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SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE ARGENTINE AND UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

The material appears as written by the author

I. Argentina and Ukraine: relations amplified by diplomacy, culture, and memory

Argentina reaffirms the invariability of its foreign policy course, rooted in mutual understanding and formulation of priorities guided by mature and pragmatic national interests. It recognises economic, political, and social freedom as the propelling force of growth, innovation, and progress.

The government of President Javier Milei has launched sweeping reforms that seek to revive the factors motivating labour, new achievements, and investments. They also aim to build a more efficient and transparent state with less government intervention. Dialogue with Europe is vital to this path because we have a lot to offer each other and to learn from each other.

Argentine Foreign Minister Gerardo Werthein has explicitly declared our support for Ukraine, a country friendly to Argentina. 'From the start of the Russian invasion, we have stood with Ukraine the whole time. We have supported its legal right to defend its territory and sovereignty. And we will remain by its side from now on.' 'We also wish to firmly express our willingness to contribute to the onset of a lasting peace. We sincerely want to see the parties reach a definitive ceasefire, which will put an end to human suffering and allow for settling the disputes, however profound, through a peaceful and constructive dialogue.'

Argentina has taken concrete measures to underpin this commitment. Our joining the Ukraine Defence Contact Group in 2024 became the turning point in Argentina's approach to international efforts to

support Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression. Argentina's participation in the Global Peace Summit in Bürgenstock, Switzerland, confirmed its dedication to an active dialogue and willingness to join any multilateral forum that seeks to achieve peace.

During the Summit, President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelenskyy awarded Argentina's Head of State with the Order of Liberty, recognising the displayed support and participation in key international dialogue platforms. A succession of high-level contacts followed thereafter, including a bilateral meeting in Davos during the World Economic Forum, January 2025, and a telephone conversation on 17 March that allowed both sides to confirm the bilateral contacts and examine future areas of cooperation.

The Argentine Republic and Estonia co-headed the working group on point 5 of President Zelenskyy's Peace Formula — restoration of Ukraine's territorial integrity and implementation of United Nations Charter. Furthermore, Argentina was a part of the working group on point 1 — radiation and nuclear safety. Additionally, Argentina is a member of the International Coalition for the Return of Ukrainian Children.

The strengthening of Argentine-Ukrainian relations is especially evident in the area of culture. Between June 2024 and May 2025, the Embassy of the Argentine Republic organized several activities of great relevance in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Rendering Services to Diplomatic Missions.





Вечір аргентинського танго в Київській опереті 24 жовтня 2024 року
An Evening of Argentine Tango in Kyiv Operetta on 24 October 2024

In a country suffering from an unjust war, the abovementioned events served to promote the preservation of dialogue, cultural empathy, and cooperation. Amidst these circumstances, Argentine tango became a proper bridge between our nations. From the historical Kyiv National Academic Operetta Theatre to the invincible and heroic City of Irpin, the melodies of Astor Piazzolla and Carlos Gardel struck a chord in the hearts of the Ukrainian public. An Evening of Argentine Tango concerts filled audience halls to capacity and left a profound emotional impact on the viewers. In Irpin, a town severely torn by the war, our event entitled Cultural Bridges: Irpin and Argentina brought together professional artists and children from local schools in a touching display of art's capacity to heal even during the darkest times.



Команди Посольства Аргентини та Асоціації корпоративного футболу України під час благодійного турніру

The teams of the Embassy of Argentina and Corporate Football Association of Ukraine participated in a charitable tournament

On 28 November 2025, the National Philharmonic of Ukraine in Kyiv hosted an unprecedented event: the premiere of Ariel Ramírez's *Misa Por la Paz y la Justicia* performed by the Liatoshynskyi Capella on the occasion of the Argentine National Sovereignty Day. The programme also featured *Tango Freedom*: an homage to the great composer Astor Piazzolla and a symbol of artistic resistance to violence and oppression. All of the above-mentioned events familiarised the Ukrainian public with the Argentine culture and communicated its messages of solidarity and mutual respect.

The social and solidarity dimensions have also been priorities. Argentina's participation in the football tournament between teams of different embassies was yet another display of our support.

The Embassy of the Argentine Republic actively promotes the spread of Argentine literature translated into Ukrainian through the *Programa Sur* under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina. In 2025, the translation of *El Libro de Aurora* by Aurora Bernárdez will be published by the Anetta Antonenko Publishing House, which has already published 14 works of Argentine authors translated into Ukrainian, including Jorge Luis Borges' *Seven Nights*, *Doctor Brodie's Report*, *Biblioteca Personal: Prólogos*, and two books comprising parts of his *Miscelánea* collection; Julio Cortázar's *Todos los fuegos el fuego*, *Las armas secretas*, and *Historias de cronopios y de famas*; and Horacio Quiroga's *Cuentos de la Selva* and *Cuentos de amor de locura y de muerte*.



Амбасадорка Елена Летісія Мікусінські разом із артистами Таніною Позняк, Андрієм Пермяковим і Сергієм Курдицьким

Ambassador Elena Leticia Mikusinski along with artists Tanina Pozniak, Andrii Permiakov and Serhii Kurdytskyi

Argentine Malbec — the hallmark of our winemaking tradition — has also found its spotlight in our economic diplomacy programme. On 15 April 2025, we celebrated Malbec World Day, during which the wine became a wonderful cause for meetings, contacts, and reaffirming Argentine presence.

The tastings and master classes, which the Embassy of Argentina and the Ukrvinprom corporation, with its General Director Volodymyr Kucherenko, have been co-organising since 2019, also reinforce the enogastronomic ties between Ukraine and Argentina. A major milestone in this field was crossed when a Ukrainian winery won first prize during a 1996 international contest in Mendoza, where its wine, White Muscat of Red Stone, earned a gold medal. Several bottles of that wine, which have since become treasured by experienced collectors and connoisseurs, are still preserved.



Соломія Крушельницька в образі Баттерфляй

Solomiya Krushelnytska portraying the role of Butterfly

II. Argentina: Solomiya Krushelnytska's third motherland

This overview would be incomplete without a mention of an outstanding individual whose legacy has been interweaving the cultural destinies of Argentina and Ukraine for over a century: Solomiya Krushelnytska.

Her life's story, which is closely connected with my country, not only opens up the pages of the past but also inspires us to continue building bridges to connect our peoples. I am referring to the mark Solomiya Krushelnytska left on Argentina, a country she affectionately called her third motherland.

As the Ambassador of Argentina to Ukraine, the country whose land gifted the world with Solomiya Krushelnytska, I feel a special kind of excitement from taking this opportunity to attest to the deep connection that linked her to my country, not just as an artist but also as a woman, a citizen of the world, and a vivid example of cultural solidarity.

Solomiya Krushelnytska arrived in Buenos Aires in 1906, and the extraordinary force of her talent stole the hearts of the Argentine public from her very first performance at the Teatro Opera. Her performance in *La Wally* under the direction of Arturo Toscanini received critical acclaim as ground-breaking. In the following years, the singer delivered unmatched performances in the operas of Richard Wagner, Giuseppe Verdi, Giacomo Puccini, and other renowned composers, filling the stages of Teatro Opera and the legendary Teatro Colón with soul-stirring awe. At a time when international celebrities struggled to reach the Americas, Solomiya Krushelnytska achieved popularity without any publicity campaign or scandal; her success came entirely from her talent, dedication to the art, and personal integrity. Her voice was recognised as inspired and authentic, and her style was described as profoundly human.

Argentina was more than just a stage for Solomiya Krushelnytska's artistic success; it became the place of her personal life.

In 1910, Solomiya Krushelnytska performed the Argentine National Anthem to a crowded theatre hall to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of our May Revolution. Wrapped in a light-blue and white flag, she appeared on the stage to be met with an outburst of tears, thunderous applause, and sincere excitement. That fleeting moment was forever etched in our history.

The same year, in Buenos Aires, Solomiya Krushelnytska married Cesare Riccioni, an Italian lawyer and mayor of Viareggio, Italy. Their wedding was modest, yet the public of Buenos Aires celebrated it as the epitome of the happiness the soprano found in the Argentine land. *El Diario* newspaper characterised Solomiya Krushelnytska as the woman who chose blossoms of a bitter orange from Buenos Aires over flowers from any other country. She became an Argentinian at heart.

Having retired from the opera scene, Solomiya Krushelnytska returned to Buenos Aires with chamber orchestras in 1923. Those performances featured Ukrainian folk songs and works of famous Argentine composers, which once again showcased her keenness on the local culture and sincere desire to become a part of the musical culture of the country that enthusiastically accepted the singer.

The list of composers whose works she included in her repertoire included:

- **Alberto Williams**, who is celebrated as the father of Argentine symphonic music. Her performance of his folklorically themed song

‘Vidalita’ was so emotionally powerful that it drew a flurry of applause. Alberto Williams founded the National Conservatory and played a decisive role in institutionalising Argentine musical arts.

- **Floro Ugarte**, a composer and teacher. Solomiya Krushelnytska chose his music, which harmoniously blends European traditions and indigenous elements, for performances in Argentina and on European stages, bringing a piece of the New World’s soul with her wherever she went.

- **José André**, an outstanding master of lyrical dramas. A special place among his works belongs to the song ‘Flor de Cardo’, which Krushelnytska fleshed out with incredible emotional depth. The inclusion of that song in her international repertoire had high symbolic value as it opened up the talent of Argentine composers to the world

- **Carlos López Buchardo**, one of the founders of Argentine musical nationalism, whose oeuvre had a significant impact on the generations that followed him. His music received acclaim thanks to its exquisite melodies and technical refinement, which Solomiya Krushelnytska brought to light through her unmatched performance talent.

Contemporary critics praised Krushelnytska’s flawless Castilian



Письмова ручка із дорогоцінного металу кін. XIX – поч. XX ст. ТОКМ РМ-1104
Pen made of precious metal, between late 19th and early 20th century. Ternopil Museum RM-1104

pronunciation and her deep respect for Argentina’s music. Argentine pianist Rafael González, who played accompaniment to the singer, described her as an artist of exceptional modesty and majesty.

Relics of Solomiya Krushelnytska, whose name has become a synonym of operatic perfection, occupy a special place in the treasury of the Ternopil Regional Local History Museum. One such unique artefact, which reminds people of her inimitable performances in Buenos Aires and serves as an invaluable proof of the singer’s success on Argentine stages of that period, is a precious metal pen from between the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Solomiya Krushelnytska received such an artfully crafted gift from the principal of an Argentine music school. The pen is made from silver, exquisitely decorated with scrollwork and inlaid with multicoloured enamel. The metal nib clutch at the

bottom of the pen bears embossed inscriptions: '84' (spool test, corresponding to the 875th metric silver standard) and a stamp with the initials of an unknown maker and country of origin.

This story has taken a new life thanks to the work of Roksolana Hnatyuk, a researcher from Ukraine who has long lived in Argentina. Her book *Solomiya Krushelnytska. La ucraniana que conquistó el corazón de Argentina* [Solomiya Krushelnytska — A Ukrainian Woman Who Conquered the Heart of Argentina] was presented during the Buenos Aires Book Fair 2024, becoming an invaluable tribute to the singer. Roksolana Hnatyuk's book recreated the Argentine period of Krushelnytska's life and reminded the readers that she was an independent cultural ambassador who, without even realising it, represented Ukraine in Argentina and promoted the development of close friendship between our nations. The book inspired me to learn more about her story. As a result, I was convinced that Solomiya Krushelnytska's legacy is an important link that connects our cultural worlds.

In 2025, our celebration of the 215th anniversary of the May Revolution in Argentina coincides with the 115th anniversary of Solomiya Krushelnytska's historic performance of the Argentine National Anthem. That performance, which became the centrepiece in the celebrations of our national holiday, transcended music; it was an authentic show of love for the country, which had welcomed her with great respect and gratitude.

I feel profound respect when I recall this story we share, which unites our peoples through the power of the arts. Solomiya Krushelnytska touched the hearts of my people, honoured them with her talent, and left an immortal mark on our cultural memory. Her performances on Argentine stages, including that of the Teatro Colón, are still viewed as some of the most emotional events of that era.

This anniversary is our chance to look back and reflect on the solidarity between our peoples, which the marvellous soprano forged with her talent.

Today, at a time of full-scale Russian aggression against Ukraine, when so many musicians, actors, dancers, and artists have sacrificed their lives defending their homeland, the arts are becoming a symbol of resistance, hope, and indomitable spirit. Solomiya Krushelnytska's legacy, which transcended borders and united diverse cultures, now resonates with renewed power, reminding us that even when we face our greatest challenges, art still remains a ray of humanity.

The Embassy of Argentina in Ukraine continues to reaffirm its commitment to cultural dialogue and assert the importance of popularising this shared legacy. We believe that honouring the memory of great individuals such as Solomiya Krushelnytska is an important element of the preservation of historical justice, especially so during the darkest times. Her life's chronicle, unique voice, and cordial relations with Argentina are a brilliant illustration of art's ability to bring nations together and carry the light of hope through the darkness of war.

The moment she faced the public while wrapped in the light-blue and white flag was more than a simple stage entrance. It was a display of love and a sense of belonging. Triumphant on the Argentine stages, Solomiya Krushelnytska became an inseparable part of our history.