

Yara Arts Group and the Ukrainian Museum present:

ZHADAN & FRIENDS 2021



POETRY:

April 2021

www.yaraartsgroup.net

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ZHADAN & FRIENDS 2021: POETRY

Serhiy Zhadan reads poems from *Psalm to Aviation*

American poets respond to the poems

and the translations by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

Serhiy Zhadan reads “There were words I said...”

Dzvinia Orłowski reads translation and responds with “Owl – Cyva”

Serhiy Zhadan reads “You will never write about how it really was...”

Dzvinia Orłowski reads translation and respond with “Letter to Myself,” while Wanda Phipps responds with “Write Three Poems and Call Me in the Morning #4”

Serhiy Zhadan reads “From now on there’s so much amazement”

Wanda Phipps reads translation and responds “Write Three Poems and Call Me in the Morning #6”

Serhiy Zhadan reads “Just don’t call it a language...”

Askold Melnyczuk read translation and responds with “Incantation” by Czeslaw Milosz

Serhiy Zhadan “Tell me again...”

Olena Jennings reads translation and responds with “A Tiny World”

Serhiy Zhadan reads “There will be such waters...”

Isaac Wheeler reads translation and responds with “Naluhrad”

Serhiy Zhadan reads “It will be the same with this book...”

Susan Hwang respond with her song

virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz

graphic design: Waldemart Klyuzko, tech support: Chris Ignacio

premiere: April 15, 2021

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. Yale University Press published his selected poems as *What We Live For/What We Die For* translated by Virlana Tkacz and

Wanda Phipps in 2019 and this year it published the translation of his novel *The Orphanage* by Reilley Costigan-Humes and Isaac Stackhouse Wheeler.

DZVINIA ORLOWSKY is a Pushcart prize poet, translator, and a founding editor of Four Way Books. She has authored six poetry collections published by Carnegie Mellon University Press including *Bad Harvest*, named a 2019 Massachusetts Book Awards “Must Read” in Poetry. She is a recipient of Sheila Motton Book Award and a co-recipient of a 2016 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Translation Fellowship. She is a contributing poetry editor to Solstice Literary Magazine and Founding Director of Night Riffs: A Solstice Magazine Reading & Music Series.

WANDA PHIPPS, a founding member of Yara Arts Group, is a writer/translator and author of the books *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire* and *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems* among others. Her poetry has been published over 100 times and translated into Ukrainian, Hungarian, Arabic, Galician and Bangla. She has received awards from the New York Foundation for the Arts, Agni Journal, the National Theater Translation Fund, and the New York State Council on the Arts.

ASKOLD MELNYCZUK is an American writer whose publications include novels, essays, poems, memoirs and translations. His works are the novels *What Is Told*, *Ambassador of the Dead*, *House of Widows* and *Excerpt from Smedley's Secret Guide to World Literature*. His work has been translated into German, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian. Melnyczuk also founded the journal AGNI (magazine) and Arrowsmith Press (2006). He has a new book coming out this fall, *The Man Who Would Not Bow and Other Stories*, with cover art by Rostyslav Luzhetskyy.

ISAAC STACKHOUSE WHEELER is a poet and literary translator from New Hampshire, best known for his work on English renderings of Serhiy Zhadan's novels with co-translator Reilly Costigan-Humes, published by Deep Vellum and Yale University Press and positively reviewed by publications including the Los Angeles Review of Books, the New Yorker, and the Times Literary Supplement. His work has also appeared in numerous journals.

OLENA JENNINGS is the author of the poetry collection *Songs from an Apartment* and the chapbook *Memory Project*. Her translation with Oksana Lutsyshyna of Artem Chekh's *Absolute Zero* was released in 2020 by Glagoslav. Her novel *Temporary Shelter* is forthcoming in 2021 from Cervena Barva Press. She is the founder and curator of the Poets of Queens reading series.

SUSAN HWANG tells stories and makes things that are collapsible, like songs and times—physical objects she can't play, wear or eat intimidate her. She's

the founder and host of The Bushwick Book Club – an international musical/literary crossover event and podcast. Her duo with songwriter/producer Charlie Nieland is called Lusterlit, and they refuse to play anything but songs about books. Susan plays accordions because they're pretty and lighter than pianos (barely). She plays drums because it's healthy for a girl to hit things.

VIRLANA TKACZ heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed thirty original shows at La MaMa Theatre in New York, as well as in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulaanbaatar, and Ulan Ude. She received an NEA Poetry Translation Fellowship for her translations with Wanda Phipps of Serhiy Zhadan's poetry.

JULIAN KYTASTY is a bandurist, singer, and composer whose work moves freely between the deep tradition of Ukrainian epic song and contemporary free improvisation. He has been creating music for Yara events for 20 years.

CHRIS IGNACIO (tech support) works at La MaMa Experimental Theatre. He was in Yara's *Dream Bridge*, *Winter Songs on Mars* and *1917/2017: Tychyna, Zhadan, and the Dogs* at La MaMa.

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 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 worked with Serhiy Zhadan since 2002. **Yara Arts Group 306 East 11th St #3B, New York, NY 10003** yara@prodigy.net www.yaraartsgroup.net

Yara's Spring Poetry Events were made possible by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, New York State Council on the Arts and the Self Reliance Foundation. Since 2015 they have been hosted by the Ukrainian Museum of New York. Media partner: Razom for Ukraine.

