

Yara Arts Group presents a virtual event;



Yara Arts Group presents:

Light in the Dark: Koliada and Music from the Carpathians

featuring Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia

Christmas Eve Special
FREE any time from
December 23
2022

Virtual Event

WWW.YARAARTSGROUP.NET

 Council on the Arts
  

Yara Arts Group presents:

Light in the Dark: Koliada and Music from the Carpathians

featuring Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia
Ivan & Mykola Zelenchuk, Mykola Ilyuk & Vasyl Tymchuk

Entrance music Telynka played by Ostap Kostiuk with images of Koliadnyky in New York, Philadelphia and Hudson River Museum in 2019.

Virlana Tkacz on the Hutsul Koliada and Yara

Ivan Zelelnchuk on unique ritual that is the Hutsul Koliada from Yara's Winter Light (2014) **Refugee Monologue, Before the World the World Began** and "Oh Winter Sun"

Ivan Zelenchuk on the structure of the Hutsul Koliada from Yara's Winter Sun (2010) **Hutsuls trembita and Koliada**

Julian Kytasty on Yara's Puppet Nativity Plays

From Yara's Midwinter Night (2012) – **Herod & Time**

Music from the Carpathians

From Yara's Still the River Flows (2008) Instrumental music with **Mykhailo & Dmytro Tafiychuk**

Mykola Iliuk trembita and violin

From Yara's Koliada on Mars (2019) – **Hutsul instrumentals**

Vasyl Tymchuk tsymbaly

From Yara's Winter Light (2014) **Still the River Flows by Odosia**

Greetings: Waldemart Klyuzko & Nadia Sokolenko from Kyiv
La MaMa, Baczynsky, Archive, Self-Reliance & Veselka from New York

Exit video San Frankivsk (2015) by Koliadnyky

Virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz with the Koliadnyky, Julian Kytasty, Waldemart Klyuzko and Nadia Sokolenko. Design: Waldemart Klyuzko.

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 considered to be the most important event of the year. Groups of male 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, 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.

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.

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 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..

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.

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

Yara’s related virtual events Koliada events 2020, 2021 and the upcoming Hutsul Keptar Jackets. 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.