

## **Two Remarkable Ukrainian Women: A Harmony of Resilience and Solidarity**

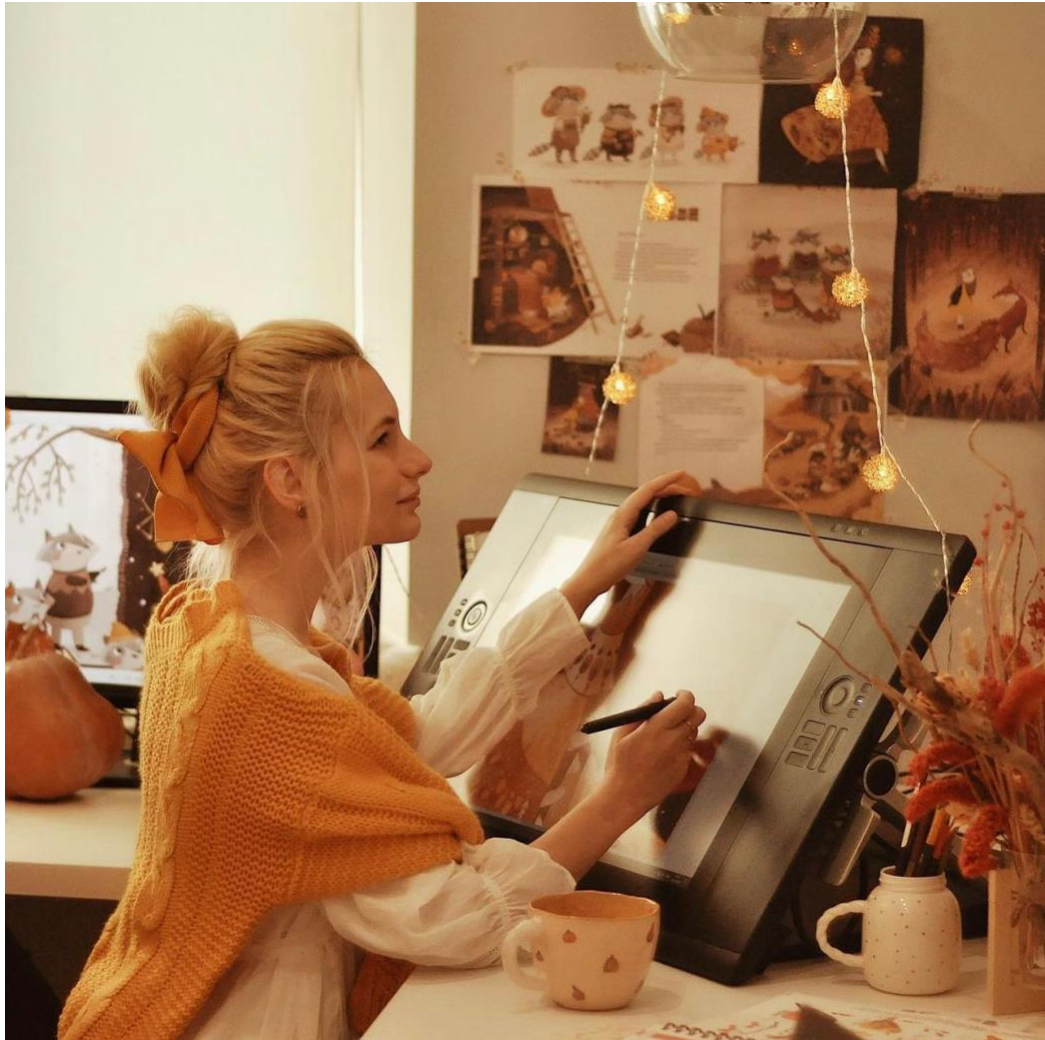
Alexandra Dikaia and Mariia Yaremak are exceptionally talented Ukrainian artists who in a display of unity were at the forefront of Helping Hands: Ukrainian Hearts in British Hands - a fundraising event held in the heart of Buckinghamshire, which unfolded as more than just a concert. The musical experience became a symphony of compassion, bringing together a collective of talents to shine a light on Ukrainian art, culture, and its vibrant spirit.

### **A Duo at the Core: Alexandra and Mariia**

Two of the artists at the heart of this remarkable initiative are Alexandra, a seasoned artist who illustrated her first children's book aged 5 years, and Mariia, a gifted composer. Mariia's journey as a professional pianist took a turn at age 15 when health issues with her hands saw her turn her talents to composing. Beyond their talents, these two women played pivotal roles in orchestrating an event that transcended borders and resonated with a united audience.

### **From Artistic Aspirations to Humanitarian Endeavours: Navigating Conflict**

Alexandra and Mariia weathered the storm of the 2014 conflict with Russia. As artists, their professions were hit hard. Alexandra found herself facing a daunting challenge when war erupted again in February 2022. She and her 2-year-old daughter were forced to take refuge in a bomb shelter. Alexandra stated, "In one day, the safe world I created for children was ruined". Spurred by emotion and a desire to connect to the children who were living in fear, Alexandra transformed her artistic endeavours into a source of comfort for children, recording her book "The Moonmill Tales" to share through her Telegram channel. Alexandra also created three "Kind Collections" of fairy tales, 100+40 fairy tales, which were written and illustrated by her and students of Alexandra's art academy Add Magic Academy. Raised funds were donated to Ukrainian volunteers from Cherkassy.



Alexandra Dikaia – Ukrainian Artist

Mariia, an international composer before the conflict, experienced a seismic shift in her life. "Everything changed in one day," she laments. Her artistic pursuits were a constant struggle as she grappled with the emotional toll of the war, straddling two contrasting realities—one as a global artist and the other as a Ukrainian woman fearing for her homeland.

### **War Through the Lens of Creativity: Turning Adversity into Art**

The impact of the war forced both Alexandra and Mariia to infuse their art with the harsh realities of conflict. Alexandra vividly recalls emotional public readings in Bulgaria and Estonia, sharing her fairy tales with Ukrainian children. Mariia, on the other hand, uses her compositions to pay tribute to those affected by the war. One of them is a poignant piece 'Lullaby', written for the children who lost their lives. Lullaby

is transcribed from music to art by Alexandra. You can immerse yourself in Lullaby by visiting this link [Ukrainian Fairytale Mariia Yaremak, Alexandra Dikaia](#)

Alexandra created the artwork during a live performance as part of Helping Hands: Ukrainian Hearts in British Hands, alongside Mariia who played the piano and created the musical composition. The artwork depicts a Ukrainian defender.

### **Navigating the Emotional Terrain: A Daily Struggle**



Maria Yaremak – Ukrainian Composer and Musician

Mariia reflects on the emotional conflict she faces daily, toggling between her life as an artist and the heart-breaking updates on her phone. Scrolling through Instagram, she witnesses individuals desperately trying to raise funds for their survival—a stark reminder of the heavy emotional toll borne by those directly affected by the conflict. She also frequently helps with fundraisers herself and has been involved as an organiser or performer in more than 30 charity events around the world. One of the events took place in London with the participation of HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh where Maria performed her music to draw attention to current events.

### **Creating Light Amidst Darkness: A Shared Mission**

Despite the challenges, Alexandra and Mariia are unwavering in their commitment to illuminating the darkness with their art. Alexandra emphasises the importance of carrying light into our lives, particularly for children: "Children are our future. It's our mission to show the world can be kind even in dark times."

### **The Artistic Symphony: A Collaborative Project Unfolds**

Alexandra and Mariia have come together for a joint project that goes beyond the boundaries of art and music. They're working to create a tapestry of Ukrainian culture through a musical scorebook, intertwining cinematic melodies with captivating visual art.

Ukrainian Music Tales is now available for pre-order at [alexandradikaia.com/bookofnotes](https://alexandradikaia.com/bookofnotes). It showcases the richness of Ukrainian folklore and cultural heritage. With a QR code, audiences can access a project that goes beyond a concert—it's a testament to the resilience and creativity that emerge even in the face of adversity.

Helping Hands: Ukrainian Hearts in British Hands may have concluded, but its echoes reverberate through the shared stories of Alexandra, Mariia, and the collective of artists who turned their talents into a force for good. In the aftermath of tragedy, they remind us that art and music can be powerful tools for healing and unity.

For more information about Mariia you can listen to her at <https://www.youtube.com/@mariia.yaremak> and Alexandra's work can be viewed at <https://alexandradikaia.com/>