

XII

INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC
AND PRACTICAL CONFERENCE
"PROSPECTIVE DIRECTIONS OF MODERN SCIENCE
AND EDUCATION IN THE WORLD"
Rotterdam, Netherlands
November 19-22, 2024

ISBN 979-8-89619-792-8 DOI 10.46299/ISG.2024.2.12

PROSPECTIVE DIRECTIONS OF MODERN SCIENCE AND EDUCATION IN THE WORLD

Proceedings of the XII International Scientific and Practical Conference

Rotterdam, Netherlands November 19 - 22, 2024

UDC 01.1

The 12th International scientific and practical conference "Prospective directions of modern science and education in the world" (November 19-22, 2024) Rotterdam, Netherlands. International Science Group. 2024. 420 p.

ISBN - 979-8-89619-792-8 DOI - 10.46299/ISG.2024.2.12

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VASYL BARVINSKY AS THE FOUNDER OF MUSIC EDUCATION IN GALICIA: GEOGRAPHICAL AND CULTURAL DIMENSIONS

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The work of Vasyl Barvinsky, an eminent Ukrainian composer and pedagogue, is not merely a manifestation of individual talent, but also a result of the interplay between a creative personality and the unique cultural and geographical context of Galicia. A study of his oeuvre allows us to analyze how the region's natural landscapes, historical events, and cultural traditions influenced the formation of his musical language and pedagogical views.

The aim of this study is to conduct a comprehensive examination of Vasyl Barvinsky work within the context of the geo-cultural specificities of Galicia.

Vasyl Barvinsky in Fig.1., in Fig. 2 was born on February 20, 1888, in Ternopil, into a family with deep roots in the Ukrainian intelligentsia.



Fig. 1. Vasyl Barvinsky [1]



Fig. 2. Vasyl Barvinsky. School photograph. 1899 [7]

The Barvinsky family, originally from the village of Barvinok near Dukla, has produced a number of prominent figures in Ukrainian culture. The composer's great-grandfather, Martyn Barvinsky, was the rector of Lviv University in the 1830s, while his uncle Volodymyr founded the influential newspaper "Dilo," which became a mouthpiece for the Ukrainian community in Galicia [2].

The young musician was particularly influenced by his father, Oleksandr Barvinsky (1847-1926) in Fig. 3, a prominent Ukrainian public figure, historian, and educator, and one of the founders of the Shevchenko Scientific Society. His life and work serve as a shining example of dedication to the Ukrainian cause.



Fig. 3. Oleksandr Barvinsky [4]

Born in the village of Shlyakhtynci in the Ternopil region, Barvinsky received a thorough education, graduating from the Faculty of Philosophy at Lviv University. His scholarly interests were primarily focused on the history of Ukraine. By founding the "Ruska Historical Library," he made a significant contribution to popularizing historical knowledge among Ukrainians. This series of publications became an important source of information for several generations of Ukrainian historians [4].

In parallel with his academic activities, Barvinsky was actively involved in politics. As a member of the Austrian parliament, he advocated for the interests of Ukrainians, seeking to expand the rights of the Ukrainian language in education and culture. His political activities were closely intertwined with his civic work. Barvinsky was one of the founders and active members of the Shevchenko Scientific Society, which became the main center of Ukrainian science and culture in Galicia.

An important aspect of Barvinsky's work was education. He was the author of numerous textbooks on history and literature, which were distinguished by their scientific grounding and accessibility. Through his works, Barvinsky contributed to the formation of the national consciousness of Ukrainian youth.

Oleksandr Barvinsky was not only a scholar and politician but also a talented organizer. His energy, determination, and dedication to the ideals of the Ukrainian national revival allowed him to achieve significant success in various fields of activity.

Oleksandr Barvinsky was married twice. His first wife, Sofia, died young, leaving behind two children: a son, Volodymyr, who died at a young age, and a daughter, Olha, who later became an active public figure.

Oleksandr's second wife was Yevhenia in Fig. 4, from the Lyubovych family - an educated, intelligent woman who shared his national views. Together they raised five sons (one of whom died in childhood) and a daughter.



Fig. 4. Parents of Vasyl Barvinsky [7]

The Barvinsky family home became a hub for the Ukrainian intelligentsia in Fig. 5. Their house often hosted gatherings of writers, scientists, and public figures. It was in this circle that young people were shaped who would later play a crucial role in the development of Ukrainian culture and statehood.



Fig. 5. The Barvinsky Family: Oleksandr Barvinsky (1847-1926), his second wife Yevhenia Lyubovych (1854-1913) - seated at a table - and their children - from left to right: Vasyl Barvinsky (1888-1963) - future composer and pianist; Olha Bachynska (1874-1955) - daughter from his first marriage, educator; Bohdan Barvinsky (1880-1958) - historian, bibliographer, archivist; Roman Barvinsky (1881-1947) - engineer, artist; Olena Savchuk (1883-1962); Oleksandr Barvinsky (1889-1957) - doctor [7].

Vasyl Barvinsky's mother was a talented woman who left a significant mark on Ukrainian culture. Yevhenia Barvinsky, hailing from the ancient priestly Lyubovych family, was not only a devoted wife and caring mother but also a multifaceted personality who enriched the world with her talents.

Having received a thorough education at a teachers' institute in Lviv, Yevhenia became passionate about music. She studied piano under the renowned pianist Karol Mikuli, a student of Frederic Chopin. Her musical talent was combined with literary abilities and a love of painting. However, music became the main focus of her life [5].

Possessing a beautiful voice and an exquisite piano technique, Yevhenia Barvinsky actively participated in the musical life of Galicia. She conducted a women's choir in Ternopil, where among her students was the young Solomiya Krushelnytska. It was Yevhenia who first recognized the girl's outstanding talent and began to teach her music professionally. Later, she headed the choir of the "Boyan" society in Lviv, contributing to the development of Ukrainian choral art [5].

Yevhenia Barvinsky passed on her love of music to her son Vasyl. She became his first music teacher, laying a solid foundation for his future creativity. In the atmosphere of art and culture created by Yevhenia Barvinsky in her family, the future composer, conductor, and pedagogue was formed [5].

Vasyl Barvinsky began his professional music education in Lviv, where the renowned Czech pianist Vilem Kurtz became his teacher. Under Kurtz's guidance, the young musician actively developed his performance skills and began writing his first original compositions. On his teacher's advice, Barvinsky decided to continue his studies in Prague, which at the time was one of the most important musical centers in Europe.

In Prague in Fig. 6, Vasyl Barvinsky became a student of the outstanding Czech composer Vitezslav Novak. Under Novak's influence, Barvinsky not only perfected his compositional skills but also broadened his musical horizons. In parallel with studying composition, Barvinsky attended lectures on philosophy and the history of music at Charles University.

Vasyl Barvinsky began his creative journey at a young age, creating his first piano cycle at the age of 20. Over the following years, the composer worked actively, creating significant works such as the Piano Sonata (1910) and the "Ukrainian Rhapsody" (1911). The composer paid special attention to depicting Ukrainian life and customs in his music. In 1914, the composition "Ukrainian Wedding" appeared, and in 1935, a work dedicated to the theme of Christmas. These works testify to the fact that Barvinsky was not only a talented composer but also a deep connoisseur of Ukrainian

culture and history [6].



Fig. 6. Vasyl Barvinsky during his studies in Prague [2].

It was in Prague, amidst the vibrant cultural life, that Vasyl Barvinsky met the love of his life. She was Nataliya Puluy in Fig. 7, the daughter of the renowned Ukrainian scientist Ivan Puluy.



Fig. 7. The Puluy family. Standing on the right is Natalia Puluy [7]

Their acquaintance took place within the walls of Charles University, where both young people were pursuing their education. Perhaps it was their shared interests in music, philosophy, and Ukrainian culture that laid a strong foundation for their future relationship.

Sparks of love between Vasyl and Natalia ignited quickly and brightly. They were united not only by their common homeland but also by their desire for self-realization and a desire to serve Ukrainian culture. Natalia, like Vasyl, was a talented and educated woman. Her intelligence, beauty, and sincerity captivated the heart of the young composer.

Meeting Natalia became not only personal happiness for Barvinsky but also a new impetus for creativity. It was to her that he dedicated a number of his works, in which he reflected the depth of his feelings and the beauty of love. Their wedding in Fig. 8, became a significant event for the Ukrainian community in Prague, uniting two talented and patriotic people.



Fig. 8. Vasyl and Natalia Barvinskyi, 1920s [7].

The decision to return to Lviv marked a turning point in Vasyl Barvinskyi's life.

Although he had everything necessary for creative realization in Prague, his sense of duty to his homeland prevailed. "Despite my original intention to stay in Prague, at my father's request, I moved to Lviv in the summer of 1915," the composer confessed. This step testified to his deep patriotism and willingness to serve Ukrainian culture [8].

At the beginning of the 20th century, Barvinskyi headed the Lviv Music Institute named after M. Lysenko in Fig. 9, replacing Stepan Lyudkevych in this position, who was mobilized into the Austrian army. Within the walls of the institute, he not only managed the educational process but also directly taught theoretical disciplines, piano, and harmony. In parallel, he worked at the Polish Conservatory and conducted the "Boyan" choir, contributing to the development of music education and performance in Lviv.



Fig. 9. Stanislav Liudkevych and Vasyl Barvinsky in the Director's Office of the Mykola Lysenko Higher Music Institute [9].

As the head of the Mykola Lysenko Higher Music Institute and the Union of Ukrainian Professional Musicians (SUPROM), Vasyl Barvinsky worked tirelessly to enhance the professional training of young musicians, elevate the standards of music institutions in the region, and invigorate musical life in Galicia. Under his initiative, a branch of the Institute was opened in Ternopil in 1928, led by the renowned pianist and educator Iryna Liubchak-Krykh. This branch later became the Children's Music School No. 1, which today bears the name of Vasyl Barvinsky [10].

Barvinsky's creative work earned widespread international recognition. His music was broadcast on radio stations in London, Vienna, Berlin, Leipzig, Prague, Krakow, Warsaw, Turin, Stockholm, New York, and other cities. His compositions were published by leading music publishers in Europe, America, and Asia, including "Peters," "Universal Edition," and "Nakamura." Notably, his Six Miniatures on Ukrainian Themes gained immense popularity, selling thousands of copies across Europe. This success was even acknowledged by the renowned composer Béla Bartók. As a result, Barvinsky's music became an integral part of the global musical repertoire, and he himself is regarded as one of the most prominent representatives of 20th-century Ukrainian musical culture [5].



Fig. 10. The Barvinsky couple in 1937 [9]

With the return of Soviet power, Vasyl Barvinskyi remained the director of the Lviv Conservatory. However, at the end of January 1948, a week before his 60th birthday, the composer was arrested and charged with espionage and anti-Soviet activities. At that time, a grand concert in honor of the artist's jubilee was being prepared in the large hall of the conservatory (now the Lviv Philharmonic), where his works were planned to be performed. Instead, the event was turned into a political farce: under pressure from the Soviet authorities, frightened colleagues were forced to condemn Barvinskyi's activities. Only two dared to stand up for him - the composer and musicologist Stanislav Lyudkevych and Ilarion Hrynevetskyi [5].

At the time of the "trial," Vasyl Barvinskyi was already being interrogated in Kyiv. He was forced to sign a document allowing the destruction of all his manuscripts. Soon, the composer's works were removed from libraries and burned in the courtyard of the conservatory. Such a practice was reminiscent of the methods of the Nazis, who destroyed books that contradicted their ideology.

Recalling those times, Barvinskyi wrote: "After the terrible interrogations I endured during the investigation, I was beaten and forced to sign some papers. I still don't know what was written in them. Because of this, I lost my hearing in my left ear." Along with the composer's manuscripts, the archives of his wife, pianist Natalia Barvinskyi, were destroyed [5].

The trial of Barvinskyi and his wife was conducted according to a pre-planned scenario without public defense. Based on fabricated evidence, a "special council" accused the couple of treason and sentenced them to 10 years in labor camps in Mordovia [5].

After Stalin's death, Vasyl Barvinskyi and his wife Natalia faced the prospect of remaining in Siberia in a home for the elderly. However, thanks to Natalia Barvinskyi's persistence, the couple managed to return to Ukraine. They settled in Lviv, but their health was severely undermined by years of camp life and trials.

Barvinskyi, full of hope, began searching for his destroyed works. He asked friends and colleagues, trying to find at least some traces of his creative legacy.

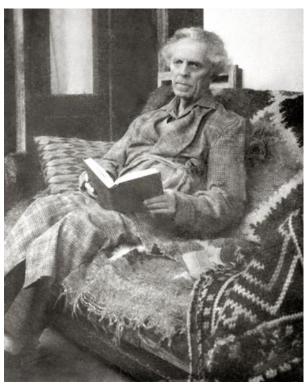


Fig. 11. Vasyl Barvinsky with a book in his office on Verkhovynska Street. 1960s. From the archive of Nataliya Kashkadamova [1].

Despite his relentless efforts, all of Barvinsky's searches proved fruitless - his manuscripts had been completely destroyed. With deep sorrow, he uttered his now-famous phrase: "I am a composer without scores." This statement became a poignant symbol of the loss that haunted the artist until the end of his life.



Fig. 12. The Barvinsky Couple After Exile (1959-1960) [1].

Vasyl Barvinsky is one of the most prominent figures in the history of Ukrainian music. His creative legacy and pedagogical work had a profound impact on the development of national musical culture [10].

As an educator, Barvinsky trained an entire generation of talented musicians, imparting not only a high level of performance mastery but also a deep understanding of Ukrainian musical traditions. He taught his students to be more than just musicians; he encouraged them to become active promoters of Ukrainian culture [10].

"To his students, the professor entrusted the task of not severing ties with our tradition... V. Barvinsky placed a duty upon his students to preserve Ukraine's cultural

heritage, inform the world about it, and promote Ukrainian music." These words underscore Barvinsky's vital role in shaping national musical consciousness [10].

Vasyl Barvinsky passed away in 1963. Three days before his death, the composer felt a significant loss of strength but was surprised by the large number of people visiting him. His wife, Nataliya Barvinska, despite her own frailty, managed to conceal the harsh truth about his condition from him [5].



Fig. 13. The Barvinsky Family Tomb at the Lychakiv Cemetery [11].

Barvinsky was buried in Lviv at the Lychakiv Cemetery in the family tomb, which later became the final resting place for Nataliya Barvinska as well. However, her name was not inscribed on the memorial plaque. The coffin containing the composer's body was carried by students from the Mykola Lysenko Higher Music Institute. During the funeral, the student choir performed excerpts from Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's Requiem and choral arrangements of "Kozak Nesut" by Mykola Leontovych and "Chuyesh, Brate Miy" by Mykola Kolessa.

Vasyl Barvinsky became a symbol of Ukrainian culture, leaving an indelible mark on its development and promotion. He personified dedication to lofty ideals, following the words of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytsky: "By creating culture, we create a nation." His name, creative work, and tireless efforts for the Ukrainian people must remain in the memory of future generations. Reviving his legacy is our moral obligation, as it is an integral part of national identity.

Today, most of Vasyl Barvinsky's works have been restored, published as sheet music, and recorded on CDs. Notably, his Piano Concerto in F Minor was revived and reintroduced to the concert stage by Maria Krushelnytska, a People's Artist of Ukraine and professor at the Lviv National Music Academy named after Mykola Lysenko [2].

Barvinsky's name has been immortalized in the names of streets and music institutions. Piano competitions dedicated to his memory are held in Ternopil, Lviv, Ivano-Frankivsk, and Drohobych. In Drohobych, the Vasyl Barvinsky Scientific and Cultural Society works to study and popularize the composer's creative heritage. His name and work remain significant contributions to the development of Ukrainian musical culture, to which he dedicated his entire life.

As a prominent figure of Ukrainian musical culture, Vasyl Barvinsky seamlessly integrated into the cultural context of Galicia. His compositions, rich in national motifs and profound lyricism, became a unique musical portrait of the era. Not only did the composer reflect the spirit of his time in his works, but he also actively shaped the musical tastes of society. His pedagogical efforts advanced professional music education in the region, fostering a new generation of Ukrainian musicians. Barvinsky's legacy exemplifies how music can serve as a powerful tool for national expression and cultural identity.

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