

Mali Liu, Ph.D., Assistant Professor
National DongWha University, University of Taipei, Taiwan
Music Department

Title: Art and Humanity in Wartime: The Musical and Pedagogical Legacy of Hanna Havrylets (1958–2022)

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Abstract

Art and Humanity in Wartime: The Musical and Pedagogical Legacy of Hanna Havrylets (1958–2022)

This presentation examines the artistic and educational contributions of Hanna Havrylets, one of Ukrainian most distinguished contemporary composers and teachers. Her passing on February 27, 2022, during the first days of Russia’s invasion, symbolized both a personal tragedy and a rupture in Ukrainian cultural memory. Havrylets’ oeuvre—spanning symphonies, concertos, chamber works, and choral compositions—embodies a profound dialogue between tradition and modernity. Works such as *Stabat Mater* (2002), *Chorale for Strings* (2005), and *Symphony No. 1* (1989) reveal her ability to transform folk elements and ritual incantations into contemporary idioms that resonate with themes of resilience and humanity.

Equally significant was her role as professor at the Kyiv Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music, where she mentored a generation of composers. Her pedagogy emphasized technical mastery, cultural responsibility, and the integration of national identity into creative practice. Through her teaching, Havrylets cultivated a community of artists who continue to shape Ukrainian musical landscape, ensuring continuity even in times of war and displacement.

This study also draws on interviews with eleven Ukrainian women composers—Asmati Chibalashvili, Bohdana Frolyak, Hanna Kopiika, Kira Maidenberg-Todorova, Olena Morozova, Olena Ilnytska, Viktoriya Polyova, Renata Sokachyk, Anna Stoyanova, Karmella Tsepkoenko, and Alla Zagaykevych—whose testimonies illuminate Havrylets’ influence as mentor, colleague, and cultural beacon. By situating her dual legacy within the broader context of conflict, the presentation highlights how art and education together sustain humanity, affirming the enduring power of cultural

memory to resist erasure and nurture hope.

Introduction

The death of Hanna Havrylets on February 27, 2022, from an aneurysm compounded by wartime disruption of medical care, was both a personal tragedy and a symbolic fracture in Ukrainian cultural memory. As a composer and professor at the Kyiv Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music, Havrylets embodied the intersection of artistic creation and humanistic education. This paper examines her musical works and pedagogical influence, situating them within the broader discourse of Art and Humanity.

Methodology

This study combines musical analysis, ethnographic interviews, and curatorial programming. Drawing on the radio documentary *Thousand Miles, Talks About Music*, which interwove Havrylets' works with testimonies from eleven composers, the research demonstrates how voice-based media can preserve sonic memory and amplify marginalized narratives. Radio becomes a site of embodied listening and transnational circulation, situating Havrylets' legacy within a global dialogue.

Analysis of Musical compositions

Havrylets' oeuvre spans orchestral, chamber, choral, and solo compositions. Her *Symphony No. 1* (1989) demonstrates her ability to transform Ukrainian folk motifs into modern symphonic language. *Stabat Mater* (2002) fuses ritual incantation with contemporary harmonic idioms, creating a soundscape of grief and resilience. *Chorale for Strings* (2005) exemplifies her synthesis of folk-inspired melodic lines with modern textures, affirming continuity of cultural identity.

Her choral writing is particularly renowned for blending liturgical fragments and folk elements, producing works that resonate with both national tradition and universal spirituality. These compositions embody humanity through sound, offering listeners a sense of collective memory and emotional solidarity.

Pedagogical Legacy

Equally significant was Havrylets' role as professor at the Kyiv Tchaikovsky National Academy of Music. Her teaching emphasized technical mastery, cultural responsibility, and the integration of national identity into creative practice. Students such as Renata Sokachyk recall her insistence that "every note carries the weight of memory." Through her mentorship, Havrylets cultivated a generation of composers

who continue to shape Ukrainian musical landscape.

Her pedagogy extended beyond technique; it was a philosophy of resilience. By encouraging students to embed cultural identity into their works, she ensured that Ukrainian music would remain a living testimony even in times of war and displacement.

Voices of Colleagues and Students

The impact of Havrylets is best understood through the voices of her colleagues and students. In the radio documentary “Thousand Miles, Talks About Music”, eleven Ukrainian women composers reflected on her legacy:

1. Asmati Chibalashvili emphasized her role in bridging scholarship and composition.
2. Bohdana Frolyak described her choral writing as “a voice of humanity in times of silence.”
3. Hanna Kopiika noted her influence on younger generations seeking new soundscapes.
4. Kira Maidenberg-Todorova, displaced by war, spoke of Havrylets’ music as a source of compassion.
5. Olena Morozova highlighted her example in promoting Ukrainian culture abroad.
6. Olena Ilnytska recalled her rigorous structural training.
7. Viktoria Polyova emphasized the spiritual clarity of her works.
8. Renata Sokachyk, her student, testified to her teaching philosophy of cultural responsibility.
9. Anna Stoyanova reflected on how Havrylets’ influence extended into electroacoustic practice.
10. Karmella Tsepkoenko acknowledged her leadership within the Ukrainian music community.
11. Alla Zagaykevych underscored her innovative spirit and cultural witness.

Together, these voices form a collective portrait of remembrance, situating Havrylets as both mentor and cultural beacon.

Conclusion

By situating Havrylets’ music and pedagogy within the context of war and displacement, this paper affirms the enduring power of art and education to sustain

humanity. Her compositions embody resilience through sound, while her teaching nurtured continuity across generations. Havrylets' legacy exemplifies how cultural memory can be preserved and reimagined, resisting erasure and nurturing hope. In honoring her, we affirm that art and humanity remain inseparable, even in the darkest times.