

# Peace in Europe. How can we help?

*Marshall Marcus, Secretary General of the EUYO, searches out answers to an undoubtedly difficult question that affects us all.*

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24 February 2022. The first day of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Undoubtedly one of the worst days for peace in Europe for as long as many of us can remember. Living in peace in this continent is a state of affairs which we suddenly realise we have taken for granted for many years, to the point of it almost seeming to have been ingrained in us. Not any longer. Now shattered, what should our response be? This is a question which we all face in one way or another as individuals, but this is also a question that the EUYO, as cultural ambassador for the European Union, surely cannot ignore.

In such a situation, what is our duty, and how can we help? The EUYO is not a political entity, and never should be. We do not bear arms, we do not have responsibility for national or EU policy. But we are an organisation of human beings. Actually, more than that: with the spirit of the indomitable EUYO Co-founder and Honorary President Joy Bryer that runs through the heart of the Orchestra, we are also a family. A European family.

This is where the story of **Kateryna Telina** enters. Kateryna is a 16-year-old viola player. Born in Kyiv in Ukraine, she began to study violin aged six with Tatiana Snizhna at the Lysenko Specialized Music Lyceum in Kyiv. In 2019 she began viola classes with Professor Serhiy Kulakov. Despite her young age (she is currently in 10th grade at school), Kateryna has performed with a number of orchestras including the National Ensemble of Soloists, Kyiv Camerata, and the New Era Orchestra. She has participated in master classes with Maxim Rysanov and Sergei Bressler. And

since 2020, she has been a member of the [Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine \(YsOU\)](#), of which she is now principal viola. She is clearly a very talented young musician.

24 February 2022. It is instructive to hear what happened to Kateryna on that day, and in her own words: *“on February 24, at 5 am, I woke up because of the sound of an explosion. For three weeks I was near Kyiv with my parents and my animals, almost constantly in the basement. We heard explosions and missiles almost every day. Mid-March: my parents have decided to evacuate me to another country and my father and mother took me to Kyiv to take the Kyiv-Lviv train. I was near the exit of the car of an evacuation train, because*

*it was completely jammed with people. I didn't even have time to hug my mother before departure. I was on the train for 14 hours with no seat, I had a small suitcase and my instrument. Upon arrival in Lviv, I planned to go to Poland immediately, but I did not succeed because there was a huge queue for the train. I sat at the station for 3 hours to wait for the end of curfew. At 6am I went to my friend to stay*

*with him for a day and only then go to Poland. Now, because of the war in my country, I am in Krakow, where I study and learn German. Sometimes I go to Graz for consultation with a professor, I plan to enter Graz university of Music this coming October.”*

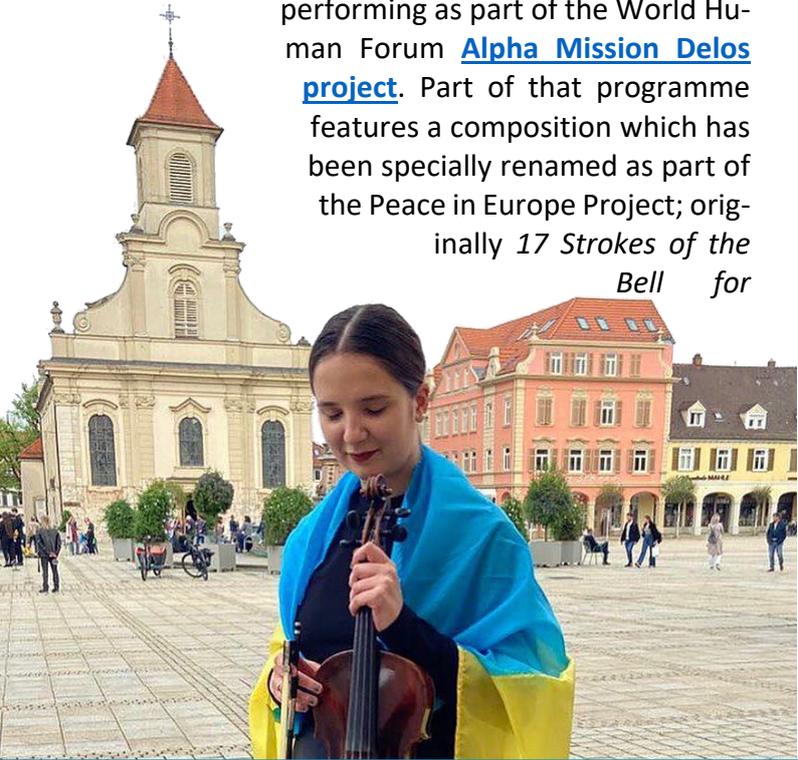
Until 24 February 2022, Kateryna’s story would have probably had little or even no connection with the EUYO. But as a result of the [Peace in Europe project](#) that we launched in March at our first EUYO concert following the invasion, Kateryna is

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about to perform with our musical family. On 30 May she will be, all being well, standing on stage on the island of Delos as a special guest with the EUYO string ensemble which will be performing as part of the World Human Forum [Alpha Mission Delos project](#). Part of that programme features a composition which has been specially renamed as part of the Peace in Europe Project; originally *17 Strokes of the Bell for*



**Kateryna Telina**  
principal viola of the  
**Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine**

*Kateryna will be a special guest of the EUYO, playing in the string ensemble performing as part of the World Human Forum's Alpha Mission Delos project.*

*Sustainability*, this short piece about sustainable development becomes, henceforth, *17 Strokes of the Bell for Peace and Sustainability*, reflecting the fact that if humanity was to really engage globally with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, peace would undoubtedly follow.

The Delos concert is the third of our peace concerts this year, following previous ones in Ferrara and Helsinki, the former dedicated to the memory of a great man of peace, former European Parliament President and EUYO Honorary President David Sassoli.

We have peace concerts planned in four further countries following the Delos concert, each with an individual focus on the idea of peace, and more substantial connections with the YsOU planned into the future, including opening our new [EUYO Frontrunners](#) programme to their members and arranging a special seminar next year. Meanwhile anyone who wishes to help Kateryna and her fellow young musicians from Ukraine, can consider contributing to the truly wonderful [Music for the Future](#) project being run by the Slovenian Youth Orchestra to help give the YsOU a new, if hopefully only temporary, home in Ljubljana (see below). These may all seem like small contributions, but many small actions can build a mountain of hope. And that is probably the best way, just now, that we can all help.

Marshall Marcus  
EUYO Secretary General

**To offer assistance to the Youth Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine through the Slovenian Youth Orchestra 'Music for the Future' project, please contact [info@euyo.eu](mailto:info@euyo.eu) or make [a donation here](#)**

Want to hear more?  
Stay in touch!



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Chief Conductor Vasily Petrenko | Conductor Laureate Bernard Haitink  
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Charles Michel President of the European Council

The heads of state and government, the ministers of foreign affairs and culture of the EU member states



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