

# Opera Star to Perform with King's Choirs



On Monday, April 19, 2010, The King's University College Choirs will perform at the Winspear Centre at 8 p.m. What makes this concert remarkably different from the rest, and truly a once in a lifetime opportunity, is that King's will be hosting one of Europe's finest bass-baritones, **Pavlo Hunka**. Hunka has sung in more than 50 operas, including at least 30 major roles in the world's leading opera houses in Paris, Vienna, Munich, Florence, London, Salzburg, Amsterdam, Madrid, and Moscow, under the baton of the world's leading conductors, such as Claudio Abbado, Jeffrey Tate and Zubin Mehta.

Interestingly enough, Hunka practiced as a

lawyer before commencing vocal studies at the Royal Northern College of Music in the U.K. He later began his vocal career at the Basel Opera Company in Switzerland.

Hunka was born to a Ukrainian father and an English mother. A few years ago, he founded an enormous project with the goal to record and promote the classical treasures of Ukrainian Art Song. This major multi-year project, known as the *Ukrainian Art Song Project*, aims to record well over 300 dramatic songs, many of which are masterpieces of Ukrainian composers. This past summer, Hunka completed the mastering of the six-CD compilation of the art songs of Mykola Lysenko, plus he began recording the art songs of Yakiv Stepovyti at the Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto.

On Monday, April 19, Hunka will perform as a soloist with King's faculty member Dr. Joachim Segger on piano. He will additionally sing three pieces with King's Choirs, plus one additional song with Edmonton's Dnipro Choir, a guest-chorus for this particular concert. Faculty member, Dr. Melanie Turgeon has the pleasure of conducting

*Hunka's extraordinary career has allowed him to reign as one of Europe's foremost interpreters of bass-baritone operatic roles.*

*Yet it is the Ukrainian art song that has captured his heart. When performing these gems, Hunka's astounding versatility, exceptional musicianship, and commanding stage presence coalesce to create an intimate and mesmerizing experience for the audience.*

this concert entitled "Since the Art Song." In addition to Pavlo sharing a few art songs, the choir will try to depict how vast and diverse composition has become since this specific time period in

music when the art song thrived. The concert will include works by Brahms, Chesnokov, Lysenko, Hurko, Stolte, Stroope, Tormis, Poulenc, and others.

The world does not know the enormous contribution Ukrainian composers have made to the genre of the art song. Pavlo Hunka, together with a committee including Dr. Melanie Turgeon, are striving to reveal this fine music.

*The Ukrainian Art Song Project (UASP) is a significant Canadian non-profit music venture which has as its goal the recording, preservation and dissemination of nearly 1,000 art songs of Ukraine's 24 most eminent classical composers, with translations available in English, French; and German. The UASP also aims to have this music performed worldwide; thus, all the scores will eventually be published on its website. Being in the public domain, they will not be copyrighted and can be duplicated, distributed, and performed without restriction.*



*From the opera "Falstaff"*

