



Ukrainian Culture in America Series

Julian Kytasty and the Bandura Tradition in the Diasporas

Entrance music: *Homin Stepiv*
performed by Homin Stepiv, recorded in 1984

Julian Kytasty in New York- Virlana Tkacz
Music: “*Homin Stepiv*” theme
performed by Homin Stepiv, recorded in 1984
Music: “*Метелиця*” dance tune
performed by Homin Stepiv, recorded in 1984

**South American and Canadian Diaspora – Julian Kytasty
with Oles Berehovi from Buenos Aires**
Music: Julian Kytasty performs live on a bandura he acquired in
Argentina
Music: “*Метелик 2*” *Butterfly*
Composed & performed by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2015
Video: Chango Spasiuk & bandurist Oleh improvise in Lviv
Music: “*Про вдову і трох синів*” *Duma about the widow and three sons*
performed by Julian Kytasty, recorded in 2001

Kuban and Ukraine -- Julian Kytasty
Music: “*Ой тисяча сімсот дев'яносто першого року*” (*In the Year 1791*)
performed by Julian Kytasty, Victor Mishalow, Pavlo Pysarenko
video of concert in Krasnodar, 1989
Music: “*Про правду і неправду*” (*Song of Truth and Lies*)
performed by Julian Kytasty, video recorded in 1989

Exit Music: “*Improvization III*”
created & performed Julian Kytasty,
recorded for the “*Nights in Banduristan*” album

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz
with: Julian Kytasty (New York) and Oles Berehovi (Buenos Aires)
visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko,
tech support: 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.

OLES BEREHOVYI is the artistic director of the Taras Shevchenko Bandurist Capella at the Prosvita Ukrainian Cultural Center of Argentina. His teacher was Vasyl Kachurak, who first brought the bandura to Argentina and started the Shevchenko Capella. He met Julian Kytasty during the workshops Julian ran in 1987. Afterwards he attended bandura camps in London, Ontario and Emlenton, Pennsylvania. He also studied with Victor Mishalow and Okasana Herasymenko. In 2018 Oles attended the International Forum of Bandurists in Kyiv, Ukraine.

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.

NADIA SOKOLENKO has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2002, including the mega exhibition Kurbas: New Worlds at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in 2018.

Photo of Julian Kytasty by Andrew Sikorski.

Yara's related virtual events include series on bandurist Zenon Shtokalko (2020), World Epic Songs (2020) and Old and New World Music (2021) links on 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

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