



Contact: Nate Omdal
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Album Title: Kobzar

Album Artist: OWCHARUK 5

“A **Kobzar**, is an itinerant Ukrainian bard. The tradition, established in the 16th century, survives history to this day. Often blind, the Kobzars played a type of lute called the bandura, singing epic poems and songs that are the equivalent of a Kozak spiritual. Many of the melodies here come from that tradition. We took lots of liberties with the folk material – adding our own and blending it with the many different kinds of things that we like about music.” – M. Owcharuk.

Photos, music samples, video are available at www.owcharukmusic.com

Track Listing:

1. Carpathian Folk Song (5:08) – arranged by M. Owcharuk
2. Hopak (4:48) – arranged by M. Owcharuk
3. Vzyavbi Ya Banduru (6:44) – arranged by OWCHARUK 5
4. Song of Sowing Grain (5:33) – arranged by M. Owcharuk
5. Dozvol Meny Mati (4:59) – arranged by M. Owcharuk
6. I Can't Eat (4:49) – composed by J. Knodle
7. Arkan (6:15) – arranged by M. Owcharuk
8. Mr. NO – composed by M. Owcharuk
9. Podolyanochka (5:40) – arranged by B. Fleenor and M. Owcharuk

Album Data:

- Released 4/8/2010, at Tula's, Seattle, WA.
- Recorded 12/6/09 at Mad Pants Productions, Seattle, WA.
- Engineered and mixed by Mike Dodge.
- Mastered by Jake Perrine at RFI/CD Mastering.
- Cover art, graphic design, and layout by Nate Omdal

-Produced by Michael Owcharuk, Mike Dodge, Nate Omdal, Beth Fleenor, Jim Knodle, Cody Rahn, and all who donated through the OWCHARUK 5 Micro-Patronage Program. Funds to produce, master, and manufacture this record was generously donated by 47 different individuals and organizations from the US, Canada, and Germany. Please contact Michael Owcharuk at owcharuk@yahoo.com for more information about Micro-Patronage.



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Band Bio: OWCHARUK 5

The OWCHARUK 5 is five people coming together to make music about life. Work, play, hard times, good times, war, peace. Traditional songs and dances have made their way from the Ukrainian plains and the Cossack camp to find kinship with Latin grooves, Blues soul, Punk Rock energy, improvisation, and modern composition. Music for the people.

The band's signature sound comes from a combination of Michael Owcharuk's idiosyncratic compositions and style, mixed with the collective voice of Jim Knodle, Beth Fleenor, Nate Omdal, and Cody Rahn's unique individual voices. Each is an active, working artist in their own right performing in various genres: jazz, prog-rock, new music, hip-hop, the avant-garde, and pop, among others. These things coalesce when the OWCHARUK 5 performs making a sound that is absolutely unique and able to resonate with many different people.

Formed in 2007, the OWCHARUK 5 has been steadily gaining aplomb and recognition in Seattle, WA. They have been featured at/on: Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, Sounds Outside, Tula's, The Crocodile, Composer' Spotlight presented by Jack Straw Productions, and Sonarchy Radio KEXP 91.3fm.

Band websites: www.owcharukmusic.com www.myspace.com/owcharuk5

"A musical experience not likely to be repeated in Seattle."
-Earshot Jazz, Seattle, WA. 2010

"Adventurous."
-The Stranger, Seattle WA. 2008

Personnel:

Michael Owcharuk – accordion, piano, voice. Michael is a composer, pianist, accordionist, and educator. Besides leading the OWCHARUK 5 he co-directs the Seattle Jazz Composer's Ensemble, performs with Le Trio and The Distract Band, works as a sideman and collaborator, accompanies ballet classes, and is a private instructor. Michael has released 3 full-length albums of original work and has received grants from the Seattle Mayor's Office of Arts and Cultural Affairs and the Jack Straw Foundation for his musical endeavors.

Beth Fleenor – clarinet, voice. Beth is a clarinetist, singer, improviser, composer, and arts advocate. She leads Figeater, performs with Double Yoko, Bling, Chick Influenza and collaborates with artists such as Wayne Horvitz, Butch Morris, William O. Smith, Denney Goodhew, and Kulture Shock among many others. In addition, Beth operates the artist management company The Frank Agency.

(con't)



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Personnel (con't):

Jim Knodle – trumpet. Jim is a trumpet player, composer, arranger, and educator with a long career on the West Coast performing or recording with Daniel Carter, Andrew Hill, Perry Robinson, Vinnie Goila, Paul Rucker, KMFDM, Robin Holcomb, Michael Vlatkovich, and Wayne Horvitz among many others. He can be found performing almost every night of the week in Seattle with a myriad of different artists.

Nate Omdal – bass. Nate is a bassist, composer, arranger, producer, and owner of Brokentime Records. He co-directs the Seattle Jazz Composer's Ensemble, is a founding member of Soul Kata, and performs with MC Spekulation, The Jay Thomas Big Band, and Ronin. He has performed with many local and national artists including Dawn Clement, Denney Goodhew, Jay Thomas, and Matt Jorgenson.

Cody Rahn – drums. Cody is a drummer and educator. He is a founding member of War Pigeon, works as a sideman, and has been session musician at studios such as Studio X, Bear Creek, and Ironwood. Cody has toured and recorded with national artists Alyse Black and Johanna Kunin.