THE COUNTRY I LIVE IN

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"There is no place like home" English proverb says. Wherever you are, your heart always longs for the place where you were born and raised. No wonder that the more you're awe the more you miss everything connected with your home: your family, house, friend, favourite places and what not. Because all this is beginning of your Motherland. You cannot choose the country to live in. Thus, being a native Ukrainian, I feel not indifferent to what happening to my native land. People of Ukraine experience complicated feeling going through all hardships of nowadays. But "deep in my heart I do believe" that country which gave the world such people as Shevchenko, Lysenko, Leontovich, Mechnikov and many others is worth being prosperous.

Contemporary cultural life of Ukraine is rich in different events both in the capital and other towns and cities of the country. Twenty years have passed since the time when the "Ukraine" symphony orchestra was organized. The very first performance of the orchestra at "Glinka hall" in Snt. Petersburg has become a triumph for its musicians and it has been called "the orchestra of the European level" by the press of that time.

The "Ukraine" orchestra was organized by a 32-year-old young conductor Vladimir Sheiko. A young musician Vladimir Sheiko won sympathy of his listeners being a leading conductor at Kiev Operetta Theatre, and his new orchestra is popular not only with Ukrainian public but also abroad. The annual tour of the "Ukraine" has a great success all around the world.

In 1988 "Kiev Percussion", a percussion instrument ensemble of the Ukraine National Opera House was organized. There are very few musical groups of this kind in the world, for example: "Strasbourg Drummers", "Crowmata" from Sweden, and "Necsus" from Canada, Mark Pekarski's ensemble from Moscow. All of them play specific avant-garde music while "Kiev Percussion" performs melodic music in different styles. There are over 70 compositions in their repertoire, including original works for percussion instruments, music by classical and contemporary composers (from Bach to Shostakovich), jazz plays. "Kiev Percussion" has won fame with the elite public in Germany, it was invited to visit France and Switzerland. The ensemble conquered the hearts of numerous professional musicians as well as the audience.

Among numerous signs of a existing nation is its language.

I'm very much proud of the fact that finally the Ukrainian language has obtained its appropriate status. It has become the official language of all spheres of contemporary life - political, economical, educational and so on.

I'm pleased to admit that Ukrainian is paid much attention to not only by native citizens of the country. You probably know that the International School of Ukrainian study was founded in 1990. Since then nearly 400 students representing almost 30 countries of the world: The USA, Canada, Great Britain, Australia, Japan, Italy and some others have complicated their studies at school. Many of them now work as teachers of Ukrainian and other branches of Ukrainian studies in leading universities of the world at diplomatic corps and business. They implement one of the major goals of the school – they pave the way for information about Ukraine.

I suppose the problem of the language development is closely connected with the problem of national traditions which are being revived more and more now. The Ukrainians have always been the nation of rich traditions. It happened so that most of them have been kept and observed in western parts of the country.

If you want to discover real Ukraine in its picturesque variety you should get off the main roads and explore quiet rural lanes and hidden-away villages. A culture that is rich in folklore and tradition, a heritage proudly displayed in countryside homes and fascinating museums, a scenic beauty which lends itself to discovery. There are exciting cities, ancient towns and quaint rural villages, each with its own unique character and history. What is more you can be sure of a warm and friendly welcome from the Ukrainian people, particularly in the heart of the countryside where you will find them ever willing to help you out and give advice.

Urban people are somewhat less open mainly because of their dynamic lifestyle which makes them face complicated problems unfamiliar to rural citizens. Though you may find sympathy for your troubles and worries with them too. If a man is brought up as a thoughtful, responsive, well-wishing person it doesn't matter where he lives and what he is. I am pleased to admit that in spite of all hardships of nowadays this kind of people prevails.

Contemporary situation in Ukraine economy after several price hikes has made some people very rich, others very poor. The majority of people is compelled to think of their daily bread leaving no time and force to care of something more. It makes me feel sorry for them, but I still hope for the better life for this country and its people. As a nation of rich traditions we have much to be proud of.

Let's take our national cuisine as an example. It has won well-deserved fame both here and abroad. Ukrainian borsch with pampushkas, fritters, dumplings, vareniks, shortcakes, different fish and meet dishes have always been in popular demand. The traditions of Ukrainian cookery are carefully kept now. One more attribute of national culture in Ukraine which has been preserved cherished through many centuries is national folk costume. You can see women in typical garlands on their head decorated with colourful ribbons and men in red wide trousers

only on the stage on occasional festivities. But many elements of modern clothers styling have been borrowed from folk costumes and look quite up-to-date.

To sum up the above said I would like to say that whatever the season, wherever you go Ukraine has something for everyone.

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Hазва сатті: The country I live in

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