

Yara Arts Group and The Ukrainian Museum present:

#StandwithUkraine



Image: "War," painting by Maria Prymachenko

The Ukrainian Museum
222 East 6th St
New York, NY 10003
March 2, 2022

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Music by Julian Kytasty

Poems of war by Serhiy Zhadan

Take only what is most important with Tjasa Ferme and Lesya Verba

Headphones with Tom Lee

Needle with Martin Nikolov

Rhinoceros with Tom Lee and Maria Pleshkevich

How did we build our homes? with Masha Pruss, Lesya Verba and Nariman Asanov

Poems of love by Serhiy Zhadan

There's nothing there yet with Wanda Phipps

Of all literature with Bob Holman

Your attention is great with Tjasa Ferme

It's all up to us with Georgia Waehler

Avaiation 57 song by Susan Hwang, lyrics by Serhiy Zhadan

Again and again

End of Ukrainian Syllabotonic Verse, poem by Serhiy Zhadan on the destruction of Ukrainian poets in 1930s with Bob Holman

Truth and Lies, traditional song from the 17th century, performed on bandura by Julian Kytasty, with Bob Holman and Anthony Coleman

My Ukraine by Olena Jennings

Mushrooms of Donbas song by Susan Hwang, lyrics by Serhiy Zhadan performed by Susan Hwang with Marlon Cherry

Eugene Hutz

event directed by Virlana Tkacz, translations: Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps
graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko, photographer: Pavlo Terekhov, video: Carlos Cardona

SERHIY ZHADAN was born in the Luhansk Region of Ukraine and educated in Kharkiv where he lives today. He is the author of twelve books of poetry. His prose works include *Voroshilovgrad*, *Mesopotamia* and *The Orphanage*. He is the front man for the band Zhadan and the Dogs, and has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2002. In 2019 Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps.

THE ARTISTS MUSICIAN & POETS

NARIMAN ASANOV is a leading exponent of the musical tradition of the Crimean Tatars. He was born in Uzbekistan in 1973, the child of community activists who survived the Soviet mass deportation of Crimean Tatars to Central Asia in 1944. His family returned to Crimea in 1988, and he moved to the US in 1994 and graduated from the Music Conservatory at SUNY Purchase. He has performed at Lincoln Center, Symphony Space and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

MARLON CHERRY is a multi-instrumentalist/composer who has worked with a wide list of artists including Stew & The Negro Problem, Church Of Betty, Terre Roche, Syd Straw, Eszter Balint, Mark Lesseraux, and Lusterlit. He is also a dance class accompanist currently on staff at Barnard College and Steps On Broadway. Solo records, *Elsewhere* and *Ancient Sound, Modern Dance*. Performs with Susan Hwang and has worked on a number of Yara poetry events at the Ukrainian Museum and Theatre for the New City.

ANTHONY COLEMAN, pianist and composer, is one of the key figures of the 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. Coleman has recorded 15 CDs and has played on more than 150. He's on the faculty of the New England Conservatory.

TJAŠA FERME is an award-winning actor, playwright, and creator and has received a Slovenian National Film Award and Stane Sever classical stage award. She is the Founding Artistic Director of Transforma Theatre Inc., dedicated to creating interactive theatrical experiences at the nexus of science, consciousness and ritual.

BOB HOLMAN is a poet most often connected with the oral tradition, spoken word, poetry slams and digital poetry. He created the part of Captain John Smith in Yara's *Capt. John Smith Goes to Ukraine* and performed in *1917-2017: Tychyna Zhadan & the Dogs at La MaMa*. He generated two award-winning PBS series, *The United States of Poetry*, and the documentary on endangered languages, *Language* www.bobholman.com

EUGENE HUTZ is the front man for Gogol Bordello. He appeared in Yara's *Song Tree* and *Circle* at La MaMa Experimental Theatre and headed the Nova Nomada project together with Julian Kytasty & Virlana Tkacz.

SUSAN HWANG is the founder and host of The Bushwick Book Club—an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. She's a singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist who has toured internationally performing music and

theater. Her collaboration with percussionist Marlon Cherry has been ongoing for what feels like time indefinite. susanhwanglalala.com lusterlit.com

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.

TOM LEE is a puppet artist, designer and director from Hawai'i. His work explores Asian puppetry forms, miniatures and performing objects in dialogue with the language of film and animation. He is a student of Japanese puppet master Koryū Nishikawa V, headmaster of Hachiōji Kuruma Ningyō (cart puppetry company of Japan) with whom he has collaborated extensively. Tom is part of Yara since 1995.

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

WANDA PHIPPS is the author of the books *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems*. She received a New York Foundation for the Arts Poetry Fellowship. Her poems have appeared in over one hundred literary magazines and numerous anthologies.

MARIA PLESHKEVICH is an actor and musician who has been performing with Yara Arts since 2014. In New York, she has appeared at La MaMa, Atlantic, The Player's Theatre, Sundog Theatre, The Producers Club and Columbia University, among others. Musical collaborations include Korinya and the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America.

MASHA PRUSS graduated from Kyiv State Institute of Theatrical Arts and worked as an actress in Kyiv Drama and Comedy Theatre on the Left Bank. Her film roles include Galia in *How Steel was Tempered*, Feodosia in *Taras Shevchenko* and KGB agent Vera in *The Americans*." She appeared in Yara's winter shows with the Koliadnyky, Yara's *Virtual Forest Song*, and *A Thousand Suns* last year.

LESYA VERBA is from Odesa, Ukraine and sings traditional music, jazz and her own compositions. She plays bandura, a traditional Ukrainian instrument and has been involved in reviving the rituals of southern Ukraine for 30 years. Her visual art has been exhibited at international exhibitions and museums. Her album "Gold," a collaboration with poet Mariana Kiyanovska, was released in 2020. She is happy this is her first performance in New York.

GEORGIA WAEHLER Yara Arts Group/La MaMa debut in *A Thousand Suns*; Theatre credits include Puck in *Midsummer* (Santa Fe Botanical Gardens), Una in *Blackbird* (Playwrights Downtown White Box), and #11 in *The Wolves* (Frederick Loewe Theatre). Film credits include *The Uncredited*, *Shrink Again*, *High Roller*, and *How I've Met God*. BFA: NYU Tisch Drama. georgiawahler.com @georgiawahler

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 translated Ukrainian poetry with Wanda Phipps since 1989 and was awarded the NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her work on Serhiy Zhadan's poetry.

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.

SPECIAL THANKS TO: La MaMa's Mia Yoo, Pierse Redmond, Marielle Iljazoski and Yael Haskal, as well as Zoya Shepko and Tanya Lysenecky.

THE UKRAINIAN MUSEUM was founded in 1976 by the Ukrainian National Women's League of America as a showcase for Ukrainian culture. The Museum has amassed extensive collections of folk art, fine art, and archival material. It mounts several exhibitions annually; publishes accompanying bilingual catalogues; organizes courses, workshops, and other educational programs; and hosts a variety of public events. In April 2005 the Museum moved into a new, state-of-the-art facility in New York's East Village, funded entirely by the Ukrainian American community.

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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