Syzokryli dancers wow audience at Eisenhower Park's Ukrainian American Night

by Anna Chelak

EAST MEADOW, N.Y. - Long Island saw the return of the Syzokryli Ukrainian Dance Ensemble on August 20 at the annual Ukrainian American Night at Eisenhower Park.

Accompanying the Syzokryli dancers were Mriya of Hempstead, N.Y., under the direction of Orlando and Larissa Pagan; The Wave Band, which performed traditional and contemporary Ukrainian music: and Ukrainian vocal soloist Inna Sydorak. All the performers put on a magnificent show despite the chilly weather and rainfall.

The dance performance began with a warm welcome of the traditional "Pryvit," choreographed by the ensemble's founder, the late Roma Pryma Bohachevsky. The beautiful, regal costumes and the dynamic presentation was



The ladies of the Syzokryli Dance Ensemble on stage.

Andrij Cybyk showcases his dancing prowess.

a perfect start to the evening show.

The Syzokryli performed two numbers seen for the first time at this year's Ukrainian Film and Cultural Festival at Soyuzivka, where they were performed by the Roma Pryma Bohachevsky Dance Workshop. First was a lively polka choreographed by Volodymyr Dvorovenko called "Polissian Quadrille." The second was a vibrant contemporary dance choreographed by Kristine Izak to a song titled "Wild Energy" by Ukrainian pop star Ruslana.

Other numbers included an exciting and vigorous Bukovynian dance, another one of Mrs. Bohachevsky's choreographies. The piece incorporated fast, complicated footwork and exciting aerobics and lifts characteristic of that region. It was followed by another dance by Mrs. Bohachevsky titled "Z Syrom Pyrohy," a hilarious character dance about a sassy young woman and three very different suitors that left the crowd roaring with laughter.

Closing the show was Syzokryli's best-known dance, the "Hopak." It is perhaps the most dynamic, spirited and exhilarating dances in the Syzorkyli repertoire, choreographed by Mrs. Bohachevsky.

As one of Syzokryli's final performances for the summer, the Ukrainian American Night was a huge success. The Eisenhower Park event is a great end to the summer season and an exciting experience for all who participate.

For more information on Syzokryli and their upcoming shows, readers may visit www.syzokryli.com.

Attention, Students!

Throughout the year Ukrainian student clubs plan and hold activities. The Ukrainian Weekly urges students to let us and the Ukrainian community know about upcoming events.

The Weekly will be happy to help you publicize them. We will also be glad to print timely news stories about events that have already taken place. Photos also will be accepted.

MAKE YOURSELF HEARD.