





National Honored Academic Dance Ensemble of Ukraine named after P. Virsky is a team with rich traditions and history.

Its main activity is the study and preservation of national traditions, customs and rituals of the Ukrainian people, the creation on this basis of folk dances and new choreographic miniatures, and large canvases from the past and modern life of Ukraine.





The history of the Ensemble began in 1937, when famous ballet masters **Pavel Virsky** and **Mykola Bolotov** united a choreographic folk dance group for the first time in Ukraine. The organizer and permanent leader of the ensemble from 1955 to 1975 was the People's Artist of the USSR, laureate of the State Award of the USSR and the T. Shevchenko's State Award of Ukraine – **Pavel Virsky**.

Since 1980, the ensemble has been headed by the National Artist of Ukraine, laureate of the T. Shevchenko's National Award, professor and academician – **Miroslav Vantukh**.





About **1000 dancers** have passed through the collective in almost 85 years of its existence. Currently the ensemble has **4 National Artists of Ukraine** and **23 Honored Artists of Ukraine**.

The collective has traveled to more than 85 countries: Austria, England, Argentina, Andorra, Belgium, Brazil, Venezuela, Vietnam, Greece, Denmark, Spain, Italy, Canada, Korea, China, Cuba, Portugal, USA, France, Switzerland, Japan and other countries.

In 2004, the collective toured the US and Canada, performing in 84 days with 72 shows in 58 cities.



UKRAINIAN
NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY





In 1959, the **World Peace Council** awarded the ensemble with the Certificate of Honor. In the same year, for merits in the development of Ukrainian choreographic art, the collective was awarded with title "**Honored**", and in 1971 for high performing skills – "**Academic**". In 1987, the team was awarded with the Order of Friendship of Peoples.





Today the **National Honored Academic Dance Ensemble of Ukraine named after P. Virsky**, under the direction of Miroslav Vantukh, is actively working to improve its professional level, replenishes the repertoire with new works, leads an active creative life, promoting Ukrainian choreographic art in his country and abroad.





A Ukrainian Troupe That Carries a Legacy

By Felicity Barringer

ONE OF THE MOST dynamic and expressive folk dance troupes in the world is the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble, which has been performing in New York City since 1952.

The ensemble's repertoire is vast, ranging from traditional Ukrainian folk dances to contemporary works. The group's energy and precision are a testament to the rich cultural heritage it represents.

While the group's focus is on traditional Ukrainian folk dances, it also incorporates contemporary works. The ensemble's dynamic and expressive performances have earned it a reputation as one of the most vibrant folk dance troupes in the world.

But, he added, these traditions "are not static. They are constantly evolving. It's important to keep the traditions alive while also embracing the changes that come with time. The ensemble's commitment to both tradition and innovation is what makes it so special.

According to a cultural official in Kiev, the ensemble's work is a reflection of the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine. The group's performances are a testament to the resilience and creativity of the Ukrainian people.



Members of Virsky's Ukrainian Dance Ensemble performing in Kiev.

These dances, particularly the "Hopak," are a reflection of the Ukrainian people's spirit and resilience. The ensemble's performances are a testament to the rich cultural heritage of Ukraine.

Clones and Grafts As Ballet Traits

DANCE VIEW Jack Anderson

BY USING A BALEET COMPANY as a model for a new dance company, the Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is not alone. In fact, it is part of a larger trend in the dance world to embrace traditional forms while also incorporating contemporary techniques.

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For an ensemble that is so dedicated to its traditions, it is also embracing the changes that come with time. The ensemble's commitment to both tradition and innovation is what makes it so special.

“The brilliant performers of the ensemble are matchless. The Ukrainian Dance Ensemble is the most dynamic and thrilling folk dance ensemble the world has ever witnessed...”
The New York Times

See the article in its original context from July 9, 1975, Page 34



See the article in its original context from January 10, 1988, Section 2, Page 18

