

presents

A Tribute to Peace

featuring

Kyiv City Ballet

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Introduction

Dear Teachers,

There has been such troubling news from Ukraine since February. The people of that country have faced non-stop attack. The Kyiv Ballet dancers were in France on tour when the war broke out and have been traveling around the world since then, unable to go home safely. We are honored to have them in Fort Worth briefly to dance for us. The two pieces they will do for us are called “A Tribute to Peace” and “The Men of Kyiv.”

We believe that before they ever enter the stage, their performance will be moving and make a real statement. We hope students will understand and appreciate their appearance here.

We are grateful to Gabriel Valdez, Rafael Blanco, and Joe Niedziela of the Social Studies Department of FWISD for their help in compiling the following resources for us to help students put their experience in context. Please look at the following articles for more information.

Lesson Plan from Choices Program out of Brown
<https://www.choices.edu/teaching-news-lesson/the-ukraine-crisis/>

World Leader Reactions Articles from All Sides
<https://www.allsides.com/story/world-leaders-react-russian-invasion-ukraine>

Origins Article on Russia and Ukraine
<https://origins.osu.edu/article/ukrainian-crisis-russias-long-shadow>

Lesson Plan from PBS
<https://www.pbs.org/newshour/classroom/2022/03/fighting-in-ukraine-intensifies-as-russias-invasion-continues/>

Timeline of Events Leading to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine from NPR
<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/12/1080205477/history-ukraine-russia>

Resource Collection:
<https://education.indiana.edu/docs/Resources-for-Learning-and-Teaching-about-the-Russia-Ukraine-War-of-2022.pdf>

Thank you.
See you October 4.



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Program: A Tribute to Peace and Men of Kyiv

A TRIBUTE TO PEACE

Music: Edward Elgar

Choreography: Ivan Kozlov, Ekaterina Kozlova

With so much darkness surrounding us in the world, this ballet steps away from the outside world and shows what could be.

The theme of peace is the main idea. Short episodes of people's lives are brought together through scenery and dance, including scenes of a couple meeting for the first time, or a pair dreaming about what a life together might look like.

The audience will recognize familiar themes in Edward Elgar's music which accompanies the performance, exploring what life should be without conflict, without anger, and without despair. The simplicity of Tribute to Peace is one of the aspects that makes it so resounding.

This ballet was created especially by Kyiv City Ballet for the USA 2022 tour.

MEN OF KYIV

Music: Traditional Ukrainian Folk Music

Choreography by: Pavlo Virsky

Performed by: Volodymyr Bulkiev, Mykola Chebotarov, Vladyslav Dobshynskyi, Nazar Korniiichuk, Oleksandr Moroz, Zhan-Mishel Panchuk, Danyil Podhrushko, Yevhenii Sheremet, Mykhailo Shcherbakov, Vlad Surdu

Two groups of men compete through the language of dance. The dancers demonstrate their skills and afterward, decide to unite in friendship. This piece displays traditional Ukrainian folk dance and uses some of the most exciting and difficult movements to enthrall and capture the audience.

Principle Dancers and Soloists Biographies

KATERYNA CHEBYKINA

Kateryna Chebykina was born in Kyiv in 1993. Graduated from the Kiev State Ballet School (class of Marina Dobryakova). As a student, she was awarded grants from the Verkhovna Rada (Parliament) of Ukraine and the President of Ukraine. After graduation, Kateryna was a soloist with the National Shevchenko Opera of Ukraine, performing many of the principal roles in the theatre's repertoire. Later, she worked at the Mariinsky Theatre as a leading soloist, performing roles such as Odette-Odile in *Swan Lake*, Kitri in *Don Quixote*, and the Lilac Fairy in *Sleeping Beauty*, as well as countless others. Kateryna has received numerous international awards and won several international ballet competitions. She is renowned for her artistry and elegance.

VSEVOLOD MAIEVSKYI

Vsevolod was educated at the Kyiv State Ballet School. During his studies, he was a private student of Ivan Kozlov. After graduation, he studied at the Ellison Ballet in New York City. He has won several international awards and competitions, including a gold medal at the international competition, Grand Prix Kyiv. He has performed many leading roles in such ballets as *The Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake*, and *Le Corsaire*. Vsevolod worked at the Mariinsky Theatre and is currently working at the Semperoper Ballet in Dresden.

KRISTINA KADASHEVYCH

Kristina is one of the most well-known ballerinas in Ukraine. She began her professional career at the Kharkiv National Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet and quickly rose through the ranks to leading soloist. Kristina has danced almost all principal roles in the classical repertoire, such as Marie in *the Nutcracker*, Giselle in *Giselle*, and Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet*. She has a unique way of moving the audience with her emotional performances and delicate lines. Kristina is especially enchanting in her gravity-defying pas de deux.

OKSANA BONDARENKO

Oksana is one of the most acclaimed dancers in Ukraine. She began working at the Kyiv Opera Theatre and immediately began performing principal roles. Oksana received the title Honored Artist of Ukraine. She was also one of the founding members of the Kyiv City Ballet. In this time, she has performed every leading role in the company repertoire. Oksana's lightness shines through every piece she dances.

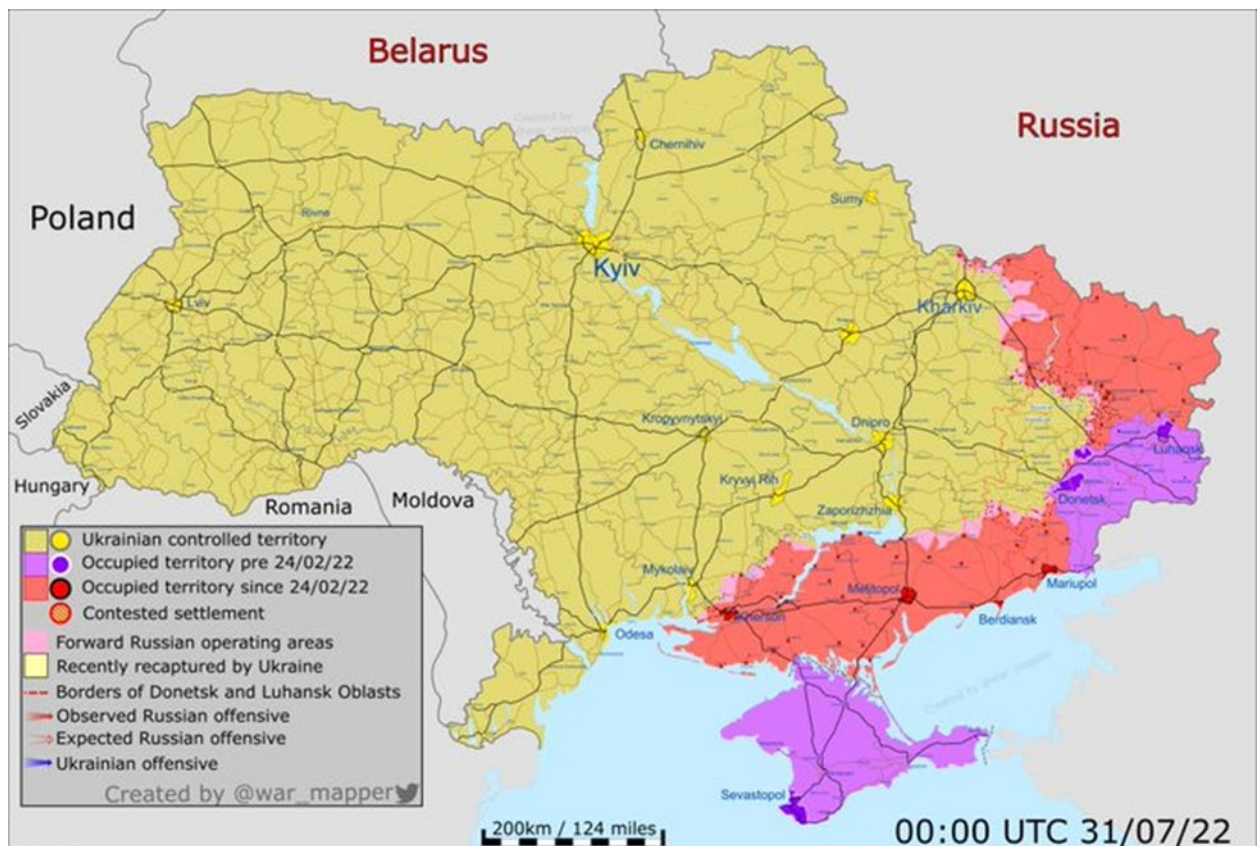
VLADYSLAV DOBSHYNSKYI

Vladyslav graduated from the School of Culture and Arts in Kryvyi Rih and later from the Serge Lifar College of Choreographic Arts. After graduation he began work at the Dnipro Academic Theatre of Opera and Ballet and performed much of the repertoire. Later, Vladyslav worked at the Kyiv Modern Ballet. During this time, he began choreographing his first works. Since joining Kyiv City Ballet, Vladyslav has performed principal roles in the contemporary repertoire. *Thoughts* was especially created for the Kyiv City Ballet 2022 USA tour by Vladyslav.



History of Ukraine

Ukraine [Україна] is the second largest country in Europe after Russia, with 40 million citizens, spread over 230 square miles. The capital is Kyiv. The name, Ukraine, comes from an old Slavic word, meaning “borderland.”



After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Ukraine regained independence, declared itself neutral, and sought partnership with NATO. Unrest in the Donbas (Donetsk and Luhansk regions) culminated in war in February 2022, which continues today. Ukraine has sought closer ties with the West, including the United States, the European Union and NATO. Ukraine is among the poorest countries in Europe, but one of the largest grain exporters in the world.

How We Got Here

Kievan Rus' (862-1242), "Land of the Rus," or "Land of the Scandinavian people," was a medieval political federation which was comprised of Belarus, Ukraine, and part of Russia. The Rus' ruled from the city of Kyiv.

The story of the arrival of the Rus' people is first explained in the Primary Chronicle in the 12th century Russia. The story tells how the people invited the Scandinavian Vikings to rule their country according to law in the 9th century. Three brothers, the oldest named Rurik [862-879], founded the dynasty which would last until the first Tsar of Russia, Ivan the Terrible [1547-1587], took control.

Oleg, Rurik's kinsman, succeeded him, and expanded Rus' control and filled Kyiv's treasury. Oleg was succeeded by Igor of Kyiv, Rurik's son. Igor married Olga and engaged in many military campaigns. Igor was greedy, however, and was eventually assassinated by the Drevlian tribe. His son, Sviatoslav I was too young to rule and so Olga ruled as Regent until 963. In those years she took great revenge on the Drevlians for killing her husband. When Sviatoslav I took over the throne, he expanded the territory, conquering Khazaria, then the Volga Bulgars, the Alans, and the Danube Bulgars until he had more than tripled his kingdom in size.

He was assassinated and his 3 sons fought for the throne; Yaropolk I took power until his brother, Vladimir, who had escaped to Norway eventually returned, killed his brother, and took over the crown. He, like his father and others in his family, fought many military campaigns to expand his kingdom. Basil II of the Byzantine Empire asked Vladimir for military aid to defend his throne in the Byzantine Empire. Vladimir agreed and was offered Basil II's sister, Anne, in marriage, in return. The only condition was that he convert to Christianity, which resulted in the conversion of Kievan Rus' to Christianity. The choice of Slavic and not old Norse as the language in the Rus' Orthodox Church made the process of assimilation complete. It also opened Rus' society to the enduring influence of Byzantine culture and his reign is recognized as the Golden Age of Kievan Rus' [980-1015].

Vladimir quickly embraced Christianity's best values:

- he made provisions for the poor
- he made himself available to help anyone, no matter their social status
- he founded schools to encourage literacy
- he improved the lives of his people in many other ways
- he supported trade so that it flourished, and the economy boomed
- he founded cities and built churches

Vladimir was succeeded by Sviatopolk I, who is known as "the Accursed." He was succeeded by Yaroslav the Wise, who was the last great monarch of Kievan Rus'.

Yaroslav married Ingegerd Olofsdotter, daughter of Olof, King of Sweden. He eventually forged important alliances through the marriages of his children to those of other nations. He reformed laws, brokered important treaties with Constantinople, and secured the borders from invasions of nomads from Turkey. He led many military campaigns and elevated Kievan Rus' to new cultural and economic heights.

After his death, Kievan Rus' splintered as his sons fought each other for power. The Northern Crusades of the 12th century toppled the Baltic region and the Fourth Crusade ruined trade through the sack of Constantinople. By the time of the Mongol Invasion of 1237-1242, Kievan Rus' was not a federation anymore and separate states were easily taken. Kyiv was destroyed in 1240. Daniel of Galicia reunited territories into the state of Galicia-Volhynia and was crowned as the first king of Ruthenia in 1253. In 1349 Ruthenia ceased to exist in the wake of the Galicia-Volhynia Wars; its lands were partitioned between Poland and Lithuania. In 1430 the region of Podolia was incorporated into Poland, and Ukraine became increasingly settled by Poles.

In 1569 the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was established and most of the former Ruthenian lands were transferred to the Kingdom of Poland. Many of the landed gentry of Ruthenia converted to Catholicism and joined the circles of the Polish nobility. The peasants and townspeople began turning for protection to the Cossacks. Hetman Bohdan Khmelnytsky established an independent Cossack state after the 1648 uprising against Poland.

“The Ruin” was a 30-year war (1657-1686) among Russia, Poland, the Crimean state, the Ottoman Empire, and Cossacks for control of the **Cossack Hetmanate** [A Hetmanate is a Cossack state in the central and north-eastern regions of Ukraine from 1649 to 1775, ruled by a Hetman, or a Cossack military ruler]. The “Treaty of Perpetual Peace” was signed in 1686, dividing the lands of the Cossack empire between Poland and Russia; Poland's lands were reduced considerably in the treaty.

Emperors of Russia

The Empire of Russia was declared by **Peter the Great** in 1721. Officially, Russia would be ruled by the **Romanov** dynasty until the Russian Revolution of 1917. However, direct male descendants of **Michael Romanov** came to an end in 1730 with the death of Peter II of Russia, grandson of Peter the Great. The empire went through various emperors or Tsars and Tsarinas in the families of Romanov and Godunov:

- Ivan the Terrible (1547–1584)
- Peter the Great (1682–1725)
- Elizabeth of Russia (1741–1762)
- Catherine the Great (1762–1796)
- Nicholas the First (1825–1855)



Catherine the Great

Meanwhile in Ukraine—

In the 17th and 18th centuries, Ukraine was often fought over for domination by Cossacks, Poles, and Russian leaders. From 1764–1781, **Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia**, took control of most of Central Ukraine. In 1783, Crimea was added to the Russian empire and leaders began to “Russify” the government, replacing the Ukrainian language with Russian and suppressing any sense of national [Ukrainian] identity. In 1795 the western part of Ukraine was split between Russia and the Hapsburg portion of Austria, after the fall of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in 1795.

Despite massive migration from Ukraine to parts of Russia, there was a rise of Ukrainian nationalism in the 19th century. Russia continued to expand its holdings virtually unchecked in Asia; that ended with a defeat in the Russo-Japanese War (1904–05). This military reverse shattered Russia’s dreams of establishing domination over all of Asia, but it also contributed to a wave of domestic unrest.

The Russian Revolution of 1905 compelled Tsar **Nicholas II** to transform Russia from an autocracy (ruled exclusively by the Tsar) into a constitutional monarchy, in which he would share rule with the prime minister and parliament (the Duma). During his reign, Nicholas gave support to the economic and political reforms promoted by his prime ministers. He supported modernization but resisted giving the new parliament major roles. Ultimately, progress was undermined by Nicholas's commitment to autocratic rule, strong aristocratic opposition and defeats sustained by the Russian military in the Russo-Japanese War and World War I. The Russian Empire's many ethnic minorities (in its various republics) grew increasingly restless under Russian domination. To demonstrate how unstable this part of the world was, in World War I, Ukrainians fought on both sides of the conflict, although the majority fought with the Imperial Russian Army.



Tsar Nicholas II and his family

The Russian Revolution

During the Russian Revolution of 1917, there were two revolutions: the first, in February, overthrew the imperial government (Tsar Nicholas II and his family) and the second in October placed the Bolsheviks in power.



Russian Revolution, 1917

The Bolsheviks were the majority faction of the Russian Social Democratic Party, which was eventually renamed the Communist Party after seizing power. Many had believed that the revolution would only create a democratic government in place of the Tsarist monarchy. However, Trotsky and Lenin had other ideas, and established the totalitarian Soviet Union by 1922.

Underground nationalist fervor grew in the 20s and 30s in Ukraine and led to the Organization of Ukrainian Nationalists. Meanwhile, Soviet Ukraine became one of the founding republics of the USSR, or **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics**. With the death of Lenin and the rise of Stalin, Ukraine became, while predominantly an agrarian country, more industrialized and modernized. The Russians confiscated Ukrainian crops in the years that followed, causing massive starvation. Those who resisted were arrested and put into gulags and work camps. Many died there.



After the invasion of Poland in 1939, German and Soviet troops divided the territory of Poland: Eastern Galicia and Volhynia with their large Ukrainian populations became part of Ukraine. For the first time in history, the Ukrainian nation was united.

World War II

During World War II, Kyiv was named the “Hero City” because of its fierce resistance to German forces. Most Ukrainians fought alongside Russians. However, at times some united with the Nazi forces. [This perhaps helps us to understand why Putin sometimes calls Ukraine “full of Nazis.”]

The total losses of the Ukrainian population during World War II are estimated at 6 million; the losses of the Ukrainian people in the war amounted to 40-44% of the total losses of the USSR. The republic’s villages and towns were heavily damaged by the war and agricultural lands were devastated. The situation was worsened by a famine, which killed tens of thousands more.

In 1945 the Ukrainian SSR became a founding member of the **United Nations**, as part of a special agreement at the Yalta Conference. However, they were still victims of forced deportations by the Russians.

In 1953 Nikita Khrushchev became the new leader of the USSR and he touted a new “friendship” between Ukraine and Russia. In a show of comradeship, he transferred Crimea from the Russian holdings to Ukraine.

In 1990, 300,000 Ukrainians organized a human chain for Ukrainian independence between Kyiv and Lviv and eventually adopted the Declaration of State Sovereignty.

The year 1991 was a year of milestones:

- The Ukrainian parliament declared that their government would be a democracy, and eventually declared their Act of Independence. But even after this declaration, pro-Russian political elements remained.
- Later that year Ukraine held its first presidential election.
- The leaders of Belarus, Russia and Ukraine dissolved the USSR.

Modern History

Over the next 25 years, there were recessions, as well as civil unrest and strikes, as the Ukraine struggled to establish its own government and economy. In 2004, protests and riots escalated [the Orange Revolution], when Viktor Yanukovich [supported by Putin] was elected president, in elections which the Ukrainian Supreme Court ruled had been rigged. Viktor Yushchenko, who favored European ties, was made president.

By 2010, however, support for Russia remained strong enough in eastern Ukraine that Yanukovich ran and was elected president. He sought closer ties with Russia, and by 2013 moved away from association with the European Union. Protests and demonstrations broke out in much of the rest of Ukraine. Members of Parliament voted to remove him from office in February; he fled and reappeared in Russia a few days later. This prompted Vladimir Putin to take control of Crimea, which he said had been stolen from Russia.

The UN General Assembly declared the taking of Crimea to be illegal but was blocked by Russian vetoes. In response, the U.S., European Union, Canada and other allies-imposed sanctions on Russia. Putin maintained he was only helping Crimeans defend themselves.

In the provinces of Donetsk and Luhansk, government buildings and police stations were seized by Russian and local militias. Talks in Geneva between the E.U., Russia, Ukraine, and the U.S. yielded the 2014 Geneva Pact, in which they requested that unlawful militias lay down their arms and vacate seized government buildings.

In August 2014, a commission of leading scholars from the U.S. and Russia issued an agenda outlining ways to resolve the crisis in Ukraine. In late 2014 Ukraine ratified the **Ukraine-European Union Association Agreement**, and pro-European businessman Petro Poroshenko was elected president. In February 2015, a ceasefire was negotiated. More progress was made through 2016 and 2017, to improve trade relations, governance, and economy so that the country could be partners with E.U. countries. But the events in Crimea had inspired pro-Russian separatists in two regions, Donetsk and Luhansk, and they began an insurgency against the Ukrainian military. The fighting continued into 2019, when Poroshenko lost re-election to TV star and new politician, **Volodymyr Zelenskyy**.

In the spring of 2021, Russia began building up troop strength along its border with Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, Vladimir Putin ordered military forces to enter Donetsk and Luhansk, calling it a “peacekeeping mission.” Putin also officially named them as sovereign states, fully independent from Ukraine. He announced what he called a “special military operation” to “demilitarize and de-nazify” Ukraine. Later the same day they took control of Chernobyl, the wrecked nuclear plant. Ukraine immediately asked for admission to the European Union, to respond to the invasion. Russia said their “special military operation” would only last 4-5 days. After many months, the conflict goes on.

Today

Today Ukraine is a republic under a semi-presidential system; it is run by President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal, and the parliament, called the Verkhovna Rada. Martial law was declared immediately after the Russians invaded in February 2022.

Before the 2022 Russian invasion, the country had over 40 million people. It is heavily urbanized and its industrial regions in the east and southeast are the most densely populated. The population is 78% Ukrainian and 27% Russian. Ukraine is among the world's largest agricultural producers and exporters and is often called the "breadbasket of Europe." They produce wheat, maize, barley, and rapeseed, as well as about 50% of the world's sunflower seed oil. Whether their crops will all get out and whether they will be allowed to grow and harvest new crops, is a situation that changes regularly.

It seems that as the war drags on, Russia was not equipped to take control of major parts of Ukraine, as they had predicted. At this point, military analysts refer to the war as a stalemate situation.



6 Key Numbers that reveal the Staggering Impact of Russia's War in Ukraine

Taken from NPR Website August 24, 2022

Over 13 million Ukrainians have been displaced

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has prompted Europe's largest refugee crisis since World War II. Since February, more than **13 million** people have been forced to flee their homes, according to the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR. Nearly 6.7 million refugees have dispersed across Europe, with Poland taking in the largest share. Another 6.6 million people are internally displaced within Ukraine.

Tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians may have lost their lives in the war

Both sides have reported losing military personnel since the invasion began in February. Exact figures are hard to come by, since each country is reluctant to admit losses and often inflates the number of enemy fighters they've killed.

Gen. Valeriy Zaluzhny, commander-in-chief of the Ukrainian Armed forces, said this week at a public forum that Ukraine has lost 9,000 military personnel. The Ukrainian military has also claimed to have killed or wounded 45,200 Russian military personnel, with the largest losses in the eastern Donetsk and southern Mykolaiv regions.

Meanwhile, the U.N. human rights office has documented nearly 5,600 civilians killed in Ukraine during the conflict but believes the actual toll is much higher.

Russia occupies 20% of Ukrainian land

In 2014, Russia invaded and annexed the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine. Soon Russian-backed militants declared their intent to separate from Ukraine in the country's far east, launching a conflict that's been locked in a stalemate for nearly eight years. Six months into the full-scale invasion, Russia has expanded its territory in Ukraine almost threefold. In June, Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Russia has occupied 20% of the country, or about 47,000 square miles.

Dozens of countries have pledged billions of dollars in military aid since the war began

Some amazing facts—

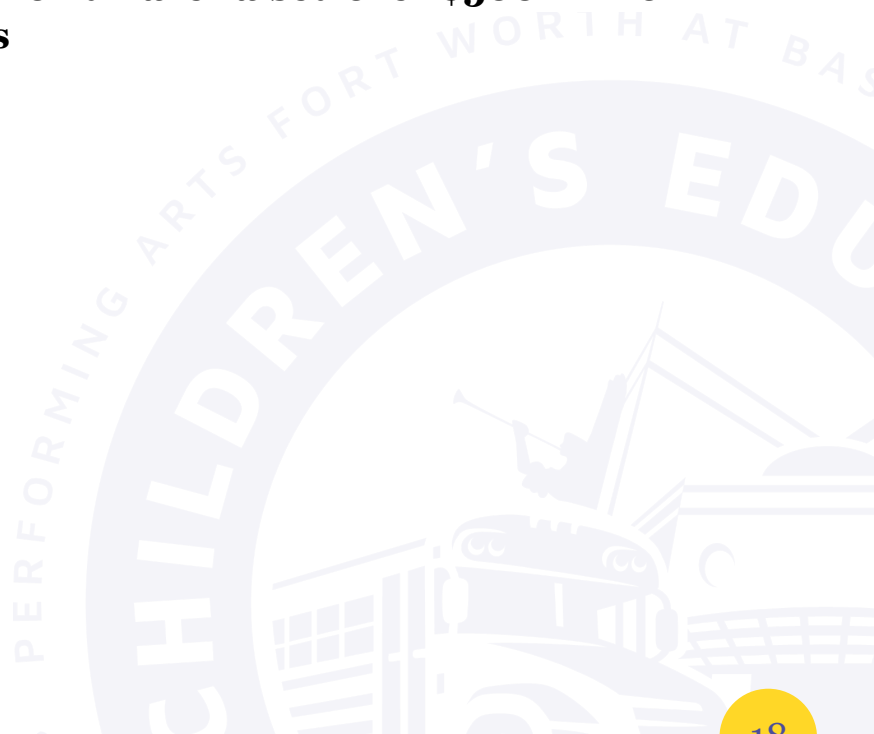
- The U.S. has given \$10.6 billion in military aid
- Australia has given tanks
- Turkey has given drones
- Britain has trained 22,000 troops
- Slovakia has donated diesel and jet fuel
- 18 countries have recognized sanctions on Russia, at often great financial cost

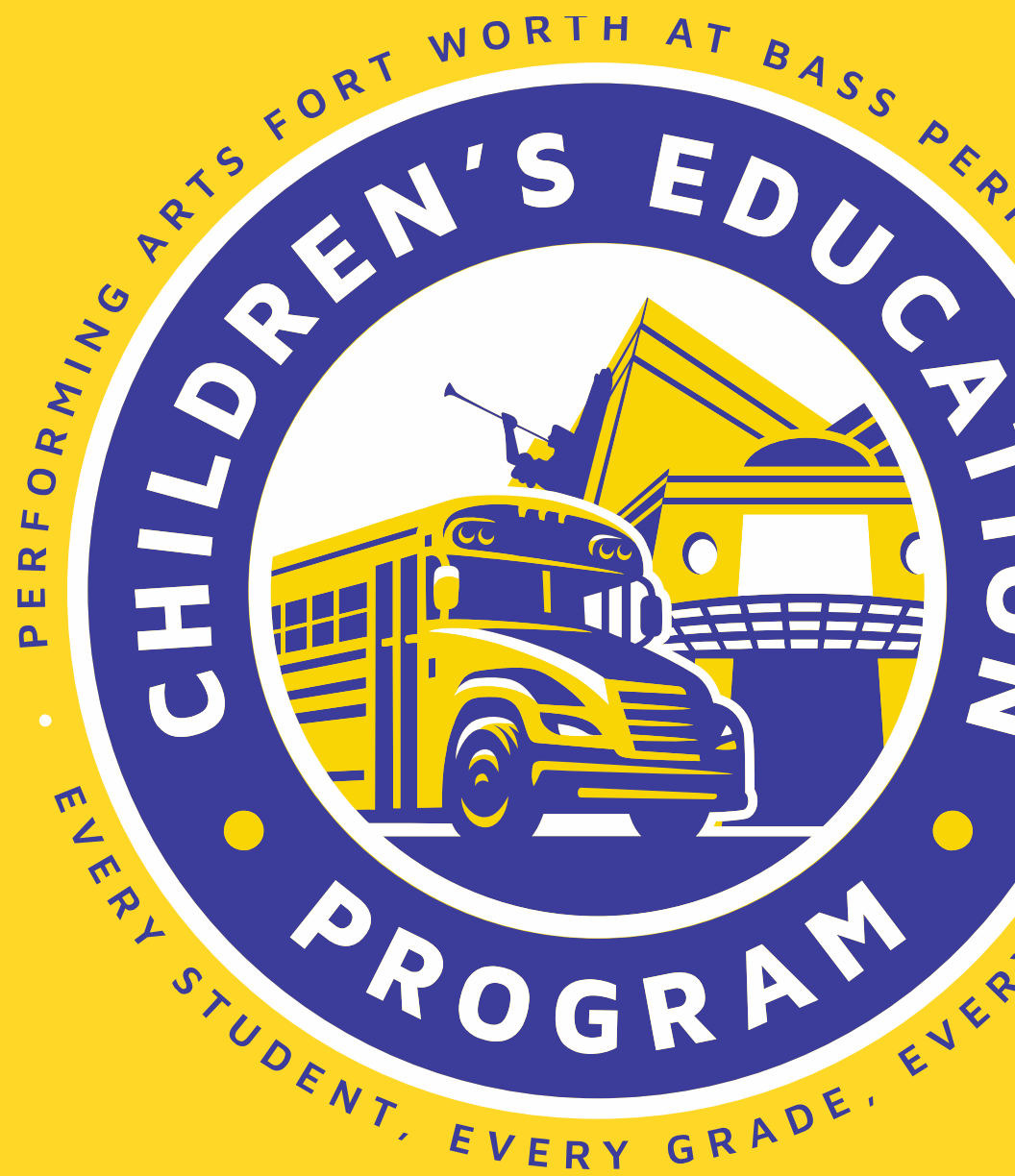
Ukraine's economy could shrink by as much as 45% because of the invasion

Some amazing financial numbers—

- Gross domestic product could shrink 35-40% this year
- There has been \$113.5 billion in damage to housing and transportation
- Agricultural exports are down 46%, even with a resumption of some exports in July; Steel industry has also been hit badly
- US has pledged \$8.5 billion in financial assistance
- EU has given billions and has pledged 8 billion more euros

Ukraine citizens around the world have raised over \$500 million in bake sales and fundraisers





Angels In The Wings

Angels In The Wings

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