

La MaMa E.T.C. and Yara Arts Group present:

WINTER SONGS ON MARS



*Songs, Music and Rituals from the Carpathians,
a Baroque Folk Nativity Play
and scenes from a dream about Aelita Queen of Mars*

created by Yara Arts Group

December 20, 2019
Ellen Stewart Theatre
La MaMa Experimental Theatre
66 East 4th Street, New York City

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WINTER SONGS ON MARS

*Songs, Music and Rituals from the Carpathians,
a Baroque Folk Nativity Play
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created by Yara Arts Group

directed by Virlana Tkacz
music assembled & directed by Julian Kytasty
music on Mars by Anthony Coleman
script assembled by Virlana Tkacz, Alexandra Tkacz &
Svitlana Matviyenko
English translations by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps
movement by Shigeko Sara Suga
set by Watoku Ueno
Waldemart Klyuzko & Yvhen Kopyov
lights Jeff Nash
costumes: Keiko Obremski
sound: Caley Monahon-Ward
stage manager: Nadia Tatchyn

with:

Koliada singers from the Carpathians: Ivan and Mykola Zelenchuk
Mykola Ilyuk, Vasyl Tymchuk & Ostap Kostyuk.

Yara artists: Marina Celander, Akiko Hiroshima, Tatyana Kot, Chris
Ignacio, Maksym Lozynskyi & Darien Fiorino.

Nova Opera: Ruslan Kirsh, Yevgen Rakhmanin, Zhanna Marchinska &
Roman Grygoriv.

and **Ukrainian Village Voices:** Joanna Mielezsko, Ulana Pryjmak, Iryna
Voloshyna & Ezra Halleck.

**Yara Arts Group is a resident company of
La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club**

Part 1 COSMOS

<p>“Guarding Old Technology on Mars” by Virlana Tkacz, inspired by the 1924 film “Aelita Queen of Mars” music by Anthony Coleman “Kharkiv, Kharkiv” (1929) lyrics by Mike Iohansen & music by Yuli Meitus</p>	<p>Chris Ignacio Darien Fiorino Maksym Lozynsky Marina Celander</p>
<p>MARTIAN GUARDS</p>	
<p>AELITA, Queen of Mars</p>	
<p>KOLIADNYKY winter song singers performing part of traditional <i>Koliada</i> lead singer master fiddler singer singer, trembita singer, trembita</p>	<p>Ivan Zelenchuk Mykola Ilyuk Vasyl Tymchuk Mykola Zelenchuk Ostap Kostyuk</p>

Part 2 CAVE

<p>ANGEL</p>	<p>Akiko Hiroshima</p>
<p>CHORUS</p>	
<p>Bandura, singer cello double bass singer, baritone singer, bass</p>	<p>Julian Kytasty Zhanna Marchynska Roman Grigoriv Ruslan Kirsh Yevgen Rakhmanin</p>
<p>THREE WISE ONES</p>	<p>Ivan Zelenchuk, Vasyl Tymchuk Max Lozynskyj</p>
<p>HEROD</p>	<p>Ostap Kostyuk</p>
<p>SOLDIER</p>	<p>Mykola Zelenchuk</p>
<p>SOOTHSAYER</p>	<p>Chris Ignacio</p>
<p>RACHEL</p>	<p>Joanna Mielezsko</p>
<p>DEATH</p>	<p>Tatyana Kot</p>
<p>DEVIL</p>	<p>Roman Grigoriv</p>

Part 3 CELEBRATION

<p>Cello</p>	<p>Zhanna Marchinska</p>
<p><i>Arkan</i> traditional Hutsul dance tune</p>	<p>Koliadnyky</p>

“On the River Jordan” (<i>Shcho y na rechke na Yordane</i>) winter song from Ukraine	Ukrainian Village Voice Joanna Mielezsko, Ulana Pryjmak, Iryna Voloshyna & Ezra Hallecks
“Young Men Gathered” (<i>Ishly Molodotsi</i>), winter song to a young man, from the Sumy region of Ukraine	Julian Kytasty and Koliadnyky
“Oh Lord May It Be So” (<i>Oy day ii zhe</i>) winter song from Ukraine	Ukrainian Village Voices
<i>Cosmic Dance</i>	Tatyana Kot Music: Julian Kytasty
<i>Hutsulka</i> traditional Carpathian dance melody	Koliadnyky
“Still the River Flows,” (<i>Teche Richka</i>) Hutsul rhyming song by Odosia Plytka-Horytsvit	Ensemble
“Shchedryk” ritual song from Ukraine known as the “Carol of the Bells”	Nova Opera Matyana Golovko, Anna Kirsh, Oleksandra Maillet, Ruslan Kirsh, Yevgen Rakhmanin & Roman Grigoriv

Cave section is composed of:

excerpts from a Ukrainian folk puppet play, first recorded in 1774

with parts of the Hutsul winter ritual

“Star Glows East” lyrics by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps,

music by Juliann Kytasty

“Glassolalia,” lyrics by Ihor Rymaruk, music by Julian Kytasty

traditional lullaby

“Time Flies” and other instrumentals by Julian Kytasty

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 performed and what is sung -- will be so.

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 *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 helped to preserve this tradition for future generations despite intense persecution under fifty years of Soviet rule in this area. Now in his sixties, 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* performances in New York, Saratoga Springs, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco and Toronto, as well as in Kyiv and Kharkiv.

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* and *Winter Light* 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* and *Koliada* events in 2010-2019. He helped create the music for Yara’s show with Shumka Dancers in Edmonton, Canada.

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.

OSTAP KOSTYUK is from a Kosmach family and learned to play flute and *duda* from the legendary Mykhailo Tafiychuk. He directs the Hutsul ensemble Bai, which won first prize several years ago at the Festival of Traditional Music in Verkhovyna. He graduated from the University of Lviv and directed the award-winning *Living Fire*, about traditional shepherders. He was featured in Yara’s *Winter Sun*, *Midwinter Night*, *Winter Light* and performed in the 2010 -2019 *Koliada* events.

YARA ARTS GROUP began its collaboration with traditional artists from the Carpathians in 1995. In 2003 and 2004, Yara artists recorded the winter song ritual in Kryvorivnia and the surrounding villages. Yara is a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York. Since 1990 Yara has created 35 international collaborative cultural projects with traditional artists from Eastern Europe and Siberia.

MARINA CELANDER (Aelita, Queen of Mars) is a theatre artist, singer, dancer, living in NYC. She received the Pan Asian Repertory Theatre’s Red Socks Award for her contribution to Asian American theatre 2014; and was nominated for the Innovation in Performance Award for her solo show at Stockholm Fringe Festival 2016. Marina’s solo show *Mermaid’s Howl* was shown at La Mama ETC’s Series of One Solo Festival 2018; and Stockholm Fringe 2016;

Shakespeare's Sisters was shown at Dixon Place (2017) and Estrogenius Festival (2019). Marina has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2000.

CHRIS IGNACIO (Martian/Soothsayer) is a Filipino-American theatre artist, musician, puppeteer, producer and educator. He has toured nationally and abroad since graduating from The Boston Conservatory at Berklee, performing everything from Broadway to Off-Off-Broadway and all the fun in between. He is a Culture Push Fellow for Utopian Practice, and Queens Council on the Arts: Community Engagement Commissioning grantee for his self-produced project Co-written, which involves collaborative songwriting with young people of color.

AKIKO HIROSHIMA (Angel) performed in Yara's *Flights of the White Bird, Circle, Song Tree, Kupala* (in Kyiv), and *Fire Water Night*. Other Theatre: Kim in *Miss Saigon*; Sadako in *A Thousand Cranes*; Peppermint Patty in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*; Sieh King King in Fred Ho's *Warrior Sisters*; Teruko in *Tea*; Aiko in *Fishing for Wives*; *Jesus Christ Superstar*; *Pippin*. Films: Yuri Kochiyama in *Lest We Forget* by Emmy winning director Jason DaSilva, leading roles in independent and student films. Commercials, voiceover and prints: Intel, GE, Sprint, Amstel Beer, Audible, MoMA, Chicago Tourism, and Japanese language textbooks.

TATYANA KOT (Death) was born in the Soviet Union, trained to be a ballerina, studied History and Archaeology in the university. Breast cancer survivor. Best actress winner at Planet Connections theater festivity, Midtown international theater festival and First prize at Secondo Theater festival (Zurich, Switzerland). Company member of Blessed Unrest: *Doruntine* (Zurich-2016, NYC2015), *Body* (2015&2016), *Christmas Carol* (2013), *Euridyce's Dream* (2013). Company member of Nylon Fusion theater company: *Marina, Mata Hari, Snowfall in Berlin, The Chaplin Plays*. A VR immersive documentary about her life with cancer *Normal Day* was internationally released in 2018.

MAKSYM LOZYNSKYI (Martian/ Elder) is singer, songwriter, producer, and actor. He has written, produced, and performed the music on his two studio albums, available on iTunes and Spotify under the name, Maksym Loz. He is currently in the process of writing his third album. He has performed in various venues, including Lincoln Center, the United Nations, and the Kyiv National Opera. He also starred in the major motion picture, musical romantic comedy, *Hutsulka Ksenia*.

DARIEN FIORINO (Martian) is a junior at Cornell University studying environmental science and performing arts. He was last seen on the La Mama stage in Yara's *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs*, and has worked on many other Yara productions since. Other notable roles include Hank Williams in Leigh Fondakowski's *Spill* and Iachimo in Shakespeare's *Cymbeline*.

JOANNA MIELESZKO (Rachel) is a NYC-bred Polish-American mezzosoprano and conductor whose musical endeavors oscillate between preserving the (very) old and pioneering the daringly new. In addition to her solo work, she directs and regularly performs with

Ukrainian Village Voices, Anglica Antiqua, AEON Ensemble, among others as an active freelancer.

NOVA OPERA (Ruslan Kirsh, Yevgen Rakhmanin, Zhanna Marchinska, and Roman Grygoriv) is a group of Ukrainian artists, searching for new directions in music theatre that has performed worldwide at various opera music festivals including Prototype in New York. They co-created *Opera Gas* with Yara, performing in Kyiv and Vienna and at La MaMa Dec 19, 20 & 22, 2019.

UKRAINIAN VILLAGE VOICES (Joanna Mieleszko, Ulana Pryjmak, Iryna Voloshyna & Ezra Halleck) is a New York City-based collective of Ukrainian and non-Ukrainian singers, whose mission is to preserve and revive the polyphonic singing style of Ukraine's villages www.ukrainianvillagevoices.com

VIRLANA TKACZ (director/co-translator) is the artistic director of Yara Arts Group, a resident theatre company at La MaMa. She has created 32 original theatre pieces that have premiered at La MaMa and have been performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulan Ude, and Ulan Bator, as well as the villages of the Buryat Aga Region of Siberia, Kyrgyzstan and China. She received the NEA Translation Fellowship for her work on the poetry of Serhiy Zhadan, recently long-listed for the PEN Award for Poetry in Translation.

WANDA PHIPPS (poetry co-translator) is a writer living in Brooklyn. Her publications include the books *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems*. Her poetry has been translated into Ukrainian, Hungarian, Arabic, Galician and Bangla. A founding member of Yara, she has collaborated on numerous theatrical productions presented in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan, Siberia, and at La MaMa. www.mindhoney.com

JULIAN KYTASTY (music director & composer) is a third-generation bandurist whose music combines a mastery of traditional styles with a distinctly contemporary sensibility. Based in New York City, he has performed at venues from Carnegie Hall to the steps of a village church in Brazil. He has created music for theatre with Yara Arts Group, and won a NY Innovative Theatre for his original music for Yara's *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs*> He also was created score for films and modern dance.

ANTHONY COLEMAN (Martian music) pianist and composer, is one of the key figures of New York music scene. His work bridges the gap between Composition and Improvisation, Uptown and Downtown, and spanning Free Improvisation, Jazz, Jewish music, and Contemporary Chamber Music. After earning a MA in Composition from Yale School of Music, Coleman immersed himself in New York's Downtown Scene. Coleman has recorded 15 CDs and has played on more than 150. He's on the faculty of the New England Conservatory.

WATOKU UENO (set designer) is a founding member of Yara Arts Group. He has designed most of Yara's shows and directed Yara's *Sundown* and *After the Rain*. For over

twenty-five years he has traveled with Yara to Ukraine, Siberia, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan to create original theatre pieces by collaborating with local artists. He is a recipient of NEA/TCG design fellowship and was nominated for the American Theatre Wing Design Award. With Ping Chong & Co. he designed *Deshima*, *After Sorrow*, *Pojagi* and *Secret History*. He is also the recipient of several NYSCA theatre design commissions.

JEFF NASH (lighting designer) is pleased to be working with the Yara Arts Group again, having designed the lighting for their production *Fire Water Night* and *Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs* here at La MaMa. Recent productions: Anna Kohler's *Mytho? Lure of Wildness* at Abrons Arts Center; John Jesurun's *Shadowland* (La Mama), *Stopped Bridge of Dreams* (La Mama), *Liz One* (Chocolate Factory), *Firefall* (DTW), and *Philoktetes* (Soho Rep, Brussels, Berlin); Fiona Templeton's *Non Sequitur* (TheaterLab); Juliet Mapp's *The Making of Americans* (DTW); UTC 61's *The Pig*, *The Lathe of Heaven*, and *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* (all at 3LD); Kirkwood Bromley's *Me and No More Pretending* (Ohio Theater).

KEIKO OBREMSKI (costume designer) is originally from Japan. She performed with Tokyo Kid Brothers at La Mama. She has worked with Yara Arts since *Scythian Stones*. Her recent design credits are: *Fire Water Night*, *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine*, *Winter Light* and *Hitting Bedrock*, and *Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*. Currently she is working as a dresser for Broadway shows. She is also a Kimono dresser.

SHIGEKO SARA SUGA (movement): has been working with Yara Arts Group since "Blind Sight" 1993 and grateful to Yara for taking me to far lands of Ukraine and to Kyrgyzstan several occasions to work with the local artists. Shigeko is also a member of The Great Jones Repertory of La Mama and has just performed in Trojan Women at La Mama. She will be working in Endlings at NYTW in 2020. <http://www.shigekosuga.com>

NADIA TATCHYN (stage manager) has worked with Yara Arts Group on numerous shows since 2011 including: *Raven*, *Dream Bridge*, *Midwinter Night*, *Fire Water Night*, *Winter Light*, *Hitting Bedrock* and *Tychyna, Zhadan and the Dogs*.

This event was made possible by public funds from New York State Council on the Arts, New York City Department of Cultural Affairs/ New York City Council member Carlina Rivera, as well as the Self-Reliance Foundation, MEEST Company, La MaMa Experimental Theatre and Yara Arts Group's numerous friends and donors.

The Koliadnyky & Nova Opera have found a home in New York thanks to Mia Yoo and La MaMa Experimental Theatre, as well as Yara's best friends and hosts: Maria and Dmitri Genkin, Oksana and Andriy Falenchuk, Andrea Odeszynska, Maksym Lozynski, Cathy Zadoretzky, and Shigeko Sara Suga.

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