

Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center present:

YARA'S TRADITIONAL MUSIC:

BANDURA: Tania Vovk



October 2021

www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara Arts Group & the Ukrainian Educational and Cultural Center present:
Yara's Traditional Music Series

Bandura: Tania Vovk

Entrance music: "Call of the Heart"

Performed by Tania Vovk, recorded 1995

Introductions Virlana Tkacz

On Tania Vovk, Bandura in Minnesota in the 1970s Virlana Tkacz

On Working in Ukrainian Culture in Canada 1970s

Discussion with Tania Vovk

Music: wedding songs from 1976 show by Tania Vovk
recorded by Tania Vovk, 2021

On Minneapolis Performance, Peter Ostroushko and Troista Muzyka-
Virlana Tkacz

Music: BORSCHT

by Peter Ostroushk, recorded 1984

On Folk Festival and other Concerts-Tania Vovk

Music: "I shumyt"

Played by Peter Ostroushko, Tania Vovk, Elia Vovk & Sandy Noes
Originally heard on A Prairie Home Companion with Garrison Keillor,
used by permission of Prairie Home Productions.

Music: "Homin Stepiv" (PBS)"

played by Tania Vovk 1982

Discussion with Julian Kytasty and Alina Kuzma

Exit Music Tania Vovk playing "Tropak"

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

visual design: Waldemart Klyuzko

tech support: Darien Fiorino

Premiere of virtual event October 1, 2021

TANIA VOVK is a bandurist born and raised in Minnesota, USA. She was taught to play the bandura by her father – Volodymyr Vovk, an architect and self-taught bandurist. She began performing with her sisters Halia and Elia as a bandurist trio in the late 1960's. Later, as a soloist she performed in various venues including the “Prairie Home Companion Show” and the Winnipeg Folk Festival. In 1983 she was nominated for the Minnesota Music Award/Best Folk Artist. She worked with various Ukrainian churches and organizations including ODUM, the Sudbury Secondary School/Ukrainology div., and the Canadian Ukrainian Youth Association. She has taught Ukrainian ritual, song, dance, cuisine, and bandura throughout Canada and the US. Trained as Chiropractic Physician she maintained a holistic functional medicine practice in the Twin Cities for 40 years. She is now semi-retired and living in the town of Ely in northern Minnesota.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over thirty five original shows 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 recordings of Buryat Mongolian artists and of the Koliadnyky of Kryvorivnia from the Carpathian Mountains. Last year she initiated Yara's Ukrainian Culture in America Series, as well as the Yara World Music Festival as very successful virtual events.

JULIAN KYTASTY grew up within a strong tradition of family music-making. He is a third generation bandurist following in the footsteps of his father Petro and grandfather Ivan Kytasty He has been associated with the New York School of Bandura (NY Bandura) since 1980, and has curated the Bandura Downtown series. He has worked frequently with Yara Arts Group creating and performing music for theatre pieces, poetry performances, and festivals. His work on Yara's *1917-2017 Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* earned him a NY Innovative Theater Award for best original score. He continues to teach bandura to a new generation of students in North America and Ukraine, to record, to compose and arrange music for bandura, and to engage in collaborative projects.

ALINA KUZMA is a vocalist/bandurist and Arts Administrator based in Toronto, Ontario. She is in the fourth generation of her family to take on the bandura tradition. At the age of 17, she began instructing at bandura camps and schools in North America. Alina began performing with Yara Arts Group of LaMaMa Theater in New York in 2012, and has been the lead singer of Korinya: Folk Band since 2008. Music has given her the opportunity to perform at house parties, concerts and festivals throughout the United States, Canada and Argentina. Her love for bandura and folk music inspired her to form the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America with her mother, Irene Kytasty Kuzma in August of 2014, where she now serves on the Executive Committee.

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.

DARIEN FIORINO is in a masters program at Harvard University. He was in Yara's *Winter Songs on Mars, 1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa and *A Thousand Suns* at La Plaza Cultural this summer

STAFF: Translations: Iryna Voloshyna, and Publicity: Zoriana Siokalo

SPECIAL THANKS TO: Tania Vovk's private archives. Thanks to PBS and the Peter Ostroushko family, Kule Folklore Centre-Bohdan Medwidsky Ukrainian Folklore Archives at the University of Alberta and Larissa Sembaliuk for sharing her photos.

YARA ARTS GROUP was established in 1990 and is a resident company at La MaMa, the acclaimed experimental theater in New York. Yara has created thirty-seven 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 events and the *Kurbas: New Worlds* exhibition for the Art Arsenal in Kyiv. **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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