

The real flowering of the Ukrainian theatre occurred between 1917 and 1933. The Berezil Theatre in Kharkiv (1922-1933), under the artistic director Les Kurbas, was the most distinguished troupe. The most famous playwrights of that period were Mykola Kulish with his «Patetychna Sonata» and Oleksander Korniyuchuk who tended to write in the approved manner.

There are about 60 professional theatres in Ukraine now, the most famous of which are the Ivan Franko Theatre in Kyiv and the Maria Zankovetska Theatre in Lviv.

Ukrainian film has achieved some marked successes. The director and scenarist Oleksander Dovzhenko, who died in 1956, was an important innovator in world cinematography. His works «Zvenyhora» «Arsenal» and especially «Zemlya» («The Earth») are considered classics of the silent-film era. Another outstanding Ukrainian producer is Serhy Paradzhanov. His film «Tini zabutykh predkiv» («Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors») became famous in many countries in the world. The Ukrainian motion-picture industry is centred on the O. Dovzhenko Studio in Kyiv and in the Odesa studio, which is famous for its films for children and youth.

**ACTIVITY 3. FILL IN THE BLANKS WITH ONE SUITABLE WORDS GIVEN IN THE BOX:**



musicians	slavery	warriors	instrument
ancient	ballads	survive	babies

### Music – the soul of Ukraine

The Ukrainian nation is famous for its musicality. Love of music seems to be in our blood, and you can even see ancient Ukrainian \_\_\_\_\_ (1) on the frescoes of St. Sofia's Cathedral in Kyiv. The most widespread musical \_\_\_\_\_ (2) in Kyivan Rus was the psaltery used to accompany historical \_\_\_\_\_ (3) which were poetic narrations about the deeds of the princes and their \_\_\_\_\_ (4). The psaltery was not the first musical instrument used in Ukraine. Archaeologists found a more \_\_\_\_\_ (5) one made of mammoth tusk. Later more modern instruments appeared, among them the famous bandura.

Common people never stopped singing. Even in Tatar-Mongol or Turkish \_\_\_\_\_ (6) they sang the beautiful songs of their faraway Motherland, and the songs very often helped people to \_\_\_\_\_ (7) in evil times.

People made up songs for different occasions: to help doing monotonous jobs, to lull \_\_\_\_\_ (8) to sleep, to court girls, to mock stupid neighbours, to add to the merriment and joy of holidays.

Ukrainian folk songs are so beautiful, their melodies are so catchy and harmonious that you can hear them in the tunes of famous operas, in church chorals, in solemn symphonies, and ... around the table when Ukrainian people get together to celebrate something.

**\*ACTIVITY 4. RE-ARRANGE THE LINES OF THE FOLLOWING TEXT PUTTING NUMBERS BEFORE EACH OF THEM.**

**THE FIRST ONE IS DONE FOR YOU:**



\_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Theatrical art in Ukraine originated from folk plays, dances, songs and ritual \_\_\_\_\_ performed either in Russian or in Polish. The first theatres were built in Kharkiv (1791), \_\_\_\_\_ plays to be staged in Ukrainian. All those theatres were amateur, and the first \_\_\_\_\_ Later in 1881 M. Kropyvnytsky founded the first professional theatre in Eastern Ukraine. \_\_\_\_\_ Odesa (1806) and Poltava (1810). There I. Kotlyarevsky produced his own \_\_\_\_\_ professional theatre in Ukraine was founded in 1864 in Western Ukraine. \_\_\_\_\_ performances like «Natalka-Poltavka» and «Moscovite-Magician». They were the first \_\_\_\_\_ ceremonies. The 18th century witnessed the birth of theatre companies which

**ACTIVITY 5. BEFORE READING THE TEXT BELOW TRY TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT COMPLETION FOR EACH OF THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES:**



1. Art in Great Britain today is
  - a) more popular than before.
  - b) undergoing crisis.
  - c) less popular than before.
  - d) in decline.
2. Henry Moore is famous all over the world for his
  - a) paintings.
  - b) sculptures.
  - c) architecture designs.
  - d) murals.
3. The most popular British handicrafts include
  - a) gardening.
  - b) hunting.
  - c) wood-carving.
  - d) wood-cutting.
4. Benjamin Britten is a famous
  - a) painter.
  - b) composer.
  - c) sculptor.
  - d) architect.
5. The Beatles split up because of
  - a) the murder of John Lennon.
  - b) money problems.
  - c) misunderstanding.
  - d) lack of public interest.
6. Gilbert and Sullivan wrote
  - a) dramatic operas.
  - b) symphonies.
  - c) church organ music.
  - d) musicals.
7. Pantomimes in Britain are popular amateur performances in which
  - a) all roles are played by boys.
  - b) all roles are played by girls.
  - c) boys play girls' roles and v.v.\*
  - d) everything is shown by gestures.

*Note: «v.v.» is an abbreviation for «vice versa», Latin for «and on the opposite».*

### Cultural life and traditions in Great Britain

In Great Britain there is probably a greater interest in painting and sculpture today than ever before. Artists are experimenting with colours, shapes and materials of all kinds. They hold exhibitions on street pavements, in parks, in empty buildings, as well as in schools, universities and art clubs. If they are lucky, their works are chosen for exhibition by the Institute of Contemporary Art, which was founded to help young artists. Much of their work is connected with the objects and experiences of everyday life. A few young painters and artists are successful and have their works accepted by well-known London art galleries.

The older generation of modern painters and sculptors, such as the artists John Piper and Graham Sutherland or the sculptor Henry Moore, now have an international reputation.

An interest in crafts has grown again. More and more young people are learning them in schools, colleges and evening classes. Pottery, wood-carving, furniture-making, hand-woven and hand-printed cloth, handmade jewellery and metal work are the most popular.

### British musical traditions

In the 16th-17th centuries English musicians had a great reputation in Europe, both for their talent and their originality. Today there is a revival of interest to these neglected composers, for instance to the music of William Byrd, one of the most distinguished musicians of that time.

In the centuries that followed, Britain produced no composers of world rank, except for Henry Purcell (1659-1695) and Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934). Today, however, many people believe that there has been a reflowering of English music, and that the compositions of some contemporary musicians will live on after their deaths. The music of Michael Tippett, Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) and William Walton (1902 – 1983) is performed all over the world.

Benjamin Britten (the most well-known of the three) was not modern in the musical sense of the word, but he was modern in his attitude towards his public. He has been called a «people's composer» because he composed music, particularly operas and choral works, that can be sung by ordinary people. Some of his operas, such as «Noyes Fludde» (Noah's Flood») are performed in churches every year and people from the neighbourhood sing and act in them. The festival which he started in his little home town of Alderburgh in Suffolk has become one of the most important music festivals in Britain.

The most classless art form, rock and pop music, is listened to by «princes and by paupers». It also crossed national barriers as easily as class barriers. Every year about 40 % of the best-selling CDs in Europe are British, and about 10% are number one in America. The people who put Britain at the forefront of the pop revolution of the 1960s were the Beatles. Before them, British pop music based on rock'n'roll was exported from the USA by singers like Elvis Presley.

The Liverpool, or the Merseyside «beat» was born in the north-west corner of the industrial Black Country and conquered the whole world. And though the Beatles partnership broke up in the 70s because of the clash of talents and interests, and one of them, John Lennon, was murdered in 1980, the influence of this famous group has continued and can be felt in present day rhythms.

Many modern British singers and musicians have been popular not just for the music and the words of their songs but also because of the ideas and attitudes behind them. Singers like Mick Jagger of the Rolling Stones, Rod Stewart, David Bowie, Elton John and Boy George have challenged previous standards of «good and normal behaviour», taste and sexual definition.

### British theatrical life

There are over 300 professional theatres in Britain, with London as its theatrical centre, having more than 100 theatres in the West End and suburbs. The National Theatre Company performs at the National Theatre on the south bank of the Thames. It also tours the provinces. The Royal Shakespeare Theatre has three permanent stages: at the Barbican Theatre in the City of London, in the exact replica of the Globe Theatre on the south bank of the Thames and in Stratford-on-Avon. These theatres tend to specialise in classical repertoire while the Round-house, the Royal Court and the Mermaid Theatre, for example, put on modern plays.

There is no National Opera House, but the Royal Opera House at Covent Garden receives a grant from the Art Council. It stages operas and ballets in the beautiful recently renewed building throughout the year. The English National Opera House performs operas, sung in English, at the London Coliseum and also tours the provinces.

It has been said that the level of amateur involvement in the arts is higher in Britain than anywhere else. Certainly amateur theatre is very popular: productions take place in nearly every town