Some of the most prominent people and things culturally important for Ukraine

*Volodymyr Ivasiuk.* Without his songs it’s simply unrealistic to imagine a Ukrainian pop song foundation. He is a prominent singer, composer, and poet. Mr. Ivasyuk was posthumously conferred the Hero of Ukraine title - national highest title given by our president. While his life was cut short – only 30 years – his songs have left an enduring legacy. “Chervona Ruta”, “I’ll go far into the mountains”, “Vodohray” became real hits in their time and are wildly recognized today.

*Solomiia Krushelnytska* was one of the greatest soprano opera singers ever. Starting in 1895, this Ukrainian singer performed triumphantly across Europe, Africa and South America. Solomiia was the “prima madonna” in many famous opera production. Italian composer Giacomo Puccini gave her as a present his portrait with a signing “To the most adorable and gorgeous Butterfly”. The Lviv Opera Theatre is named after her and a memorial museum has been opened in the apartment where she used to live.

*Lesia Ukrainka* was a vastly influential writer whose verses turned a new page in Ukrainian poetry and drama. Her works remain relevant today and still regularly performed. She was an avid activist in Ukraine’s national movement. She advocated for Ukraine’s independence from Russia – a theme that is prevalent in her artistic and published works. A number of city squares, avenues, libraries and universities have been named in Lesia Ukrainka’s honour. You will find her portrait on the 200-hryvnia bill (ukr currency).

*Les Kurbas* - one of the most important theatre directors of the 20th century and a member of the “Executed Renaissance”, the father of Ukrainian theatre. In autumn 1937 Les Kurbas and thousands of prominent figures of Ukrainian culture were shot in Northen Russia. For this they are known as “Executed Renaissance” – a whole generation of writers and artists wiped out by Stalin’s regime.

*Vitaliy and Volodymyr Klychko –* areheavyweight boxing champions. Starting in 1998, these prominent boxers have been taking the belts of the most authoritative boxing associations from the world’s best boxers. They are not just exceptional sportsmen – they have brawn and brains. Both brothers are involved in politics and philanthropy and are avid chess players.

*Lychakiv Cemetery* is one of the most grandiose and significant European necropolises. It was founded in 1786 and since then only the outstanding, well-known and wealthy people have been buried there. It is like an open-air museum of memorial sculptures and architecture. There are more than three hundred thousand graves at this cemetery. Many of crypts and tombstones are true works of art.

*Korovai* is a round holiday bread made of white wheat. Ukrainians greet their dear guests with “bread-and-salt” or a Korovai with a pinch of salt on a festive embroidered rushnyk (towel). Korovais are the inevitable part of Ukrainian culture. They are baked on big holidays and especially on weddings.

*Embroidery Day.* Traditionally in Ukraine this holiday is celebrated on the third Thursday of May, and its purpose is popularization of national clothing among young people, as well as preservation of customs and traditions of pattern creation and authentic design.