



## Ukrainian Culture in America Series

### Julian Kytasty and the Bandura Tradition in the Diasporas

**Entrance music:** *Dance 3* from *Variances*  
performed by Paris to Kyiv, recorded in 1996

***Julian Kytasty in Canada- Virlana Tkacz***  
**Music:** “*Vocalise*” from *Variances*  
performed by Paris to Kyiv, recorded in 1996

***Bandura camps & the Experimental Bandura Trio – Julian Kytasty with Mike Andrec from New Jersey***  
**Music:** “*Mosaic*”  
music by Mike Andrec performed by EBT, recorded in 1999  
**Music:** “*Kupala countepoint*”  
performed by EBT, recorded in 2003

***Night Songs from a Neighboring Village – Julian Kytasty with Dan Kahn from Hamburg, Germany***  
**Music:** “*Adam & Eve*” arranged and performed  
by Julian Kytasty & Michael Alpert, recorded in 2014

***Rediscovering the Kharkiv Bandura -- Julian Kytasty with Volodymyr Voyt from Kyiv, Ukraine***  
**Music:** “*Improvisation on Kharkiv Bandura*”  
performed by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2022  
**Video:** from “*In D*” music by Solomiya Moroz  
performed by Volodymyr Voyt & Solomiya Moroz,  
video recorded in 2021

**Exit Music:** “*Kobzar Trance*”  
created & performed EBT, 1998

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz  
with: Julian Kytasty (New York), Mike Andrec (New Jersey), Dan Kahn (Hamburg, Germany) & Volodymyr Voyt (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.

**MIKE ANDREC** began learning the bandura in the 1980s, eventually studying with Victor Mishalow and Julian Kytasty. He was a student at the Kobzarska Sich bandura camp in Emlenton, Pennsylvania. He later taught at that camp, as well as at the ODUM bandura camp in London, Ontario. He has performed as a soloist, as a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus, the Experimental Bandura Trio, and a multitude of ad hoc ensembles in New York City and beyond. He is also a composer and improviser, with an interest in extending the range of the bandura beyond the "traditional" (or what people think is traditional). He is currently employed as an archivist at the Ukrainian History and Education Center (Somerset, NJ) and the Ukrainian Orthodox Church of the USA (Somerset/South Bound Brook, NJ), and is archives consultant for the Shevchenko Scientific Society (New York, NY).

**DAN KAHN** is a Detroit-born expat troubadour whose music mixes Yiddish, English, Russian, German, klezmer, punk, and folk. His projects and groups include The Painted Bird, Brothers Nazarov, Semer Ensemble, The Internationale, and Bulat Blues. He was the original Perchik in Folksbiene's hit Fiddler and Yosl in Amerike. He played Biff in NYR's Death of a Salesman, the Badkhn in the Netflix series Unorthodox, and was featured in Carnegie Hall's From Shtetl to Stage. The videos of his Yiddish versions of Leonard Cohen, Bob Dylan, and Woody Guthrie songs have received millions of views. His celebrated new analog solo album, "word beggar", released on Oriente Musik, is an intimate program of his translations into and out of Yiddish.

**VOLODYMYR VOYT** is a Ukrainian bandura player, improviser, and composer. Born in Kyiv, he graduated from the National Music Academy of Ukraine. He is both an Honored and Merited Artist of Ukraine. He has collaborated with the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus of North America, Canadian Bandurist Capella (Toronto, Canada) and Axios Men's Ensemble (Edmonton, Canada). He has played with Okean Elzy, Julian Kytasty, Viktor Pushkar, Maxim Kolomiets, Solomiya Moroz (String Air Synthesis — Duo "SAS") and

others. He is a permanent member of the Hryhory Verjovka Ukrainian National Folkloric Ensemble.

**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.

**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.

**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) 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 [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)**

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