



## Ukrainian Culture in America Series

### Julian Kytasty and the Kytasty Family

**Entrance music:** *Chenchyk*” (*Little monk*)

performed by Ivan and Petro Kytasty, recorded in 1960

**Introduction to the Kytasty Family-** *Virlana Tkacz*

**Music:** “*Вязанка*” (*Medley*)

performed by Kyiv Capella recorded in 1937

**Music:** “*У Києві*” (*In Kyiv*)

performed by Ivan and Petro Kytasty, recorded in 1960

**Music:** “*Запорізький марш*” (*March of the Zaporozhians*)

performed by Ivan and Petro Kytasty, recorded in 1960

**Family Influences – Julian Kytasty**

**Music:** “*Сирітка*” (*The orphan*)

performed by Ivan Kytasty, recorded in the early 1970s

**Music:** “*Молодичка*” (*The young woman*)

performed by Petro Kytasty, recorded in 1978

**Music:** “*Нагадай бандуро*” (*Banduro, remind me*)

composed & performed by Hryhoriy Kytasty, recorded in 1960s

**Music:** “*Improvisation on a Historical Song*”

Composed and performed by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2022

**Picking Up the Family Tradition - Irene Kytasty Kuzma**

**Music:** “*Прощайч прощай*” (*Farewell*)

words & music by Hryhoriy Nadretny, arranged by Petro Kytasty

performed by Teryn, Alina & Irene Kytasty Kuzma

and Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2018

**The Fourth Generation – Alina Kuzma**

**Music:** “*Коли не було*” (*Before the World Began*)

performed by Alina Kytasty Kuzma and Ivan Dusanovsky,

recorded in 2022

**Exit Music:** “*Вязанка*” (*Medley*)

Performed by Petro & Julian Kytasty, recorded 1992

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

with: Julian Kytasty, Irene Kytasty-Kuzma and Alina Kuzma

visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko, tech support: Nadia Sokolenko

**JULIAN KYTASTY** is one of the world's premier players of the bandura (Ukrainian lute-harp). As a performer, recording artist, composer, and ensemble leader, he has redefined the possibilities of his instrument. His discography includes tributes to the bandura's deep tradition, innovative ensemble recordings, World Music collaborations, a duo with Free Improvisation master Derek Bailey, electroacoustic projects, and his solo instrumental recording "Nights in Banduristan". Julian Kytasty has composed music for theater, modern dance, and film, including an award-winning score for the National Film Board of Canada feature documentary, "My Mother's Village." His work on Yara Arts Group's "1917-2017" earned two NY Innovative Theatre Awards, for Best Original Score and Best Musical. Last year, Julian Kytasty was awarded the title Honored Artist of Ukraine.

**IRENE KYTASTY KUZMA** is the founder and Administrative Director of the Women's Bandura Ensemble. Irene began as a bandura instructor in the Detroit area and at summer camps at the age of 16 and continues this important task to this day. She has introduced the bandura, its history and music through numerous workshops and has performed in groups and as a soloist across the United States, in Canada, Ukraine and South America. As the Educational Coordinator of New York Bandura, she established the successful "Bandura at Bobriwka" program in 2011 bringing together former instructors to help teach and pass on the love for the bandura and Ukrainian song to a new generation. The establishment of the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America fulfills her goal to give women in the diaspora the opportunity to develop as musicians and to raise awareness of the bandura as a vital voice and an important cultural force in world music.

**ALINA KYTASTY KUZMA** is a bandurist/vocalist, the lead singer of Korinya Folk Band, and a founding member of the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America. Her vocal stylings are influenced by a lifetime of involvement with bandura, classical music and Eastern European open voice technique (ridniy holos). Through musical creations and collaborations, she seeks to channel stories and aesthetics of the past with modern, heartfelt interpretations and soulful vocals. Music has taken Alina across the United States, Canada and Argentina for various performances, lessons and workshop instruction. Her love for bandura and folk music inspired her to co-found the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America in 2014, and she continues to serve on its Executive Committee. Alina holds a certificate in Arts Management from Humber College, and works with Toronto artists and organizations to create unifying cultural experiences.

**VIRLANA TKACZ** heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty original shows rooted in material from the East at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She has co-produced a series of concerts and recordings of Buryat Mongolian artists and of the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia from the Carpathian Mountains. She has also worked with Kyrgyz artists to create two theatre pieces based on Kyrgyz epics songs.

**WALDEMART KLYUZKO** is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ*. He is a visual artist who has had exhibits at La MaMa Galleria, the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Bezpala Gallery in Toronto.

**NADIA SOKOLENKO** has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2002, including the mega exhibition Kurbas: New Worlds at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in 2018.

**SPECIAL THANKS TO:** Stacey Dunkerley, Peter and Alex Kytasty.

Further information: "Music of Survival" film made in 2015 by Orest Sushko. Clips are on YouTube, as is an interview with the director.

Yara's related virtual events include series on bandurist Zenon Shtokalko (2020), World Epic Songs (2020) and Old and New World Music (2021) links on [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)

**YARA ARTS GROUP**, established in 1990, is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created forty 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 also created numerous traditional music, poetry and events. **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)

**SPECIAL SPONSORS** for **Yara's Ukrainian Culture in America Series:** Ukrainian Community Foundation and Philadelphia's Ukrainian Selfreliance FCU. The series is made possible with public fund from the New York Council on the Arts and the New York City Department of Culture, as well as the Self Reliance Foundation of New York and friends of Yara Arts Group.

