

Foreword



Ukraine - a country that is generous with new discoveries and profound cultural tradition.

Like a bridge between East and West, Ukraine is right in the geographical heart of Europe. Ukraine has a wealthy historical background spanning a thousand years. Ukraine has unique culture, traditions, and a hospitable and benevolent people too.

I am delighted to introduce Galina Vernigora Vale, a virtuoso guitarist of Ukraine, who is performing at the Purcell Room, Royal Festival Hall, London 8XX, on Tuesday 8th February 2005.

Galina Vernigora Vale was born in Ukraine and comes from a family of musicians. She began studying the guitar and made her first public appearance on state television at the age of eight. From 1985 to 1991 she studied at the Moscow Gnesiny Music College whilst employed as principal guitarist with the Kharkov Ukrainian State Philharmonic from 1986 until 1997.

Galina has won prizes at international music competitions in Poland, Italy, Hungary, Spain, the United Kingdom, and has performed over 2,000 concerts across West and Eastern Europe.

She has also performed in three music films produced by Ukrainian State Television: *Portrait with Guitar* (1987), *Strings and Sails* (1991), and *Spirit of Spain* (1997). Her latest CD *The Great Gates of Kiev* recorded in 2002 has a great artistic success in Ukraine.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Latin American and Caribbean Cultural Society (LACCS), as well as supporters of the concert who helped us to move forward with the promotion of the Ukrainian culture in Great Britain.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ihor Mitiukov'.

H. E. Ihor Mitiukov
**Ambassador Extraordinary and
Plenipotentiary of Ukraine**

London 8th February 2005

