

The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present:

# ZHADAN'S FRIENDS 2022



Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Museum & present:

ZHADAN'S FRIENDS 2022  
Yara artists read Zhadan's newest poems  
in translations by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

Newest poems by Serhiy Zhadan

“Your attention is great” read by Sean Eden & Maria Pleshkevich  
with music by Julian Kytasty

“We watch how perfectly” read by Maria Pleshkevich  
with music by Julian Kytasty

“This is a good opportunity” read by Sean Eden

“People are lonely” read by Sophia Gutchinov  
with music by Julian Kytasty

“Waiting for the snow” read by Maksym Lozynskyy & Sophia Gutchinov  
with music by Julian Kytasty

“Aviation 58” words by Serhiy Zhadan song by Susan Hwang

“Which poet is buried in this city,” read by Sean Eden

“Of all literature” read by Lesia Verba & Susan Hwang  
with music by Anthony Coleman

Book launch of *Three Wooden Trunks* poetry by Virlana Tkacz  
“First Day,” “First Job,” & “Endangered Language Project”

Improvisation with music by Anthony Coleman & Julian Kytasty

May 13, 2022 live event directed by Virlana Tkacz  
graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko

**SERHIY ZHADAN** was born in the Luhansk Region of Ukraine and educated in Kharkiv where he lives today. He is the author of twelve books of poetry. His prose works include *Voroshilovgrad*, *Mesopotamia* and *The Orphanage*. He is the front man for the band Zhadan and the Dogs, and has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2002. Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps in 2019 and last year published the translation by Reilley Costigan-Humes and Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler of Zhadan's novel *The Orphanage*.

**ANTHONY COLEMAN**, pianist and composer, is one of the key figures of the New York music scene. His work bridges the gap between Composition and Improvisation, Uptown and Downtown, and spanning Free Improvisation, Jazz, Jewish music, and Contemporary Chamber Music. After earning a MA in Composition from Yale School of Music, Coleman immersed himself in New York's Downtown Scene. Coleman has recorded 15 CDs and has played on more than 150. He's on the faculty of the New England Conservatory.

**SEAN EDEN** (performer) is a musician, composer, producer, and actor. He appeared in the first Yara production, *A Light from the East*, as well as *Explosions*, *Raven*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock*, *Dark Night Bright Stars* and *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*. He also has participated in a number of Yara poetry events over the years. He was a member of the acclaimed band Luna, who released seven studio albums over their career and created music for the scores of several feature films.

**SOPHIA GUTCHINOV** is honored to be part of this event. Having written poetry her whole life, not until recently has she finally shared it with the world. She is a multidisciplinary artist, a current resident artist at La MaMa creating her own show; [www.sophiagutchinov.com](http://www.sophiagutchinov.com) @sophiagutchinov

**SUSAN HWANG** tells stories and makes things that are collapsible, like songs and times—physical objects she can't play, wear or eat intimidate her. She's the founder and host of The Bushwick Book Club – an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. Her duo with songwriter/ producer Charlie Nieland is called Lusterlit, and they refuse to play anything but songs about books. Susan plays accordions because they're pretty and lighter than pianos (barely). She plays drums because it's healthy for a girl to hit things.

**JULIAN KYTASTY** (composer and bandura) grew up within a strong tradition of family music-making. He is a third generation bandurist following in the footsteps of his father Petro and grandfather Ivan Kytasty. He works frequently with Yara Arts Group, most recently *Slap!* about the life and travels of David Burliuk, known as the Father of Futurism. His work on Yara's *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned him a NY Innovative Theater Award for best original score.

**MAKSYM LOZYSKYJ** is singer, songwriter, producer, and actor. His music is available on iTunes and Spotify under the name, Maksym Loz. He starred in the major motion picture, musical romantic comedy, "Hutsulka Ksenia" which is available to stream on Amazon. He is set to graduate this year from Berklee College of Music with a master's in music production.

**MARIA PLESHKEVICH** is an actor and musician who has been performing with Yara Arts since 2014. In New York, she has appeared at La MaMa, Atlantic, The Player's Theatre, Sundog Theatre, The Producers Club and Columbia University, among others. Musical collaborations include Korinya and the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America.

**LESYA VERBA** is from Odesa, Ukraine and sings traditional music, jazz and her own compositions. She plays a traditional Ukrainian instrument called the bandura and has been involved in reviving the rituals of southern Ukraine for 30 years. Her visual

art has been exhibited at international exhibitions and museums. Her album "Gold," a collaboration with poet Mariana Kiyonovska, was released in 2020.

**VIRLANA TKACZ** heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed thirty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps of Serhiy Zhadan's poetry.

**WANDA PHIPPS** (co-translator) a founding member of Yara Arts Group, is a writer/translator and author of the books *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems* among others. Her poetry has been published over 100 times and translated into Ukrainian, Hungarian, Arabic, Galician and Bangla. She has received awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Agni Journal, the National Theater Translation Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

**THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM** was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America as a showcase for Ukrainian culture. The Museum has amassed extensive collections of folk art, fine art, and archival material. It mounts several exhibitions annually; publishes accompanying bilingual catalogues; organizes courses, workshops, and other educational programs; and hosts a variety of public events. In April 2005 the Museum moved into a new, state-of-the-art facility in New York's East Village, funded entirely by the Ukrainian American community.

**YARA ARTS GROUP** was established in 1990 and is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created thirty-seven theatre pieces based on extensive research in Eastern Europe, Siberia and Asia, in Yara's signature style of multilingual dialogue and songs supported by evocative visuals and documentation. Yara has worked with Serhiy Zhadan since 2002. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 [yara@prodigy.net](mailto:yara@prodigy.net) [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)**

Yara's Spring Poetry Events were made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and the Self Reliance Foundation. Since 2015 they have been at the Ukrainian Museum.

NEXT

### **RADIO 477: IN CONCERT**

*Inspired by a 1929 jazz musical about Kharkiv*

text: Serhiy Zhadan, music: Anthony Coleman, director: Virlana Tkacz

performed by Yara Arts Group with Orchestra

**JUNE 17, 2022. Friday 7:30 PM - Vaclav Havel Festival at Bohemian Hall**

