

Yara Arts Group presents a virtual event;



Yara Arts Group presents:

***Koliada in Kryvorivnia
Home***

Ivan & Mykola Zelenchuk, Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk
& Ostap Kostyuk

Entrance music: Tsymbaly played by Vasyl Tymchuk.

Virlana Tkacz on the Hutsul Koliada and Yara

Koliadnyky sing “My slawni hazdy” (We’re the famous masters)
Ivan Zelenchuk on his home and his part in the Hutsul Koliada.
Mykola Ilyuk on his home and family.
Mykola Zelenchuk on building his home.
Koliadnyky sing Koliada to the Master of the house.
Mykola Ilyuk on his participation in the Hutsul Koliada.
Koliadnyky play instrumental Hutsul Melodies & Hitsulka
Mykola Ilyuk on his home.
Vasyl Tymchuk on his daughters who sing a new Koliada.
Koliadnyky sing “Koliada divchatkam” [Song to the girls]
Mykola Ilyuk vinshuie divchatam [Well wishes to the girls]
Ostap Kostyuk on returning to his home and music
Video from Yara’s “*Still the River Flows*” (2008) “**Teche Ricka**”
with **Mykhailo Tafiychuk** on *duda* (bagpipes.)
Ivan Zelenchuk on Mykhailo Tafiychuk
Koliadnyky sing and dance to the bees
Koliadnyky sing their leave taking and blessings

Exit music: Telynka played by Ostap Kostyuk

Virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz
with the Koliadnyky
Nadia Sokolenko: zoom tech
Maria Zelenchuk Dosiak: video
Waldemart Klyuzko: design

KOLIADNYKY sing the songs of the Koliada, a winter ritual that now coincides with Christmas, but long pre-dates it in some parts of Eastern Europe. They live in the village of Kryvorivnia, high in the Carpathian Mountains of western Ukraine, where the Koliada is the most important event of the year. Groups of winter song singers visit every household and sing a specially chosen song to each member of the family, both living and recently deceased. These ancient songs are thought to hold magical powers: spring will not come unless they are sung.

Instruments: The *trembita* (mountain horn) is made of a hollowed pine tree that has been struck by lightning and wrapped in birch bark. Fiddles for the Koliada are played in a special tuning. The musicians also play the *duda* (bagpipes made from a goat), *tsymbaly* (hammer dulcimer), *drymby* (jaw harps) and a variety of hand-made Carpathian flutes, including the *tylynka* (overtone flute).

IVAN ZELENCHUK is the “bereza,” lead singer and leader of the Koliadnyky. He comes from an old Kryvorivnia family and was the village head, as well as the best-known winter song singer. He is the son of Ivan Zelenchuk whose handwritten notebook of winter songs has helped to preserve this tradition for future generations. Now, Ivan considers his involvement in the *koliada* his personal mission. He met the members of Yara when they first visited the village in 2002 and took part in Yara’s *Koliada* shows in Kyiv, New York, Saratoga Springs, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco and Toronto.

MYKOLA ZELENCHUK, the son of Ivan, proudly carries on the tradition of his forefathers, both as a winter song singer and the best *trembita* (mountain long horn) player in the village. He also makes the traditional costumes for the winter song singers. He has taken part in Yara productions and was featured in *Still the River Flows*, *Winter Sun*, *Midwinter Night*, *Winter Light* and *Winter Songs on Mars* in New York at La MaMa and in Toronto.

MYKOLA ILYUK is a master Carpathian fiddler and plays most of the traditional instruments of the Hutsuls, including the *duda* (bag pipes) and the *trembita*. He is the director of the renowned Hutsul instrumental ensemble and has his own museum of musical instruments from the area. He was the master fiddler for Yara’s *Winter Sun*, *Midwinter Night*, *Winter Light*, *Winter Songs on Mars* and Koliada events in 2010-2019. He created the music for Yara’s show with Shumka Dancers.

VASYL TYMCHUK comes from a musical family in Zamahory and learned to play *tsymbaly* from the renowned musician Shepatiuk. Today he leads the children’s ensemble of Hutsul music in Verkhovyna School and is proud to be passing on his musical knowledge to the next generation. He has worked with Yara since 2010

OSTAP KOSTYUK is from a Kosmach family. He plays the *duda* (bagpipes) and various flutes. He represents the newest generation that has become expert in this ancient tradition and was featured in Yara’s shows in New York and Toronto.

VIRLANA TKACZ (host & director) heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over 40 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. Her production of *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* won two New York Innovative Theatre Awards. In 2018, she co-curated the exhibition *Kurbas: New Worlds* at the Art Arsenal in Kyiv. Recently, she co-created *The Magic of Light* with Julian Kytasty & Tom Lee. www.yaraartsgroup.net

NADIA SOKOLENKO (zoom tech & editor) has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2002, including most of Yara’s theatre shows in Ukraine, as well as Yara’s Kurbas events and museum exhibitions, including *Kurbas: New Worlds* at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in 2018.

MARIA ZELENCHUK DOSIAK (videographer) is from Kryvorivnia, the legendary village in the Carpathians. She has created two videos for Yara’s Traditional Arts Series: “Hutsul Keptars” and “Hutsul Honey” which have thousands of views. Her video “Hutsul Embroidery” premieres December 30.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO (graphic artist) is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ* and working on the development of *Radio 477!* He also co-curated the exhibitions on Les Kurbas in Kyiv, Kharkiv and at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv. He is a visual artist who has had exhibits in New York and Kyiv.

Related events: Dec 30, 2025 Hutsul Chiltse, new video by Maria Zelenchuk Dosiak. Links to these and many video clips from Yara theatre productions on our website links www.yaraartsgroup.net or Yara Arts Group’s YouTube Channel.

Jan 9, 2026 Book Presentation of “*Sypersyla Rizdva*” {**Superpower of Ukrainian Christmas**} with Bohdana Neborak and Virlana Tkacz at the Les Kurbas Theatre Center at 7 PM vul Volodymyrska 23V in Kyiv.

YARA ARTS GROUP, established in 1990, is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created 40 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 www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara’s Koliada and Winter Festival events are made possible with public funds from the New York State 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.