

Yara Arts Group and Poets of Queens present:

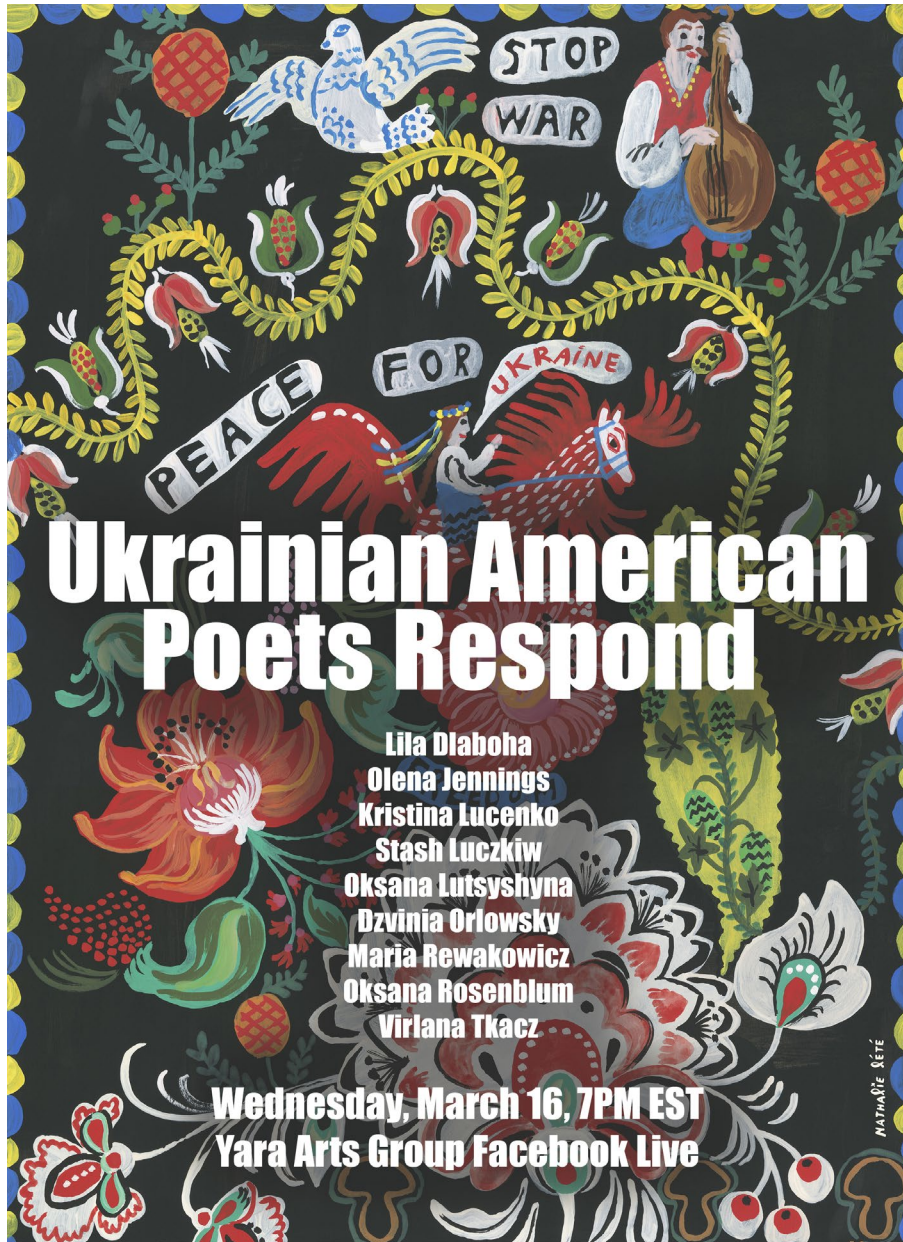


Image: painting by Nathalie Lete

Yara Arts Group and Poets of Queens present:

Ukrainian American Poet Respond

Opening & Closing Music by Julian Kytasty

Poems by

Lila Dlaboha

Olena Jennings

Kristina Lucenko

Stash Luczkiw

Oksana Lutsyshyna

Dzvinia Orlovsky

Maria Rewakowicz

Oksana Rosenblum

&

Virlana Tkacz

Tech: Martin Nikolov

THE POETS and ARTISTS

A 2018 finalist in the Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize judged by Jane Hirshfield, **LILA DLABOHA** was born to Ukrainian immigrants on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. She was recently short-listed for the Poetry International Prize 2021. Her poems have appeared in *Arts & Letters* (Georgia College), *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Mudfish*, Andre Codrescu's *Exquisite Corpse*, among other publications. On and off for the past eight years she has been involved with humanitarian work in the war zone.

OLENA JENNINGS is the author of the poetry collection *Songs from an Apartment* (2017) and the chapbook *Memory Project* (2018.) Her novel *Temporary Shelter* was released in 2021 from Cervena Barva Press. She is the founder and curator of the Poets of Queens reading series.

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 work on Yara Arts Group's *1917-2017* earned two NY Innovative Theatre Awards, for Best Original Score and Best Musical. This September, Julian Kytasty was awarded the title Honored Artist of Ukraine.

KRISTINA LUCENKO teaches writing and rhetoric at Stony Brook University. She has translated into English the work of Ukrainian poet Vasyl Makhno, and written reviews of theatre and poetry, including Yara Arts Group performances and Serhiy Zhadan's *What We Live For, What We Die For*.

STASH LUCZKIW was born in New York City. He's the author of 3 recent books of poetry: "Inlays," "Selah" and "Vineworks." He works as a translator and has just completed a soon to be published novel set against the war in Ukraine called "Ashen Glory." He currently lives in Italy.

OKSANA LUTSYSHYNA is an award-winning writer, translator, and literary scholar. The latest of her poetry collections, *Persephone Blues*, was published in the English translation in 2019 by *Arrowsmith*. Her latest novel *Ivan and Phoebe* (2019) has been awarded the UNESCO Lviv City of Literature Award in 2020, and Shevchenko National Prize (2021). Oksana Lutsyshyna is currently a Lecturer in Ukrainian Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

Pushcart prize and award-winning author, **DZVINIA ORLOWSKY**, has published six poetry collections including *A Handful of Bees*, reprinted for the Carnegie Mellon University Classic Contemporary Series, *Convertible Night*, *Flurry of Stone*, winner of a New England Poetry Club Sheila Motton Book Award, and *Bad Harvest*, a 2019 Massachusetts Book Awards "Must Read" in Poetry. Her co-translations with Ali Kinsella from Ukrainian, *Eccentric Days of Hope and Sorrow: Selected Poems* by Natakka Bilotserkivets was published by Lost Horse Press in 2021.

MARIA G. REWAKOWICZ is a poet, translator and literary scholar. She has authored four collections of poetry in Ukrainian and two monographs of literary criticism in English. Her most recent publication is a translated volume of Mykola Vorobiov's selected poetry titled *Mountain and Flower* (2020). Born to Ukrainian parents in Poland, Rewakowicz lives in New York City.

OKSANA ROSENBLUM is an art history researcher and translator based in New York City. She was born and raised in Ukraine but calls NYC her home since 2003. Her poetry translations from Ukrainian, essays, and book reviews appeared in National Translation Month, Versopolis, Ukrainian Weekly, and Asymptote. She co-edited a bilingual volume of the early poetry of Mykola Bazhan, an important and prolific Ukrainian poet of the 20th century (Academic Studies Press, 2020).

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed almost forty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She has translated Ukrainian poetry with Wanda Phipps since 1989 and was awarded the NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry.

MARTIN NIKOLOV is a Bulgarian-American actor and filmmaker. His acting experience includes *The Room* and *The Danube* at the Hangar Theater, *The Flick*, *The Antipodes*, *Dogfight*, *Fine*. with Vassar Drama, the indie feature *I Want to Live on Mars*, *The Night Crew* at NYFA Australia, and *He Loves You* with Vassar Film. He graduated from Vassar College in 2020. mvnikolov.com @mvnikolov

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 also created hundreds of traditional music, poetry and art events. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 yara@prodigy.net www.yaraartsgroup.net**

Yara projects are made possible by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, as well as Self Reliance (NY) Foundation and contributions from friends of Yara.



Council on
the Arts

**NYC Cultural
Affairs**