



# Verchovyna ... *the Art of Dance*

## 29 November 2009



More than 500 people attended Verchovyna's annual concert on Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> November which showcased over 140 dancers. Among the guests were representatives from outside the Ukrainian community which included the Multicultural Association of Victoria, the Victorian Multicultural Commission, Ausdance, the Australian Ballet and the Member for Essendon, all of whom have supported CYM in various ways.



The concert began with a typical warm-up of a Verchovyna dance class but ends abruptly because a dancer questions the relevance of the ballet style warm-up for learning Ukrainian

dance. The teacher responds and suggests a trip to the "Ukrainian Dance Museum" to learn more about the different styles of Ukrainian dance and its execution with the help of Verchovyna's particular style of teaching.





The audience is taken on a journey with the dance class through a museum where each live "picture" transforms into a dance performance from various regions of Ukraine. The audience was captivated.



The concert ended with an energetic and exciting new HOPAK, choreographed by Melanie Moravski Dechnicz. The HOPAK was performed by the Elementary and Intermediate groups. Congratulations on a great debut!

Over 40 people worked backstage, front of house, in the dressing rooms, in the hall, on the balcony, in the costume room to help make the concert such a success. There were many more people involved leading up to the concert from program design to photography to printing to ticket bookings and other areas of organisation. Thank you to all these volunteers, in particular the Verchovyna Administrator, Julie Tkaczuk-Soloczynskyj, and congratulations to Verchovyna's Artistic Director, Melanie Moravski Dechnicz, and her team of teachers on producing a fantastic show.

A big thank you to Hromada Essendon and Dnister for being great supporters of CYM events.

**Mary Lech CYM Cultural Director**