

La MaMa E.T.C. and Yara Arts Group present:

**MIDWINTER NIGHT:**

Sacred and Profane Rituals

With ancient winter songs from the Carpathians,

A Baroque folk nativity play

& Carnavalesque Goat Songs

**created by Yara Arts Group**, directed by Virlana Tkacz,  
set & lights by Watoku Ueno, costumes: Keiko Obremski  
music assembled by Julian Kytasty  
script assembled by Virlana Tkacz, Alexandra Tkacz &  
Svitlana Matviyenko, with assistance from Mykola Shkaraban  
English translations by Virlana Tkacz and Wanda Phipps  
projections by Mikhail Shruga & Volodymyr Klyuzko  
stage manager: Nadia Tachin, wardrobe: Kiku Sakai  
props: Olivia Volpi, director's assistant: Romana Soutus

with:

**Koliada singers from the Carpathians:** Mykola Ilyuk, Ostap Kostyuk,  
Vasyl Tymchuk, Ivan & Mykola Zelenchuk

**featuring Yara artists:** Paul Brantley, Brian Dolphin, Inka Juslin Alina  
Kuzma, Marika Kuzma, Teryn Kuzma, Natalia Okolita & Mariko Pajalahti

**Lemon Bucket Orchestra:** Alexandra Baczynskyj, Marichka Galazda,  
Tamar Ilana, Michael Louis Johnson, Mark Marczyk, Alex Nahirny, Mike  
Romaniak, Karl Silvera, Jaash Singh, Emily Stam, Rob Teehan, Christopher  
Weatherstone, John David Williams & Stephanie Woloshyn

**Yara Arts Group is a resident company of  
La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club**

This program was made possible by public funds from the New York State  
Council on the Arts and New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs,  
Self-Reliance (NY) FCU, The Coca-Cola Company, and numerous friends  
of Yara Arts Group. Press Partners: Meest, Nova Hazeta, and Ukrainian  
Weekly. The Koliadnyky have found a home in NY thanks to Ellen Stewart  
and La MaMa Experimental Theatre.

**cast in order of first appearance:**

**COSMOS**

“Before the World Began,” traditional Ukrainian winter song, oldest version in Bernatsky Book of Carols (1693) Sun Moon Stars	Marika Kuzma Alina Kuzma Teryn Kuzma
“Winter Song to the Lady of the House” traditional Hutsul koliada KOLIADNYKY winter song singers On violin Lead singer Sun Moon Rain	Mykola Ilyuk Ivan Zelenchuk Mykola Zelenchuk Vasyl Tymchuk Ostap Kostyuk

**CAVE**

<b>TIME</b>	Tamar Ilana
<b>CHORUS</b>	
Bandura	Julian Kytasty,
cello	Paul Brantley
violin	Mark Marczyk
violin	Emilyn Stam
guitar	Alex Nahirny
singer	Brian Dolphin
singer	Marika Kuzma
singer	Rob Teehan
singer	Christopher Weatherstone
<b>ANGELS</b>	Alina and Teryn Kuzma
<b>SHEPHERDS</b>	Koliadnyky
<b>THREE WISE ONES</b>	Ivan Zelenchuk, Rob Teehan, Christopher Weatherstone
<b>HEROD</b>	Ostap Kostyuk
<b>SOLDIER</b>	Mykola Zelenchuk
<b>SOOTHSAYER</b>	Mariko Pajalahti
<b>RACHEL</b>	Natalia Okolita
<b>DEATH</b>	Alexandra Baczynskyj
<b>DEVIL</b>	Mark Marczyk

## CELEBRATION

“Arbor” by Paul Brantley	Paul Brantley
Goat Songs, traditional Ukrainian New Year songs	Lemon Bucket Orkestra with Stephania Woloshyn as the Goat
“Arkan” traditional Hutsul dance tune	Koliadnyky and Lemon Bucket Orkestra
“A Maple Stands in our Master’s Garden,” traditional Ukrainian winter song	Lemon Bucket Orkestra
“Flower of Mine” <i>Kondzha mia</i> , traditional Sephardic song	Tamar Ilana and Mark Marczyk
“Young Men Gathered” <i>Ishly Modotsi</i> winter song to a Young Man from the Sumy region of Ukraine	Julian Kytasty and Koliadnyky
“Is the Master Home” <i>Oi chy ie chy nema</i> , Ukrainian winter song	Lemon Bucket Orkestra
“Hutsulka,” traditional Carpathian dance melody	Koliadnyky with Lemon Bucket Orchestra
“Awakening”	Danced by Inka Juslin Song composed and performed by Mariko Pajalahti
“Still the River Flows” Teche Richka Hutsul rhyming song	Ensemble

*Cave* section is composed of:

excerpts from a Ukrainian folk puppet play, first recorded in 1774

with traditional Hutsul winter ritual: including “Winter Dance,” “Winter Song to the Master of the House,” “Winter Song to a Child in a Cradle” and “Parting Song”.

“Glassolalia” lyrics by Ihor Rymaruk, music by Julian Kytasty

“Cradle on an Apple Tree” traditional lullaby

“Time Flies” and other instrumentals by Julian Kytasty

“Oh, Winter Sun” and “The Star Glows East”

lyrics by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps, music by Julian Kytasty

“Still the River Flows” by Odosia Plytka-Horytsvit,

translation by Virlana Tkacz & Wanda Phipps

**KOLIADNYKY** sing the songs of the Koliada. The Koliadnyky are from Kryvorivnia and Verkhovyna, villages high in the Carpathian Mountains which have preserved an ancient winter ritual that now coincides with Christmas, but is much older in its origin, traditions and symbolism. It is considered to be the most important event of the year in the area, since people believe that the spring and harvest will not come to the village unless these songs are sung in every household. A separate long song is sung to every member of the household, both living and recently deceased. Each song is chosen specifically for that person by the leader of the singers. The words are of ancient origin and assume the magical power of words: what is said -- will be so.

### 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).

### KOLIADNYKY

**IVAN ZELENCHUK** is the “bereza,” or lead singer of the Koliadnyky. He comes from an old Kryvorivnia family and is the son of Ivan Zelenchuk whose handwritten notebook of winter songs has helped to preserve this tradition. Ivan met the members of Yara when they first visited the village in 2002 and took part in Yara’s *Koliada* in Kyiv, at the Ukrainian Museum, Ukrainian Institute and at La MaMa in New York.

**MYKOLA ZELENCHUK** is the son of Ivan and proudly carries on the tradition of his forefathers, both as a winter song singer and one of the *trembita* (mountain long horn) players in the village. He also makes the traditional costumes for the winter song singers.

**MYKOLA ILYUK** learned to play the violin from his uncle, and to play *duda* from his grandfather who played on the Carpathian bagpipes in the legendary film *Shadows of Forgotten Ancestors*. He started collecting musical instruments and Hutsul wear and now has his own museum in Verkhovyna where he lives. He plays at weddings, directs *Hutsuly* music ensemble which won first prize at the Festival of Traditional Music in Verkhovyna this year.

**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.

**OSTAP KOSTYUK** is from a Kosmach family. He learned to play flute and *duda* from the legendary Mykhailo Tafiychuk. He directs the Hutsl ensemble Bai, which won first prize two years ago at the Festival of Traditional Music in Verkhovyna. He graduated from the University of Lviv and directs the Ethnomusic Club in Lviv.

#### **YARA ARTS GROUP**

**PAUL BRANTLEY** (cello) is a composer and cellist who teaches conducting at The Manhattan School of Music. His music, published by Oxford University Press and Bill Holab Music, is played by major artists all over the world. He composed and played music for Yara's production of *Swan*. [www.paulbrantley.com](http://www.paulbrantley.com);

**BRIAN DOLPHIN** (chorus) has learned music all around the world as a student, Thomas J. Watson fellow and professional musician. He currently sings in Ukrainian and Georgian choirs and organizes educational workshops to get people singing together in New York and Long Island.

**INKA JUSLIN** ("Awakening" Dancer) is a Finnish dancer who has been in New York with companies like Melinda Ring, Robin Rapoport, Malina Raushenfels, Susan Kozel, Yara Arts Group, among others. She has also performed her solo work with different collaborators like Svitlana Matviyenko. She is a scholar researching avant-garde performance. She has danced in Finland, Europe and Asia.

**ALINA KUZMA** (Moon/Angel) is a senior at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut. She has been studying voice for four years and grew up playing bandura. She has previously performed with Bandura Downtown. This is her first out-of High School production.

**MARIKA KUZMA** (Sun) has been directing choirs at the University of California Berkeley for some twenty years, conducting music from the medieval ages to the present day. She has also been chorusmaster for collaborations with artists such as Gustavo Dudamel, Kent Nagano, the Mark Morris Dance Group, and the Montreal Symphony. Marika has published on the music of Bortniansky and Stravinsky. In younger years, she enjoyed singing in musical theater productions, and she is honored to be working with the Yara Arts Group.

**TERYN KUZMA** (Stars/Angel) is a sophomore at Glastonbury High School in Connecticut. She studies voice and Ukrainian dance and plans to study vocal performance and opera in college. She has previously performed in many school productions and in Bandura Downtown.

**NATALIA OKOLITA** (Rachel) is a New York based actress. She is originally from Ukraine and she came to USA to pursue her acting career. She has been involved in many Columbia University Directing Program productions. She is thrilled to work with Yara Arts and at La MaMa.

**MARIKO PAJALAHTI** (Soothsayer/ "Awakening" singer) has been a multi-platinum pop artist and actress in Finland since 2000. She currently lives in Brooklyn and *Midwinter Night* is her first theatre project in the city. It is extremely excited to do her first piece of theatre in New York at the historic La MaMa Theatre.

**VIRLANA TKACZ** (director/co-translator) has been recording the *Koliada* in Kryvorivnia since January 2003, when she first traveled to the Carpathian village to document the winter ritual. As artistic director of Yara Arts Group, a resident theatre company at La MaMa, she has created 22 original theatre pieces that have premiered at La MaMa and performed in Kyiv, Lviv, Kharkiv, Bishkek, Ulan Ude, and Ulan Bator as well as the villages of the Buryat Aga Region of Siberia and China. She recently created a Koliada with Nina and Tonia Matvienko with the Shumka Dancers in Edmonton.

**JULIAN KYTASTY** (musical director/*bandura*) is a third-generation *bandurist*. His music combines a mastery of traditional styles with a distinctly contemporary sensibility. He lives in New York City, and has performed at venues ranging from Carnegie Hall to the steps of a village church in Brazil.

**WATOKU UENO** (set & lights) is a founding member of Yara Arts Group. He has designed most of Yara's shows and directed Yara's *Sundown* and *After the Rain*. Over the last twenty years with Yara he has traveled to Ukraine, Siberia, Mongolia and Kyrgyzstan to create original theatre pieces by collaborating with local artists. He is a recipient of NEA/TCG design fellowship and was nominated for the American Theatre Wing Design Award. With Ping Chong & Co. he designed *Deshima*, *After Sorrow*, *Pojagi* and *Secret History*.

**KEIKO OBREMSKI** (costumes) is originally from Japan. She performed with Tokyo Kid Brothers at La Mama. She worked with Yara Arts, *Scythian Stones*, *Raven* and *Dream Bridge*". Other design credit: *The Magic*

*Pot:Three Tales From China Odd Day Rain, Everything about School(almost)(TADA! Youth theater), Badulaire:LaMort* (Pan Asian Repertory)

**MIKHAIL SHRAGA** (projections & graphics) is an animation and video artist based in NYC. He has been involved with Yara Arts Group beginning with *Winter Sun* (2010). In 2011, Mikhail was nominated for a NY Innovative Theater Award in the stage design category for Yara's *Raven*. Please visit [shraga84.tumblr.com](http://shraga84.tumblr.com) for current work.

**VOLODYMYR KLYUZKO** (projections & graphics) is a Kyiv artist and photographer. He has been a coordinator of the GOGOLFEST International Contemporary Arts Festival since 2009. A founding member of the K.kava (Klyuzko KA & VA), he took part in numerous exhibitions of contemporary art in Kyiv. He was nominated for of a NY Innovative Theatre Award for Yara's *Raven*.

**WANDA PHIPPS** (co-translator) is a writer/performer living in NYC. Her publications include of *Field of Wanting: Poems of Desire*, *Wake-Up Calls: 66 Morning Poems*, and the CD-Rom *Zither Mood*. Her poetry has been translated into Ukrainian, Hungarian, Arabic and Galician. A founding member of Yara, she has collaborated on numerous theatrical productions presented in Ukraine, Kyrgyzstan and Siberia, and at La MaMa, E.T.C. [www.mindhoney.com](http://www.mindhoney.com).

**TIM SCHELLENBAUM** (sound) is the resident sound designer for La MaMa.

**NADIA TACHIN** (stage manager) worked with Yara Arts Group on *Raven* in 2011 and *Dream Bridge* in 2012.

**KIKU SAKAI** (wardrobe) is thrilled to be working with Yara, and the Koliadnyky! Kiku is a proud member of LOCO7 and La MaMa Family. In addition to puppetry, she is also a dedicated hula dancer and a member of Pua Ali'i 'Ilima o Nuioka, under the direction of the hula master, Vicky Holt Takamine. Special thanks and aloha to Virlana and MaMa.

**OLIVIA VOLPI** (props) is from La MaMa Umbria, Italy. She is an actress and asinger...but at La MaMa (italy & New York) she is also taking on the role of "multitalented" multitasker. She is proud to be the props guardian for the *Midwinter Night*.

## **LEMON BUCKET ORKESTRA**

**ALEXANDRA BACZYNSKYJ** (Death) is a folked-up clown. She enjoys playing with light and makes masks on her free time. She likes exploring what she's not and thinks others should like that too.

**MARICHKA GALADZA** (vocals) has been singing since as long as she can remember. She likes to slow down and focus on the things our grandparents all knew just from plain living.

**TAMAR ILANA** (Time) grew up performing and traveling all her life. She lives between Canada and Spain. She specializes in Sephardic, Balkan and Flamenco music and dance.

**MICHAEL LOUIS JOHNSON** (flugelhorn) is thrilled to be returning to LaMama 12 years after his role as actor and musical director of the 2001 production *Lady/Speak/Easy*. In addition to being a member of LBO, the songwriter/trumpeter is a founding member of artist/activist group Streets are for People and bands Rambunctious and Red Rhythm.

**MARK MARCZYK** (Devil/violin) used to be just a poet; now he's just an urban folk musician; tonight, he's just an actor. He enjoys jumping up onto mailboxes, singing through a megaphone, and leading people into oncoming traffic in celebration of life and its riches. Punk's not dead... neither is folk.

**ALEX NAHIRNY** (guitar) studied engineering before deciding to break off into music. He will try to play any instrument he can get his hands on though mainly he plays guitar for the Lemon Bucket Orkestra.

**MIKE ROMANIAK** (sopilka) is a Toronto-based musician, composer, and arts administrator. Mike is an avid supporter of collaboration and networking between musicians. Visit him at <http://mikeromaniak.com>

**KARL SILVEIRA** (trombone) is a freelance trombonist in Toronto; first a jazz musician...

**JAASH SINGH** (darbuka) is a percussionist with the Lemon Bucket Orkestra. He is also the [lemonbucket.com](http://lemonbucket.com) webmaster, and is currently bald.

**EMILY STAM** (violin) grew up playing the piano and the fiddle in the mountains of northern Canada. Now she likes to travel the world with her fiddle on her back, playing with clowns and dancers, or writing tunes inspired by crazy adventures.

**ROB TEEHAN** (Wise One/sousaphone) followed his heart and his gut through many corners of the music business, from classical tuba and composition, to choral singing, to film scoring, to arranging and music production, eventually discovering the sousaphone (marching-band tuba) which has become his voice in many Toronto-based projects. One day his back will give out and he will devote himself full time to writing music.

**CHRISTOPHER WEATHERSTONE** (Wise One/ Alto sax) is a multi-instrumentalist and composer from Toronto. He grew up in the theatre and has been playing music since his hands were big enough to press piano keys. In life and in music he likes to improvise.

**JOHN DAVID WILLIAMS** (clarinet) plays the clarinet and the harmonicas. John also leads his New Orleans jazz, klezmer, and folk inspired quintet The Boxcar Boys.

**STEPHANIA WOLOSHYN** (Goat/ Dancer) is all over the place when it comes to her creativity. By day she works as an interior designer and sometimes set designer. By night she is a Ukrainian-Gypsy-Bellydancer twirling her way through bars all over Toronto, and most recently, Eastern Europe. Tonight Stephania gets the opportunity to explore her animal side as a jumping dancing goat. Bah-ah-ah!!!

#### **STAFF for *Midwinter Night***

**JOHNATHAN SLAFF** (press rep) (212) 924-0496, [www.jsnyc.com](http://www.jsnyc.com)

Light board operator	David Bonilla
Sound design	Tim Schellenbaum
Photographer	Volodymyr Klyuzko Alannah Farrell

**YARA ARTS GROUP** began its collaboration with traditional artists from the Carpathians in 1995. In 2003 and 2004, Yara artists recorded the winter song ritual in Kryvorivnia and the surrounding villages. Yara is a resident company at La MaMa Experimental Theatre in New York. Since 1990 Yara has created twenty one international collaborative cultural projects with traditional artists from Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Siberia. Favorite shows include: *Blind Sight* about a blind Ukrainian writer who became a Japanese writer in 1914, *Circle* with Buryat artists from Siberia and Gogol Bordello, *Swan* and *Raven* based on poetry by Oleh Lysheha, *Er Toshtuk* based on a Kyrgyz epic and *Scythian Stones* with Nina and Tonia Matvienko, artists from Kyrgyzstan and NY's Debutante Hour. Yara Arts Group 306 East 11<sup>th</sup> St #3B, New York, NY 10003 (212)475-6474 [yara@prodigy.net](http://yara@prodigy.net); [www.brama.com/yara](http://www.brama.com/yara)

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A very special thanks to Ellen Stewart of La MaMa for her belief and support for the Koliada project. Thanks you Mia Yoo, Mary Fulham, Beverly Petty and Denise Greber of La MaMa.

This program was made possible by the Coca Cola Company, the Self Reliance (NY) FCU, public funds from the New York State Council on the Arts and New York City's Department of Cultural Affairs and numerous friends of Yara Arts Group.



cover graphic by Mikhail Shruga

## UPCOMING EVENTS from Yara & Carpathian artists

### CD RELEASE PARTY

Dec 29 Saturday after show

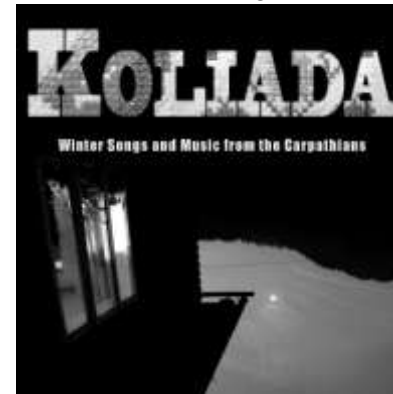
La MaMa Foyer

Dec 31 Greet the New Year with Lemon Bucket Orkestra

### Mehanata Bulgarian Bar

113 Ludlow (Between Rivington & Delancey), New York

For current schedule go to [www.brama.com/yara](http://www.brama.com/yara)



### NEW CD

**KOLIADA: Winter Songs  
and Music from the  
Carpathians**

**With the Koliadnyky**

**15 tracks recorded this fall**

**Pick up a copy after the  
show**