



Ukrainian Culture in America Series

Julian Kytasty and Yara Arts Group

Entrance music: *Aeroplan*

composed & performed by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2020

Julian Kytasty & Yara: Roots of Collaboration - Virlana Tkacz

Music: “*Steppe Music*” composed and performed by Julian Kytasty with Battuvshin, recorded in 2004

Music: from “*Bicycling through Transylvania*” by Staroviry at Nova Nomada #1, recorded June 6, 1999

Poetry in Performance in Theatre – Virlana Tkacz & Julian Kytasty

Video: “A Cloud” section from *Dark Night Bright Stars* in Kyiv with poetry by Shevchenko, traditional Ukrainian and African songs music by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2014

Video: “*Jerusalem*” from *Dark Night, Bright Stars* in Kyiv traditional hymn, arranged by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2014

Video: “Time Passes” from Yara’s *Midwinter Night* at La MaMa music by Julian Kytasty, recorded December 2012

Video: “Winter Sun” music by Julian Kytasty, chorus from traditional Nativity Puppet Play, in *Koliada on Mars*, recorded December 2019

Theatre from Epics and Poetry—Virlana Tkacz & Julian Kytasty with Bob Holman, plus Larysa Rusnak from Kyiv

Video: “Song of Truth and Lies” from *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine* traditional historical song, recorded in February 2014

Video: rehearsal of Skovoroda poem, music by Julian Kytasty, spring 2017

Video: Tychyna’s “Test” from *Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* in Lviv

Video: “Take Only” from *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs*

Bandura as Film, Art & Avant-garde – Virlana Tkacz & Julian Kytasty with Volodymyr Klyuzko from Kyiv

Video: “*Bandura Ping Pong*” 2014

Exit video: “On the Stoop” video by Susan Hwang, 2022

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

with: Julian Kytasty & Bob Holman (New York), Larysa Rusnak & Waldemart Klyuzko (Kyiv, Ukraine) visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko

tech support: Susan Hwang and 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.

BOB HOLMAN is founder of the Bowery Poetry Club, author of 17 books, has had two award-winning films broadcast on PBS, The United States of Poetry and Language Matters, and has taught at Princeton, Columbia, NYU, Bard and The New School. He has written Forwards for books by Serhiy Zhadan and Oleh Lysheha. With Yara, he toured Ukraine and performed at La MaMa as Captain John Smith in *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*; he played Czar Nicolas and Some Crazy Poet in *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs*. With Julian, Virlana and Susan he is devising the play *Slap!*, playing David Burliuk. *Slap!* was to have premiered in Ukraine this past spring.

LARYSA RUSNAK appeared in numerous theatre productions, films and TV projects. She works at the Franko National Theatre in Kyiv. She has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2011, when she created the central female characters in Oleh Lysheha's *Raven*. In 2014, she was in *Underground Dream*, when this show about Donetsk came to Kyiv and became a show about war and refugees. Larysa created the unforgettable role of the refugee looking for the keys to the home she had been forced to flee. In 2015, She was in the first workshops of *Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* in Kyiv, as well as performances at GogolFest, the Lviv Book Forum and finally at the Mala Opera in Kyiv.

WALDEMART KLYUZKO 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 curated the exhibit *Bandura in Newyorkshchyna* at the Museum of Theatre, Music and Film in Kyiv. 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 at La MaMa Galleria, the Ukrainian Institute of America and the Ukrainian Museum in New York City, as well as the Bezpala Gallery in Toronto.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed almost 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 exhibit *Les Kurbas: New Worlds* at the Art Arsenal in Kyiv and wrote the catalog which is now available for free through links on www.yaraartsgroup.net

SUSAN HWANG is a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has toured internationally performing music and theater. She is the founder and director of The Bushwick Book Club — an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. She has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2010, performing and co-creating *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine* and *Slap!*

NADIA SOKOLENKO 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.

Yara's related virtual events include series on bandura players Tania Vovk (2021) and Zenon Shtokalko (2020), World Epic Songs Festival (2020) and Old and New World Music Festival (2021). There are also many video clips from Yara theatre productions on our website links 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 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

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 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.

