

DOI <https://doi.org/10.30525/978-9934-26-374-3-4>

**“GLORIFICATION” IN THE MIDDLE OF THE WAR:
ABOUT THE HIDDEN MUSICAL SYMBOLS
OF YULIYA BEREZHKO-KAMINSKA’S POETRY**

**«СЛАВОСЛОВІЯ» ПОСЕРЕД ВІЙНИ: ПРО ПРИХОВАНІ
МУЗИЧНІ СИМВОЛИ ПОЕЗІЇ ЮЛІЇ БЕРЕЖКО-КАМІНСЬКОЇ**

Naumova O. A.

*Doctor of Philosophy (Theory and
History of Culture),
Associate Professor at the Department
of World Music History
Ukrainian National Tchaikovsky
Academy of Music
Kyiv, Ukraine*

Наумова О. А.

*кандидат мистецтвознавства,
доцент кафедри історії
світової музики
Національна музична академія
України імені П. І. Чайковського
м. Київ, Україна*

*«...Іду Краковом – вечірнім, ранковим Краковом, –
А серце моє за мною волочиться – Кроводерською, Канонічею...
Та щоразу, коли думаю, що вже відплакала, –
Маріуполь, Херсон відплакала, –
Якийсь Маріуш, Агнешка чи Ева зазирають мені у вічі –
У колодязі мої найглибші, у схованки непроглядні, –
І виймають відчай.
Крижаний відчай.
І щоб якось ніяковість заладнати, –
Бо як воно – бути під вогнем ракетним? –
Ідемо на каву – краківську, з шоколадом,
І довго говоримо про поезію знайомих поетів,
Про те, що знаємо, і що – не дуже,
Дмухаємо на пінку, сміємось, підтакуємо.
І я також сміюсь... Бо попереду – ніч, і душам
Нашим не буде спокою – ані тут, у Кракові,
Ні в Херсоні,
Ні в Миколаєві,
Ні в Америці,
Ні в Європі...
Ні в будинку,
Ані в підвалі,
Ані в танку
Ані в окопі,
Ні на землі,
Ні на небі,
Ні живим,*

*Ані мертвим...
Поки війни блукають вулицями,
Кроводерти...»*

*“I walk along Krakow – evening or morning Krakow, –
And behind me my heart is dragging – along Blood-rending, Canonic...
But every time I think that I have already cried,
About Mariupol, Kherson I have cried, –
Some Mariusz, Agnieszka or Eva are looking into my eyes –
Into my deepest wells, into my most hidden hiding places, –
And they take out despair.
Icy despair.
And to somehow fix the awkwardness, –
Because what is it like to be under missile fire? –
Let’s go for coffee – Krakow coffee, with chocolates,
And we talk about the poetry of known poets for a long time,
About what we know and what we don’t know,
We blow on the foam, cheering and laughing.
I also laugh... As the night is ahead, and for the souls
There will be no rest for us – neither even here, in Krakow,
Nor in Kherson,
Nor in Mykolaiv,
Nor in America
Nor in Europe...
Nor in the house,
Nor in the basement,
Nor even in a tank,
Nor in the trench,
Nor on the land,
nor in heaven,
nor to alive
nor to dead...
While wars roam the streets
Blood-rended...”*

From a collection of poetry
by Y. Berezhko-Kaminska “Gravity of the Word”.

Musical reminiscences, images, and symbols play a leading role in the work of the Ukrainian poetess Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska. Her poems are distinguished by their particular melody and musicality; the poetry is all permeated with musical imagery. The fate of the poetess turned out to be closely intertwined with Poland, where the mistress found not only refuge from the war, but also creative inspiration.

Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska is the author of eight books of poetry, laureate of All-Ukrainian Literary Awards named after Hryhor Tyutyunnyk, Oleksandr Oles and others, secretary of the National Union of Writers of

Ukraine for work with young authors. Co-author of more than 65 joint literary publications. Compiler and literary editor of the book of poems "Rhyming Irpin" (2018), "Poetic Metro" (2020), the anthology of poetry by young Ukrainian authors "Young Names" (2020), the collection of short stories and essays "WorkStory: Work in Focus of Literature". Some poems have been translated into English, French, Spanish, Bulgarian, Polish, Belarusian and Russian. Founder and Head of the International Project "Music and Poetry Salon" Camerton" (2020), the International Competition of Novels and Essays "WorkStory: Work in the Focus of Literature" (Ukraine – USA) (2021); of the all-Ukrainian project "Strong and Inspired: Stories that Help Overcome Difficulties" (2021).

Because of the war, Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska left Bucha for Krakow. But despite the evacuation, she continued to be creative and organize artistic activities in a new city: since 2022, she has been a scholarship holder of the Polish Institute of Literature, curator of the International Literary Project "Poland – Ukraine: Community of Writers" (Poland, Krakow, organized by the Union of Polish Writers in Krakow and the National Union of Writers of Ukraine); curator of the International Documentary Competition "Ukrainians in Poland: The Story of Salvation" (organizer – Institute of Literature), journalist, host of the Ukrainian Wave programs of Polish Radio (Warsaw): "DieSlovo" and "Krakivski gosti".

Presentations of Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska's new poetry collection "Gravity of the Word" took place in Poland and Germany. All creative meetings were dedicated to Ukraine and began with a moment of silence in memory of all Ukrainians whose lives were taken by the war. "Two days before the war, I had time to start printing a new book of poems, "Gravity of the Word", "the poetess recalls. – "The thought of this gave me a feeling of at least some kind of peace. It was important for me that this book still reached readers under any conditions. I asked a friend, in case of a fatal accident, to take the print run from the printing house and distribute it in libraries and among those people who were waiting for this book. I also wanted to leave poems read aloud. To preserve my accents, intonations, tonality, which I put into what I created. As long as there was an Internet connection, I sent them to my friends. However, during the heaviest fighting, which lasted for hours, the only thing we could do in the basement was pray and read the news. I decided to record some of my poetry on my phone in video format. It helped overcome fear; it drove away difficult thoughts. It was as if I was returning to my usual sound, to the world in which I had been living, in which there was no place for war. When the sounds of battles were too close, rockets and Grads were flying over the house, mortars were working under the windows, we understood that we might not survive. We did not dare to go to bed on such days, we were always on the alert. And we did not know whether we would have the next day or not. At those moments, we thought that it is better to leave this world, reading words of prayer or poetry, than in a state of fear and hatred. That's why I was reading it. I made some of these records public, and I'm glad that they were helpful to many people in their own way" [1].

Despite the fact that these are Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska's first literary presentations outside of Ukraine, the auditoriums were full, and the books were actively distributed. The meeting was attended by both Poles and Germans – journalists, writers and fans of the poetic word, as well as representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora and refugees. Literary meetings were organized by Polish and German writing communities and representatives of the Ukrainian diaspora. In particular, in Krakow there is a local branch of the Union of Polish Writers (Stowarzyszenie Pisarzy Polskich Oddział Kraków) at the invitation of Michal Zabłodski. In Warsaw – in the Cultural House of the famous writer and journalist, co-founder of the Institute of Reportage Mariusz Szczygieł.

The author dedicated all the presentations to her Motherland; and the poetry she presented was about a happy peaceful life in Ukraine, love, bright joy, family roots, and the search for one's destiny.

Over the past year, Yuliya Berezhko-Kaminska has participated in numerous international festivals, became one of the heroines of an exhibition of photo portraits of Ukrainians and a film from the Institute of Literature, and also gave numerous interviews to mass media from Ukraine, Poland, Great Britain, Germany, etc. In addition, the Ukrainian writer made a real European tour, during which she presented her book, read poems and talked about Ukraine. She presented her work in Vienna, Paris, Prague and other cities.

Summing up her creative projects, the artist says: "Everywhere I've been to, I've found the understanding and support of Poles. People showed their empathy and deep awareness of what is happening in Ukraine. I saw how Poles treat their heritage, how they value their heritage, how they love it. This inspired me to create many projects. Everything Poles do is done in Polish. Everything is done in order to popularize your own and to do it competently and with taste. We are only moving towards it now. I hope that the events currently taking place in Ukraine will help Ukrainians to realize themselves, their identity and not be ashamed of being Ukrainian. Culture is something that brings together and warms; and we, writers and cultural workers, have to work for it" [2].

Література:

1. Жаркова Р. Письменниця Юлія Бережко-Камінська: Щовечора в Краків до мене приходять мій дім. URL: <https://povaha.org.ua/pysmennytsya-yuliya-berezhko-kaminska-shhovechora-v-krakiv-do-mene-pryhodyt-mij-dim/> (дата звернення 29.11.2023).
2. Стецюк В. Польща стала набагато ближчою Україні. Розмова з Юлією Бережко-Камінською. *Посестри. Часопис*. № 28. 06.10.2022. URL: <https://posestry.eu/zhurnal/no-28/statya/polscha-stala-nabagatoblyzhchoyu-ukraini-rozмова-z-yulieyu-berezhko> (дата звернення 29.11.2023).