



1974
-
2019

Today's Program

Desna School of Dance
Bukovynian/Pryvit

Desna Company
Volyn

Desna School of Dance
Polka

Desna School of Dance
Hopak

Desna Company
Gypsy

Remarks

Desna Company
Hopak



45
YEARS OF
DESNA

Welcome from the President

Andrew Polischuk / Андрій Поліщук

Another year passed and another milestone reached. Over the years Desna has transformed into the wonderful organization it is today. Desna school has flourished and Desna Company has been rejuvenated. In order to accommodate this growth the organization has needed to adapt and restructure. The most important aspect of this being the alignment of Desna's School and Company as one body. I would like to personally thank all supporters of Desna, both old and new. Supporting Desna means to support our Desna Company dancers in their endeavours to perform internationally at the high level we have been trained for. It also means to support the nourishment and development of the children in our school. I also would like to thank Yuri and Luba Grekov for their continuous energy and work with the organization. Here is to another 45 years of Desna!!

Artistic Directors

Since 1999, Desna has been honoured to work under the artistic direction of Yuri and Luba Grekov - graduates of the Virsky National Academy of Dance in Kyiv, Ukraine. They have performed with the Godenko and Virsky dance companies as well as Ukraine's Hopak Ensemble across Europe and North America.

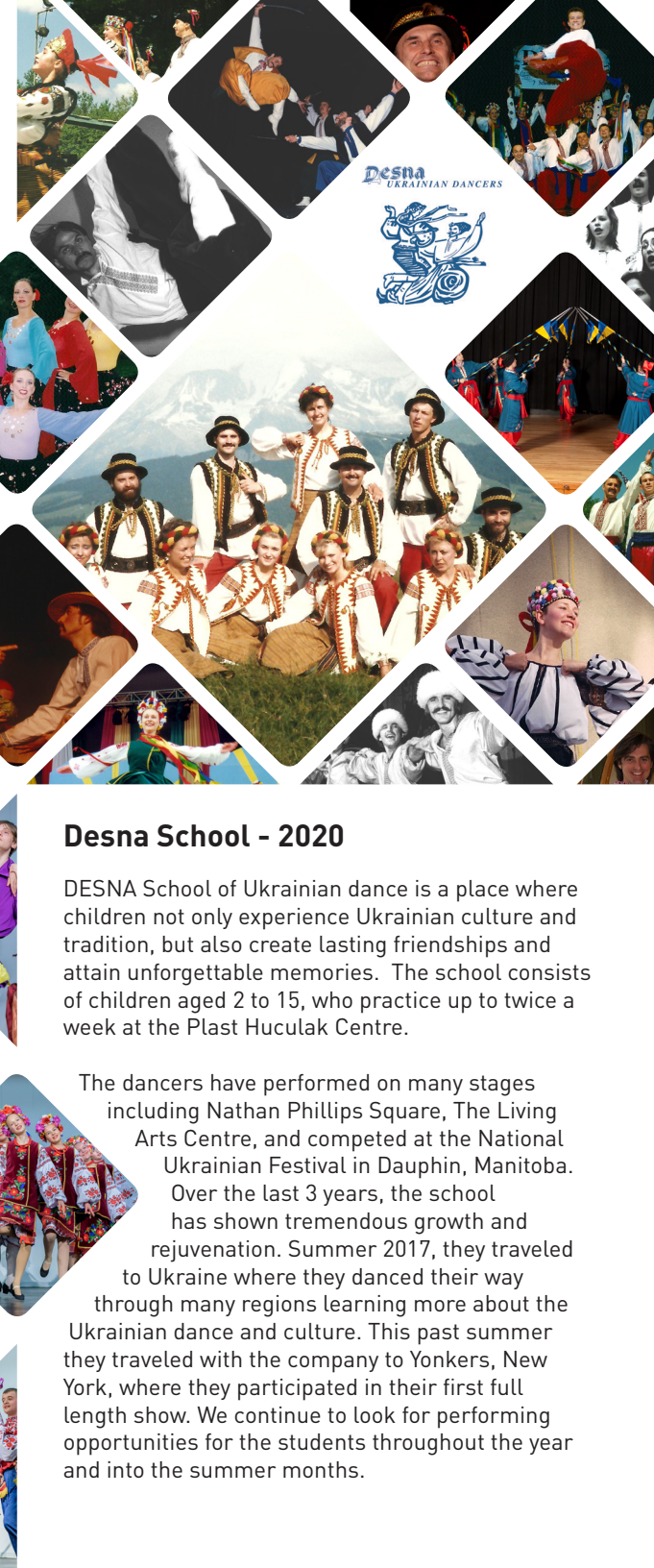
In addition to having a comprehensive knowledge of Ukrainian dance, Yuri and Luba are professionally trained in international dances such as Spanish, Gypsy, Greek, Moldavian, Georgian and Mexican. Through their teaching of the Virsky style of Ukrainian dance, they have been, and will continue to be the essential source of artistic and creative vision for Desna.

About Desna

Over the past 45 Years, Desna has been dazzling audiences throughout Canada, the US and the rest of the world with a wide range of Ukrainian dance. Under the direction of Virsky-trained Yuri & Luba Grekov, Desna presents technically demanding and exhilarating dances accented by exquisite costumes and diverse music.

Various traditional Ukrainian dances make up Desna's repertoire including Hutsul, Bukovynian, Volyn, Kozachok and Hopak, but it's the group's belief that the key to celebrating and broadening tradition lies with new and different styles of dance.

This led to the creation of a series of new dances including the Canadian Country Dance, Gypsy, Spanish, Romanian and various comedic numbers.



Desna School - 2020

DESNA School of Ukrainian dance is a place where children not only experience Ukrainian culture and tradition, but also create lasting friendships and attain unforgettable memories. The school consists of children aged 2 to 15, who practice up to twice a week at the Plast Huculak Centre.

The dancers have performed on many stages including Nathan Phillips Square, The Living Arts Centre, and competed at the National Ukrainian Festival in Dauphin, Manitoba. Over the last 3 years, the school has shown tremendous growth and rejuvenation. Summer 2017, they traveled to Ukraine where they danced their way through many regions learning more about the Ukrainian dance and culture. This past summer they traveled with the company to Yonkers, New York, where they participated in their first full length show. We continue to look for performing opportunities for the students throughout the year and into the summer months.