

Flute Repertoire by Women Composers of Ukraine by *Dmytro Gnativ*

Until the late 20th-century Ukrainian classical music was predominately shaped by male composers. However, from the end of the 80s in the 20th century, the situation started to shift rapidly. Today, 43% of Ukraine's National Union of Composers are women.

The first Ukrainian woman composer is attributed to [Stefania Turkevych](#) (1898-1977). She was born in Lviv, Ukraine. Studied in Europe with A. Schoenberg, F. Schreker, Z. Nejedly, and many other renowned teachers. In 1946 she fled from the Soviets in Ukraine to the United Kingdom while her works were banned in the Soviet Union. Turkevych's compositional heritage includes operas, symphonies, ballets, and many chamber works. Recordings of her symphonies can be found on YouTube. While I have had no success locating her woodwind trio yet, I would like to introduce living women composers that strongly influence the Ukrainian and international classical music sphere.



Zhanna Kolodub was born in 1930 and has a special place in the flute repertoire. Kolodub's pieces are melodic, bright, and uplifting, with clear lines and phrasing, and she loves to integrate folk music.

Originally from Vinnytsia, Ukraine, Zhanna Kolodub has written children's ballets, cantatas, and orchestral and chamber works. She studies composition with Borys Lyatoshynsky, whom we mentioned in the previous article in the January newsletter. He and her future husband Lev Kolodub, had a tremendous influence on the formation of her style. Zhanna Kolodub is one of the most prolific Ukrainian composers of flute repertoire.

Works: *Nocturne* (fl, pf), 1985; *Poem* (fl, pf), 1986; *Legend* (fl, pf), 1980; *Brather's circle* (fl, pf), 1985; *Suite* (2fl), 1996; *Con Anima* (fl, orch), *Invention* (fl, bn, pf); *Sketches* (fl, bn, pf); *Four Moods* (fl, bn, pf); *Kaleidoscope* (fl, ob, bn); 2013; *Suite* (fl, ob, bn), 1993; *Suite* (fl, ob, cl, bn, hn), 1983. Most of these works are now published by the Terem Music Verlag <http://new.terem-music.ch/>

[Leisa Dychko](#) (b. 1939) is one of the leading choral composers of Ukraine. In the 1980s, she was one of the first composers who began composing sacred music in Soviet Ukraine: Liturgy No. 1 and No. 2, Solemn Liturgy.

She once told me that the flute is one of her favorite instruments. Lesia Dychko worked on her **Partita** (solo flute) for an extended period of time. As she mentioned, "In this Partita, I wanted to express all sides of the human existence through a divine instrument – the flute." Her other solo piece - **Poem** became one of my favorite solo works by Ukrainian composers.

Contact me to get scores: dmitrygnativ@gmail.com

[Karmella Tsepkolenko](#) (b. 1955). Composer of neo-expressionistic style. Among her honors is the Prix du Rendezvous International du Piano en Creuse in France (1990), as well as fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts (1996), Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (1996), and the Brahms-Haus-Stiftung (1996). She has also served residencies at the Künstlerinnenhof Die Höhe (2002–03), the Worpswede Künstlerhäuser (2000), and the Künstlerhof Schreyahn (1998).

Works: **Duel-Duet No 8 for two flutes**, 2003; **Carin-sounds for flute solo**, 1995; **Im träumen und hier auf der Erde** (fl, pf, vc), 1998; **Goldberg-momento** (fl, pf, perc), 2020; **History of the Flute-Puritan** (fl, ob, vn, vc, hpd), 1983. [Contact composer for scores:](#)

[Victoria Poleva](#) (b. 1962). She can be described as the composer of the sacred minimalism style. Poleva's works are performed all around Europe, and she was a member of the jury of the International Composers Competition "Sacarium," Italy.

Works: Seraph Smile (fl, orch), 2016; Trio 5x3 (fl, pf, vn), 1989; The Birds (fl, pf, vn), 2001; Blind Hand (fl, gtr), 2006; Cricket in the Darkness (fl, cl, str), 2005-6; Rukhh (fl, perc, str), 1986. [Contact composer for scores: \[vipoleva@gmail.com\]\(mailto:vipoleva@gmail.com\)](#)

[Azarova Svitlana](#) (b. 1976). As mentioned by Frans Waltmans, "Azarova's music is highly inspired by spiritual and philosophical issues. Her pieces are imbued with Slavic soul and composed in Western contemporary fashion. Although rarely minimalistic, Svitlana believes that music allows for the best meditation".

Works: Don't Go: Not Now (fl, ob, bn), 2003; Slavic Gods (fl, cl, acc, vc), 2003; ...is there no alternative for you (fl, pf, vn, db), 2002. These and many other works can be found on her webpage: <https://azarova.com/works.php>

While working on my research paper, I discovered that more than thirty other Ukrainian women composers should be mentioned regarding flute repertoire. All of them will be listed in my *An Anthology of Ukrainian Flute Music from 1850 – 2022* in the late summer of 2023. There you will find names of nearly 200 composers, their bios, a list of more than 500 works, and excerpts from many compositions. Also, Anthology will include contact information on where to get the music and how to contact the composers.

Thank you, Florida Flute Association, for providing the opportunity to share these amazing women composers with the flute community!

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out: dmitrygnativ@gmail.com