed extensive collections of folk art, fine art, and archival material. It mounts several exhibitions annually; publishes accompanying bilingual catalogues; organizes courses, workshops, and other educational programs; and hosts a variety of public events. In April 2005 the Museum moved into a new, state-of-the-art facility in New York's East Village, funded entirely by the Ukrainian American community.



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