

The Ukrainian Museum and Yara Arts Group present:

YARA'S WINTER FESTIVAL:

NEW & OLD WORLD MUSIC

Ukrainian bandura
Julian Kytasty

Korean gayageum
Do Yeon Kim

Chinese pipa
Xiao-Fen Min

Iranian qanun
Afarin Nazarijou

Traditional songs
Iryna Voloshyna & Alina Kuzma

www.yaraartsgroup.net

Dec 17-19, 2021

Yara Arts Group and The Ukrainian Museum present:

Yara's Winter Festival NEW & OLD WORLD MUSIC

Friday

Min Xiao-Fen playing Chinese pipa

“Spring, River, Flower, Moon, Night” (Traditional lyric style) This piece dates from the Tang Dynasty (618-907 A.D.). It describes a scene at sunset, vividly portraying the picturesque scenery and the beautiful spring sounds of the murmuring streams, unfolding clouds, waves washing against the shore, the singing fishermen and distant bells.

“Sunny Spring, White Snow” (Traditional) The music is an expression of the coming spring and the welcome return of nature. A celebration of life.

Afarin Nazarijou playing Iranian qanun

Improvisation in the mode Isafahan
Chârmezrab Isfahan composer: Faramarz Pâyvar

Min Xiao-Fen in musical dialogue with Julian Kytasty

Afarin Nazarijou improvising on the Iranian qanun

Improvisation in mode Isafahan
Improvisation in mode Nava

Min Xiao-Fen playing Chinese pipa

“Ask Me Now” Thelonious Monk/Min Xiao-Fen
“San” by Min Xiao-Fen In the Chinese language, “san” means three. This composition consists of three notes and is inspired by Monk’s Raise four.

events directed by Virlana Tkacz

design and tech support: Darien Fiorino

graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko, photographer: Pavlo Terekhov

Saturday

Julian Kytasty playing Ukrainian bandura

Epic song played on an old time bandura about passing on a legacy to the next generation.

Do Yeon Kim playing Korean gayageum

Jeong-ak Korean traditional chamber music, called *jeong-ak*, was written for high-society audiences, including nobility and scholars. This piece is titled ChenNeonManSae, which translates to “1000 years of well being”, and was often performed for the King.

Sanjo is a genre of Korean folk music performed solo and based around loosely organized improvisational motifs called *heoteun garak*, which translates to “scattered melodies”. This music is among the most complex in the traditional canon. I will play a Sanjo excerpt in the style of Kim Byung Ho, a gayageum player of historical importance.

Julian Kytasty playing Ukrainian bandura

Two dance tunes from early 20th century played on a Kyiv style bandura

“Homin stepiv” (Echo of the steppe) by Hryhoriy Kytasty 1960s

Do Yeon Kim playing Korean gayageum

Chimhyang-moo -A modern piece for gayageum, written in 1974 by the famous composer Byungki Hwang. It is based on Buddhist music, and expresses the primitive emotions of the East and the West.

Julian Kytasty playing Ukrainian bandura

“Nights in Banduristan” improvisations on Kharkiv style bandura.

Do Yeon Kim playing Korean gayageum

Free improvisation -This piece is spontaneously improvised, and features extended techniques I’ve developed for the gayageum.

Sunday

Alina Kuzma traditional Ukrainian singer

Ой у Києві – (Oh, in Kyiv)

Коли не було (Before the World Began)

Маланочка - (Malanka)

Ой ти дубе дубе - (Oak tree)

Iryna Voloshyna traditional Ukrainian singer

Ой, дай Бо’ (колядка до дівчини) Let it be so (winter song to girl)

Чий же то плужок (колядка до хлопця)/ Whose plow is it? (winter song to a boy)

Зажурилися гори й долини/ Mountains and valleys are grown sad (with Julian Kytasty and Alina Kuzma)

Великий город / A big town/

Чого поле почорніло?/ Why did the field turn black?

Ой дві сестри брата мали/ Two sisters had a brother

Ой чого водиця та й каламутиться?/What is muddying the water?

Косарики косять/ Harvesters reap

Ой дай, мамо, стакан рому/ Oh mother give me a glass of rum (with Julian Kytasty and Alina Kuzma)

Alina Kuzma & Iryna Voloshyna

Понад ставком понад ставочком-/ Near the pond

Ой на горі ой щурята – Rats on the hill

THE ARTISTS

MIN XIAO-FEN Few artists have done more to both honor and reinvent the 2000-year history of the *pipa* than soloist, vocalist and composer Min Xiao-Fen. Classically trained, she was a principal *pipa* soloist with Nanjing Traditional Music Orchestra and won the first prize at the Jiangsu National *Pipa* Competition. Min was an in-demand interpreter of traditional music before relocating to the United States and forging a new path for her instrument alongside many of the leading lights in modern jazz, free improvisation, experimental and contemporary classical music. NPR Weekend Edition lauded her as “one of the world’s greatest virtuosos,” while The New York Times raved that her singular work “has traversed a sweeping musical odyssey.”

AFARIN NAZARIJOU started playing piano at five and expanded to the *qanun*, a traditional Persian string instrument, which became her main instrument. She also played the *tombak* (Persian percussion) in Tehran Music School where she graduated with honors. She had the privilege of studying Iranian classical music and improvisation, as well as the physics of sound at University of Tehran, where she graduated with a Master's in performance. To expand her perspective of music, she studied abroad on scholarship at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston where she won the Peter Row Award in 2021. Currently, she is at the University of Alberta. She is passionate about sharing her knowledge and love of music with people from different cultures, playing Iranian Classical music, free improvisation, composing and arranging for mixed ensembles

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. This September, Julian Kytasty was awarded the title Honoured Artist of Ukraine.

DOYEON KIM is an internationally acclaimed and award-winning virtuoso of the gayageum (a traditional Korean string instrument). In addition to traditional Korean music, DoYeon specializes in World Music, Free Jazz, Jazz, and Improvisation. She regularly performs solo and group concerts worldwide in Asia, Europe, North America, and South America. As a graduate of the New England Conservatory, and protégé of the world's leading gayageum master Yi Jiyoung, DoYeon has performed alongside many distinguished improvisors, including Joe Morris, Agusti Fernandez, Barry Guy and Tyshawn Sorey. Her 2017 album Gapi was nominated for a Korean Grammy award, and her latest album Macrocosm, with Joe Morris, received international critical acclaim. DoYeon Kim was recognized as one of 7 "Musicians Pushing Ancient Asian Instruments into the Future" by Grammy.com (2021).

IRYNA VOLOSHYNA is a PhD student at the Department of Folklore and Ethnomusicology at Indiana University Bloomington. She is a Fulbright Fellow, and received her MA in Folklore at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. She earned her BA with honors in Philology and a specialist diploma in Translation at Khmelnytskyi National University, Ukraine. Iryna worked with the New York State Council on the Arts, New York Folklore Society, Yara Arts Group, Ukrainian Museum in New York and Ukrainian-American Museum and

Archive in Detroit. She also sang with the NYC-based ensemble Ukrainian Village Voices. Most recently, she is a founder and an artistic director of a newly formed Indiana Slavic Choir at Indiana University Bloomington.

ALINA KUZMA is a vocalist/*bandurist* and arts administrator based in Toronto, Ontario. She is in the fourth generation of her family to take on the *bandura* tradition. Alina began performing with Yara Arts Group of La MaMa Theater in 2012, and has been the lead singer of Korinya Folk Band since 2008. Music has given her the opportunity to perform throughout the United States, Canada and Argentina. Her love for *bandura* and folk music inspired her to co-found the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America in 2014, where she now serves on the Executive Committee. Alina holds a certificate in Arts Management from Humber College, and works with artists and organizations to create unifying cultural experiences for people of all walks of life.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty original shows 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 (graphics) 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.

DARIEN FIORINO (design & tech support) is at Cornell University studying environmental science and performing arts. He was in Yara's *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Anthony Coleman, Julian Kytasty, Oksana Lebedivna, Olena Chemyzh-Tkach, Alina Kuzma

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**

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