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The Muses Do Not Fall Silent! (Art in Times of War)

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Abstract

The relevance of this research is driven by the need to refute the well-known Roman saying "Inter arma silent Musae", more familiar to us in its altered form: "When cannons speak, the muses fall silent". In the harsh times of war, art not only must not remain silent but must also help, console, inspire, unite, and provide hope and confidence in victory.

The aim of this research is to review and summarize the creative artistic and scientific achievements of the faculty and students of the Faculty of Arts at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University during the full-scale military aggression of Russia against Ukraine.

The research methodology includes cataloging, socio-artistic and pedagogical analysis of the creativity of faculty and students; analysis of the programs of scientific events and lists of publications; conversations and interviews with authors and participants of artistic and scientific events.

The research results showed that since February 2022, a significant number of artistic works (paintings, murals, choreographic compositions, choral arrangements, etc.) and scientific works (articles, monographs, etc.) have emerged. Numerous scientific and practical events have been held, and faculty and students have participated in a significant number of national and international artistic festivals and competitions.

The conclusions allow us to assert that Ukrainian muses not only refused to remain silent but also raised their voices against war and aggression, in defense of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, its culture, and artistic heritage.

Keywords: Ukraine, art, science, faculty, students.

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silent". In the harsh times of war, art not only must not remain silent but must also help, console, inspire, unite, and provide hope and confidence in victory.

The aim of this research is to review and summarize the creative artistic and scientific achievements of the faculty and students of the Faculty of Arts at H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University during the full-scale military aggression of Russia against Ukraine in national and international contexts.

To achieve the formulated goal, a **complex research methodology** was used, which includes cataloging, social and artistic-pedagogical analysis of the creativity of teachers and students; analysis of the programs of scientific events and lists of publications; conversations and interviews with authors and participants of artistic and scientific events, etc.

The results of the study have demonstrated that, contrary to the well-known ancient Roman aphorism "Inter arma silent Musae", modern Ukrainian muses have actively engaged in resisting the enemy with all their capabilities since the first days of Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine.

A significant factor in mobilizing the fighting spirit of both the military and the civilian population, particularly the youth, was the fact that many prominent figures, those commonly referred to as opinion leaders, joined the Territorial Defense Forces (TDF). For example, on February 25, 2022, several media outlets reported that popular musicians had joined the TDF units: Sviatoslav Vakarchuk (leader of the band Okean Elzy), Andrii Khlyvniuk (Boombox), Foma (leader of the band Mandry), Oleh "Fahot" Mykhailyuta (TNMK), Oleksandr Polozhynskyi, Oleksandr Yarmak (Yarmak), KilymMen (Kalush band), the entire band Antytila – Taras Topolia, Serhii Vusyk, and Dmytro Zholud; director Oleh Sentsov, actors Serhii Filimonov, Oleksii Trytenko, and many other well-known artists (Yuryeva, Harrison, 2022, p. 286).

Once the shock of the first days and weeks of the great war had passed, the Ukrainian artistic community amazed the world with a wave of creativity. Faculty and students of the Faculty of Arts at the H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University did not remain on the sidelines. Since February 24, 2022, a significant number of artistic (paintings, murals, choreographic compositions, choral arrangements, etc.) and academic works (articles, monographs, etc.) have emerged, numerous scientific and practical events have been held, and faculty and students have participated in many national and international art festivals and competitions.

A vivid example is the traditional International Scientific and Practical Conference "Methodology of Modern Scientific Research". The conference was initiated in 2004 as an annual conference for young scientists, in which graduate students, doctoral candidates, and young researchers of the H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University participated. The conference aimed to provide young scientists

with the opportunity to present and publish the findings and results of their research. Since 2013, all academic staff of the H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University, as well as colleagues from the university's foreign partner institutions, have been invited to participate in the conference. In 2018, the conference gained international status, bringing together scholars from Ukraine and five foreign countries.

In 2022, the conference was scheduled for February 24–25. However, it was held later, in May, as part of the celebration of Ukrainian Science Day.

In 2023, it was decided to return the annual conference to its original date in late February, to prove to the world that nothing and no one can stop the progress of scientific thought, communication, and collaboration among scientists from different countries.

On February 22–23, 2024, the Jubilee XX International Scientific and Practical Conference "Methodology of Modern Scientific Research" was held online at the H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University under the slogan: "Science, Education, Art: In Search of the Contours of a Post-War World". The conference was attended by faculty members of higher and postgraduate education institutions, researchers from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and sectoral academies, teachers, doctoral candidates, and higher education students from Ukraine, Austria, Brazil, Armenia, Georgia, the People's Republic of China, Colombia, Poland, and Slovakia – a total of about 170 participants.

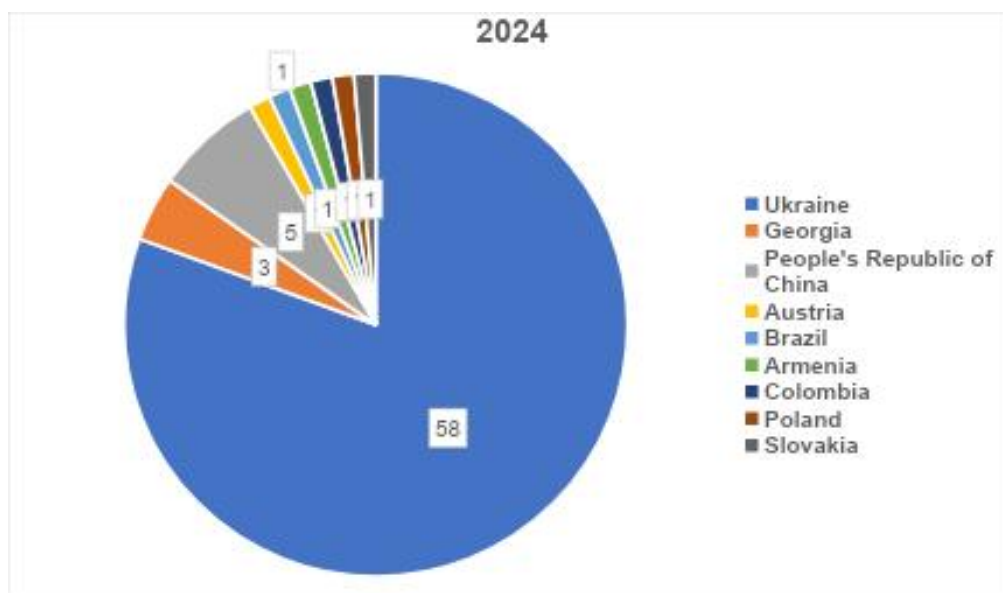


Figure 1. Distribution of conference participants by country

Participants presented 70 educational and scientific establishments and institutions.



Figure 2. Interactive map of the conference

Given the substantial number of reports on relevant topics, the previously determined areas of discussion at the conference were expanded to include the issue of "Science, Education, Culture, and Art During Wartime and in Post-War Reconstruction Models".

During the war, the traditional All-Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Conference "The Time of Art Education," organized by the Department of Musical Art, continued to operate without interruption. This conference is held twice a year, in spring and autumn (Department of Musical Art at H.S. Skovoroda KhNPU, 2023a, 2023b, 2024). In 2022, the annual All-Ukrainian Scientific and Practical Conference "Art Education in an Interdisciplinary Dimension" was even initiated.

Notably, the aforementioned wave of creativity that emerged in the early days of the war quickly became a subject of historical and cultural studies by the faculty of the Department of Musical Art. By May, during conferences held in conjunction with the celebration of Ukrainian Science Day, the authoring team presented two reports: one dedicated to war songs as a unique cultural phenomenon, and another specifically focused on the song "Oh, the Red Viburnum in the Meadow", which, without exaggeration, became a global symbol of Ukrainian resistance to Russian aggression. This song even inspired members of the legendary band Pink Floyd to reunite after decades to record the single "Hey Hey, Rise Up!" featuring samples of vocals by Ukrainian singer Andrii Khlyvniuk (Martynenko, Korolevska, Yuryeva, 2022; Yuryeva, Martynenko, Korolevska, 2022; Pink Floyd, 2022, April 7; Yuryeva, Harrison, 2022, p. 286).

The wartime period did not hinder the artistic creativity of the faculty members. After February 24, 2022, a series of choral arrangements of patriotic songs were created by Associate Professors of the

Department of Musical Art, I. Martynenko and O. Vasylieva, with the participation of accompanist T. Korolevska (Department of Musical Art of KhNPU, 2023, December 3; Vasylyeva, 2024, January 1).

It is worth noting that the conditions of martial law prompted continued active research in the field of distance learning technologies for music performance disciplines, which had begun during the COVID-19 quarantine restrictions. These efforts resulted in a series of publications in professional scientific journals (Vasylyeva, 2024), including those indexed in international scientometric databases like Scopus and Web of Science (Sokolova, Fomin, Tkachenko, Vasylieva, Parfentieva, Martynenko, 2022; Shlenova, Konoplenko, Yuryeva, Korneiko, Hlukhovska, 2023; Yalovskyi, Lotsman, Yurieva, Parfentieva, Sokolova, 2023).

The practical outcomes of distance learning in vocal performance, choral conducting, choral classes, and playing musical instruments are regularly presented to the public, among other platforms, on social media (Figures 3, 4) (Department of Musical Art of KhNPU, 2023, December 3; Vasylyeva, 2024, January 1), and have received top awards at numerous national and international art competitions and festivals.

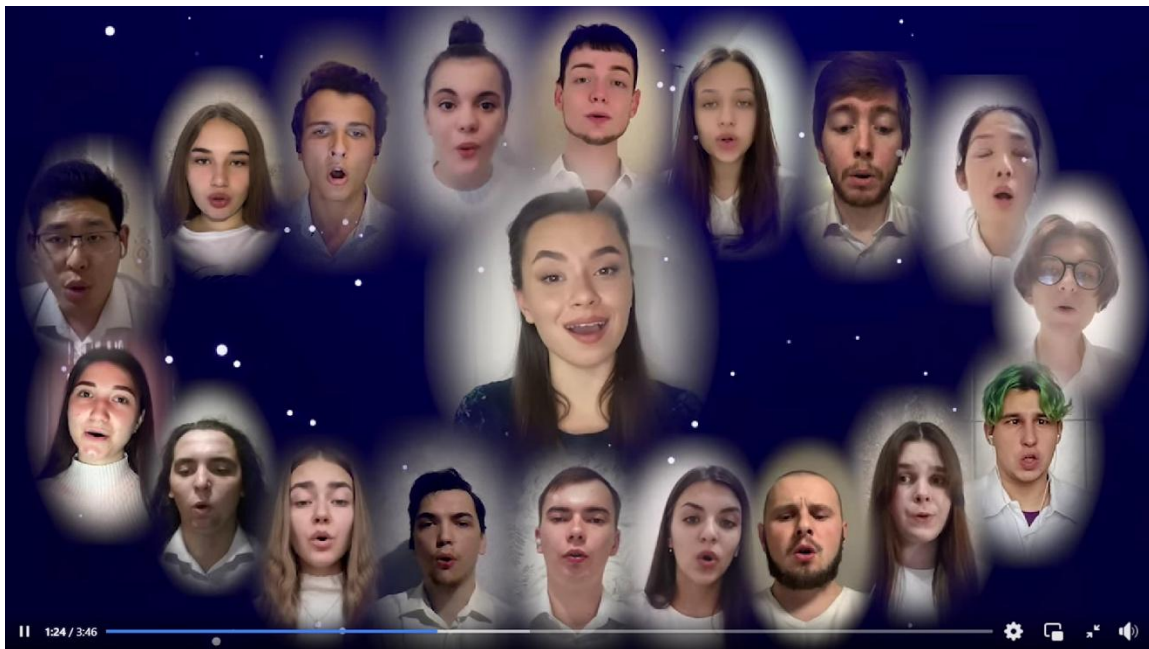
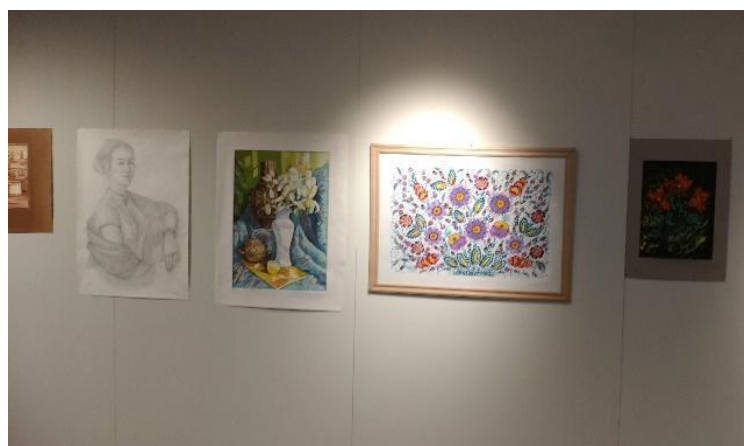


Figure 3. The People's Chamber Choir named after Viktor Korolevskiy wishes everyone a Happy New Year 2024 (Vasylyeva, 2024, January 1)



Figure 4. Choir of students – People's Republic of China citizens performing the Ukrainian song "Oh in the meadow red viburnum" (Vasilyeva, 2023, March 25).

Creative achievements of teachers and students - specialists in fine arts were presented at a joint exhibition with colleagues from Østfold University College (Norway) "Culture and art as a philosophy of resistance in times of war: Kharkiv-Østfold (artistic orbits)" (Fig. 5–7) and received high praise from Norwegian art connoisseurs.



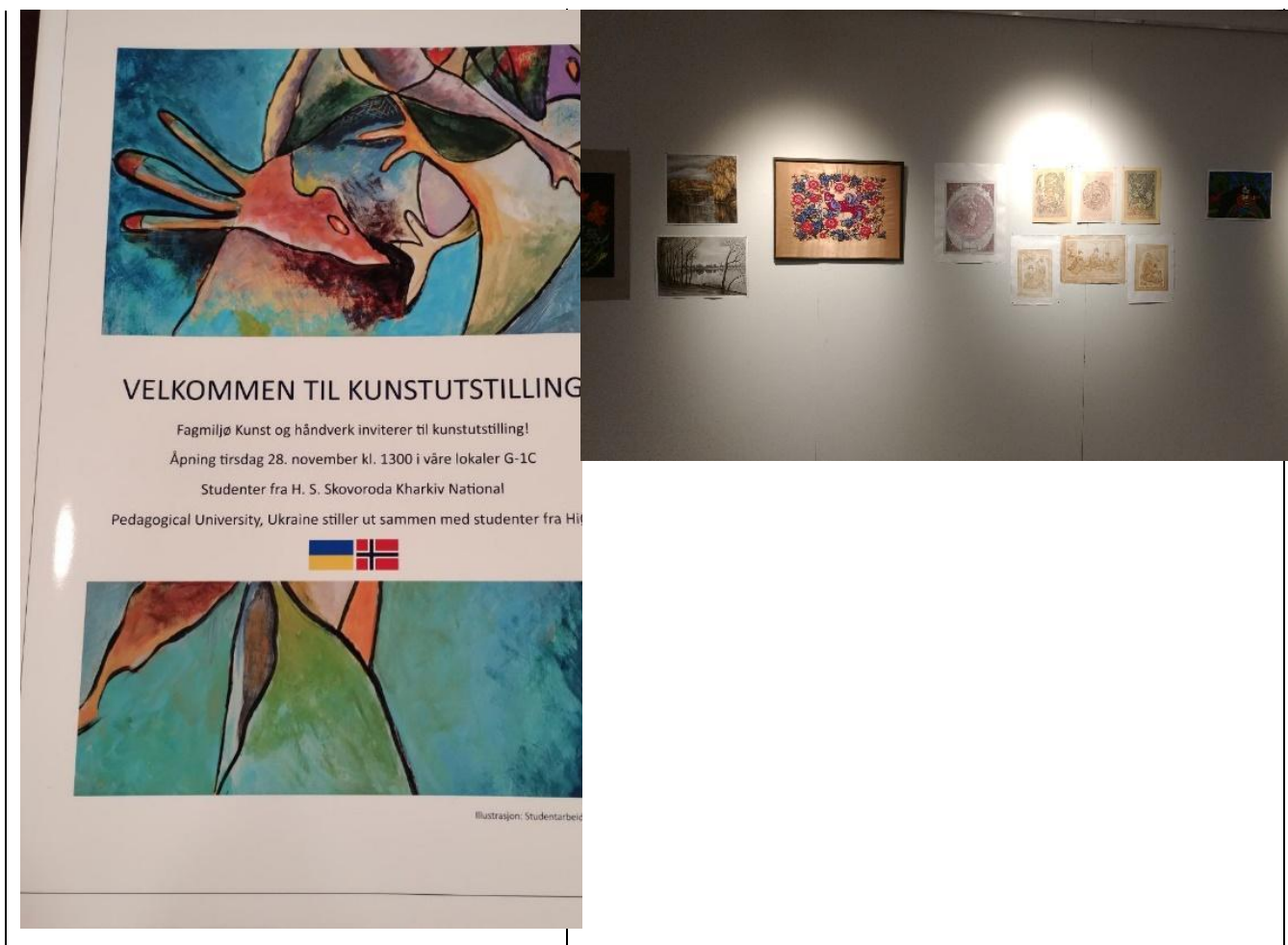


Figure 5. Students' works at the exhibition in Norway

The artists of the faculty not only participate in various creative competitions themselves, but also organize similar events in order to psychologically support children and young people in difficult times, help them touch the beautiful and find moral support. As an example, we can cite the Distance international competition-exhibition of artistic creativity "Resistance of Ukraine: the power of art" held by the Department of Fine Arts (Fig. 6). Teachers and students conduct for all interested in the art hub of the H.S. Skovoroda KhNPU classes that perform the role of a kind of art therapy (Fig. 7).



Figure 6. Poster of the Remote International Competition-Exhibition artistic work "Resistance of Ukraine: the power of art"



Figure 7. Master class on Petrykiv painting in the art hub

For Ukraine as a whole, and for the Kharkiv region in particular, the destruction of historical, cultural, and artistic monuments by Russian forces is a profound tragedy. To date, cultural monuments in 18 regions and Kyiv have suffered damage, including: in the Kharkiv region – 314, Kherson – 150, Donetsk – 125, Odesa – 116, Chernihiv – 69, Kyiv and the city of Kyiv – 69, Zaporizhzhia – 49, Mykolaiv – 45, Dnipropetrovsk – 39, Lviv – 36, Luhansk – 31, Sumy – 27, Khmelnytskyi – 10, Poltava – 6, Vinnytsia – 4, Zhytomyr – 4, Kirovohrad – 1, and Cherkasy – 1 (Lototska, 2024, August 3). As a result of just one of the most extensive Russian missile attacks on Kharkiv, which occurred on January 23, 2024, 62 historical heritage sites in the city were critically damaged or destroyed. This information was reported by experts from the Ukrainian Heritage Monitoring Lab (HeMo) (Bilash, 2024, January 25).

The issue of modern, particularly digital (Yuryeva, 2023), technological approaches to the preservation and restoration of Ukraine's cultural and artistic heritage has been incorporated into the content of the elective course "Art Management in the Context of the Artistic Space of Slobozhanshchyna" for master's students. As a form of final assessment, students are required to defend independent creative projects dedicated to the preservation of important cultural and historical monuments or artistic phenomena (see Figure 8).

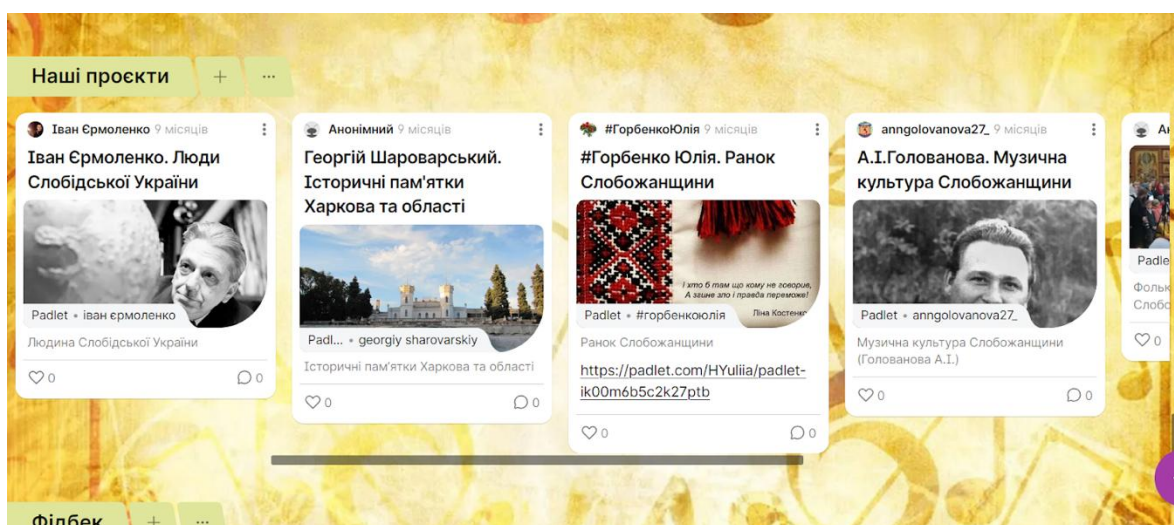


Figure 8. Creative projects dedicated to the preservation of important cultural and historical monuments of the Kharkiv Region

Undoubtedly, all Kharkiv residents will remember the event held in the fall of 2022 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of Hryhorii Skovoroda. At a time when it had become commonplace to cover windows and storefronts shattered by artillery and missile strikes with plywood, a group of students from the Faculty of Arts, led by Associate Professor of the Department of Fine Arts, D. Chaus,

created a mural at the beginning of Alchevsky Street, where the main building of the H.S. Skovoroda Kharkiv National Pedagogical University is located. This mural was dedicated to the renowned Ukrainian philosopher (Nakypilo media group. Kharkiv, 2022, November 4) (see Figure 9).



Figure 9. A mural dedicated to Hryhorii Skovoroda

The conclusions allow us to assert that Ukrainian muses not only refused to remain silent but also raised their voices against war and aggression, in defense of Ukraine's independence and territorial integrity, its culture, and artistic heritage.

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