



*"Taras was wonderful to work with and really went the extra mile."
– A. Bergeron, Hazleton Concert Series*

Taras Lewyckyj - Artistic Director

Taras Lewyckyj has been Artistic Director of the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble since September of 1995. He first joined the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble as a dancer in 1974.

Mr. Lewyckyj's dance training began in 1966, at the Roman Strotski School of Ukrainian Dance, in Philadelphia. In addition to becoming a member of the Voloshky Ensemble, he attended numerous dance workshops; most notably with Mykola Zhukovin and Roma Prima Bohachevska, whose choreographies dominate Voloshky's repertoire. Mr. Lewyckyj has worked in Ukraine with Myroslav Vantukh, Artistic Director of the Virsky Ukrainian State Dance Company. He is a graduate from the Kirovograd State Education Complex in Ukraine with a degree as Balletmaster and Artistic Director. In 2003, Mr. Lewyckyj was the first foreigner to receive a degree in Ukrainian Dance Methodology from the Kiev University of Culture and Performing Arts.

In 1996, Mr. Lewyckyj was a guest artist at Jacobs Pillow in Massachusetts. . The lecture/demo series was coupled with Mark Morris. The Mark Morris Company and the Voloshky Ensemble performed for one week of lecture demo series which highlighted the continuing influence that character dance has on ballet and modern dance.

In addition to his dance training, Mr. Lewyckyj brings an extensive aesthetic background to his position of Artistic Director. He studied fine arts at Tyler School of Art of Temple University in Philadelphia. He received his degree in painting and sculpture after studying abroad in Rome, Italy. Subsequent to his studies, Mr. Lewyckyj taught anatomy and sculpture at Temple University's Tyler Campus in Philadelphia.

Currently Mr. Lewyckyj is also Creative Director and Founding Partner of the graphic design firm Optik Nerv, located in Philadelphia, PA. Mr. Lewyckyj continues to perform with Voloshky and appears regularly as a guest artist with other dance companies. As a member of the staff at the Voloshky School since 1978, he also teaches and choreographs for the young students - the future prospects of Voloshky.

Oleg Goudimiak - Assistant Artistic Director

Oleg Goudimiak is a native of Ukraine where he graduated from the Lviv School of Performing Arts, majoring in ballet and character dance.

Mr. Goudimiak later continued his studies at the University of Culture and Theatrics in Kiev, Ukraine. He served as dance instructor at the University of Kiev and later as the Character Ballet Master/Instructor for the Halychyna Ukrainian State Dance Ensemble in Lviv where he also performed as a soloist.

Mr. Goudimiak has toured throughout the world performing Ukrainian dance. Currently, he is a dance instructor at the Voloshky School and the Metropolitan Ballet Academy, both in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. Mr. Goudimiak joined the Voloshky Ukrainian Dance Ensemble in 1993 and was named Character Dance Master in 1995. He was appointed Assistant Artistic Director for the company in 2000.