

Yara Arts Group presents a virtual event;



Yara Arts Group presents:

## ***20 Years of Yara's Koliada***

& the Koliadnyky from Kryvorivnia

Ivan & Mykola Zelenchuk, Mykola Ilyuk & Vasyl Tymchuk

**Entrance music:** Tsymbaly played by Vasyl Tymchuk.

### **Virlana Tkacz on the Hutsul Koliada and Yara**

**Koliadnyky** sing “My slavni hazdy” (We’re the famous masters)

**Ivan Zelelnchuk** on the traditional Hutsul Koliada, working on the Koliada during the Orange Revolution in Kyiv & in New York 2005

**Mykola Zelenchuk** on working with Yara in Philadelphia in 2006  
Video from Yara’s “*Still the River Flows*”(2008) with “**Teche Ricka**” & a Croatian song by Svitanya

Video from Yara’s *Winter Sun* (2010) “**Before the World Began**”

**Mykola Iliuk** on working with diverse American singers

**Koliadnyky** sing “Koliada hazdyni” (Winter Song to the Lady)

**Vasyl Tymchuk** on working with Lemon Bucket in 2012

Video from Yara’s “*Midwinter Night*”(2012) **Goat Songs**

**Vasyl Tymchuk** on working in Canada in 2013

**Mykola Zelenchuk** on playing on the barricades of the Maidan 2014

Video from Yara’s “*Winter Light*”(2014) Rachel & Herod

**Waldemart Klyuzko** on projections at Wesleyan and Berkeley 2015

**Virlana Tkacz** on Koliada events at Yara’s Kurbas exhibits 2016-18

**Mykola Ilyuk** on workshop for US Embassy Kyiv diplomats 2018

Video from Yara’s *Workshop for US Embassy in Kyiv* (2018)

Video from Yara’s *Koliada on Mars* (2019) “**Star Glows East**”

**Koliadnyky** sing “Iz neda vikha” (May the bounty of the heavens)

**Koliadnyky** wishes for all those on stage and in the audience

**Exit music:** Tsymbaly played by Vasyl Tymchuk.

Virtual event directed by Virlana Tkacz  
with the Koliadnyky and Waldemart Klyuzko

Nadia Sokolenko: zoom tech

Maria Zelenchuk Dosiak: video

Waldemart Klyuzko: design

**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 the most important event of the year. Groups of winter song 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 sung.

**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 *duda* (bagpipes made from a goat), *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 has helped to preserve this tradition for future generations. Now, 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* shows in Kyiv, New York, Saratoga Springs, Philadelphia, Washington, San Francisco and Toronto.

**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*, *Winter Light* and *Winter Songs on Mars* 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*, *Winter Songs on Mars* and Koliada events in 2010-2019. He created the music for Yara’s show with Shumka Dancers.

**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.

**WALDEMART KLYUZKO** (co-host & graphic artist ) is an artist from Kyiv who has collaborated with Yara Arts Group since 2010, most recently creating the set for *Opera GAZ* and working on the development of *Radio 477!* He also co-curated the exhibitions on Les Kurbas in Kyiv, Kharkiv and at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in Kyiv. He is a visual artist who has had exhibits in New York and Kyiv.

**NADIA SOKOLENKO** (zoom tech & editor) has worked with Yara Arts Group since 2002, including most of Yara’s theatre shows in Ukraine, as well as Yara’s Kurbas events and museum exhibitions, including *Kurbas: New Worlds* at the Mystetskyi Arsenal in 2018.

**MARIA ZELENCHUK DOSIAK** (videographer) is from Kryvorivnia, the legendary village in the Carpathians. She has created two videos for Yara’s Traditional Arts Series: “Hutsul Keptars” and “Hutsul Honey” which have thousands of views. Her video “Hutsul Embroidery” premieres December 30.

**VIRLANA TKACZ** heads the Yara Arts Group and has directed over 40 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. Her production of *1917-2017: Tychyna, Zhadan & the Dogs* won two New York Innovative Theatre Awards. In 2018, she co-curated the exhibit *Les Kurbas: New Worlds* at the Art Arsenal in Kyiv and wrote the catalog which is now available for free through links on [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)

**Related virtual events: Yara’s Koliada 2020- 2023 and the upcoming Hutsul Embroidery.** Links to these and many other video clips from Yara theatre productions on our website links [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://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 40 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](mailto:yara@prodigy.net) [www.yaraartsgroup.net](http://www.yaraartsgroup.net)

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