

BANDURA

2025 CONCERT SERIES

ON BLOOR

TERYN KUZMA

BANDURA | SOPRANO

WITH YARKO ANTONEVYCH
BANDURA

HELICONIAN HALL
21 MARCH

CONCERT PROGRAMME



TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL



Thank you for attending today's performance!

Today, the Toronto Bandura Festival opens the 2025 Bandura on Bloor Concert Series with a concert featuring bandurist and soprano Teryn Kytasty-Kuzma and bandurist Yarko Antonevych. We hope today's concert will bring you joy and spark your interest in the bandura and Ukrainian music & culture!

We respectfully request that you switch your electronic devices to silent during the show. Non-flash photography is allowed, but we ask that you take photos without disrupting the experience for other guests and be respectful to the performers. We invite all our guest to our post-concert reception after the conclusion of the performance.

Orest Chornomaz
Director
Toronto Bandura Festival

TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL

The Toronto Bandura Festival (TBF), established in December 2024, is a music festival devoted to growing the reputation and popularity of the bandura, supporting the development of talented bandurists, and promoting Ukrainian music, culture and identity in the Greater Toronto Area through the medium of bandura art.

The primary mission of TBF is to establish an annual bandura festival featuring bandura performances and a bandura music competition in Toronto, Ontario, and host various bandura-related musical concerts and events throughout the year.

The vision for the Toronto Bandura Festival (TBF) includes three fundamental aims:



- Grow the reputation and popularity of the bandura in Toronto's vast multicultural music scene.
- Support the development of talented bandurists in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Promote Ukrainian music, culture and identity in Toronto through the medium of bandura art.

BANDURA CONCERT SERIES ON BLOOR

Presented by the Toronto Bandura Festival, Bandura on Bloor is a musical concert series in Toronto showcasing solo bandura performers, small ensembles, and bands featuring the bandura. The conception of Bandura on Bloor was inspired by the “Bandura Downtown” concert series in New York City, directed by Julian Kytasty. Performances take place on Friday evenings, featuring one or two headliners, followed by a reception for all the guests and performers. Bandura on Bloor is a delightful opportunity to spend your Friday evening with your friends and loved ones with the magical sounds of the bandura in downtown Toronto!



FEATURED ARTISTS



TERYN KYTASTY-KUZMA

BANDURIST | SOPRANO

Hailed as "silvery-toned" by Opera News (David Shengold, 2022), Ukrainian-American soprano Teryn Kuzma is a versatile performer of classical, contemporary, musical theater, and folk repertoire. She has a deep passion for performing contemporary works and uncommon Eastern European opera and art songs.

Originally from Connecticut, Teryn began studying voice at the Hartt School of Music and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Connecticut. In 2023, she earned her Masters Degree from the Bard Graduate Vocal Arts Program, where she studied with Lucy Fitz Gibbon, Kayo Iwama, Erika Switzer, and Stephanie Blythe.

In 2024, Teryn premiered in the lead role of "H'ala" in Layale Chaker's dynamic new opera, *Ruinous Gods*, with Spoleto Festival USA, where she was praised for her "terrific lyric soprano voice (which) conveyed Hala's youth and innocence while delivering some of Chaker's most beautiful melodies" (Adam Parker, Post and Courier, 2024). Other engagements include covering and performing the role of "Lieschen" in Bach's *Coffee Cantata* with On Site Opera and covering the role of "Margaret Fox" in the world premiere of Michael Dellaira's opera *Arctic Explorations* with the New Amsterdam Singers. Most recently, she performed Leonid Hrabovsky's sonoric song cycle, "Pastels," at the 2025 Ukrainian Contemporary Music Festival alongside the lauded chamber group The Rhythm Method and the accomplished double-bassist Kebra-Seyoun Charles.

In addition to her singing credits, Teryn is an accomplished instrumentalist on the 55-stringed Ukrainian bandura and is actively engaged in the performance and study of Ukrainian folk music. A founding member and current Concertmaster of the Women's Bandura Ensemble of North America, she has performed in various esteemed concert halls and universities across the U.S. and Canada over the past ten years. Teryn privately teaches bandura and voice lessons at the New York Bandura School, where she is the Artistic Director, and has been invited to perform and instruct at several summer bandura workshops since 2014. Her connection to her heritage is highlighted through her devotion to maintaining the art of the bandura and Ukrainian music. Since the most recent escalation of the Russo-Ukrainian War in 2022, she has participated in dozens of benefit concerts for humanitarian aid. Her current artistic mission includes using her musicianship to raise awareness of the beauty and versatility of Ukrainian music. Her most recent fundraising endeavours led to the founding of a new initiative, Bandura for the Future, which has been partnered with the nonprofit organization Ukraine Matters since 2025.

YARKO ANTONEVYCH

BANDURIST

Yarko Antonevych began playing the bandura in 1968. His first teacher was Petro Kytasty. Later that same year, he performed with the Hnat Khotkevych Bandura Ensemble, directed by Walentyna Rodak, at the 50th Anniversary of the UBC, which took place at the Ford Auditorium in Detroit, MI. Yarko studied classical guitar and jazz at Palm Beach Jr. College and Florida Atlantic University. Throughout his 56 years of bandura playing (44 years professionally), Yarko has performed in concert halls & folk & music festivals in Canada & the USA, along with continuing the kobzar tradition by performing in private homes and busking on streets and subway stations. Yarko is very grateful to William Vetzal for providing him with the finest banduras.



CONCERT PROGRAMME

Introductory Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

YARKO ANTONEVYCH

1 Childhood Memories

2 Tribute

3 War Medley

Canada Ukraine-Foundation

Dana Bagan - CUF Board Member and Chair of the Health Advisory Committee

TERYN KYTASTY-KUZMA

Poem: The Sea
By Viktoria Amelina

Poem: Give Me a Brother
By Kateryna Babkina

1 Oh, you Moon - Ой ти місяцю
Arr. Teryn Kuzma

5 The Skylark - Ой ти жайворонку
Arr. Teryn Kuzma

2 Something
Music by Ivan Dusanowskyj

6 Musical Moment - Музичний Момент
Music by Hryhory Kytasty

3 The Tinned Pot - Kalaylı Kazan
Arr. Teryn Kuzma

7 Yanchyk - Янчик
Arr. Anastasiya Voytyuk

4 On the boat - На човні
Music by Lesia Dychko
Words by Lesya Ukrainka

8 I Will go to the Distant Hills - Я піду в далекі гори
Music by Volodymyr Ivasiuk
Arr. Teryn Kuzma

9 Freedom - Воля
Music by Maryna Krut

Closing Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

Established at the 18th Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC), The Canada-Ukraine Foundation was formed in order to coordinate, develop, organize and deliver assistance projects generated by Canadians and directed to Ukraine.

There will always be a need for an institution to monitor, provide & promote commercial, technical and humanitarian aid; to assess and evaluate projects; to foster cooperation and communication among aid providers; to assist in establishing priorities and developing projects that will maximize impact and cost effectiveness; and to act as a forum that brings together individuals and organizations from the community, private and public sectors, which are interested in providing assistance to Ukraine.

CUF therefore was established as a national charitable foundation that would coordinate with Canadian organizations that have projects in Ukraine, as well as other projects in Canada.

EVEN THE BRAVE STRUGGLE!

Mental Health Campaign to Support Veterans and War-Affected Communities

Behind every Ukrainian stands a story of incredible courage. Ukrainians are standing guard at democracy's frontier, and their fight is our fight – their defenders are protecting not just their homeland but also the principles of freedom and security we cherish here in Canada. Russia's war in Ukraine continues, and thousands of Ukrainian veterans and civilians face not just physical wounds but deep psychological injuries that require specialized care and ongoing support. Families torn apart, communities shattered, and the constant strain of air raid sirens are leaving lasting scars on the nation's collective psyche. Mental health services are critically needed, yet resources remain stretched thin. While civilians have shown remarkable resilience in the face of daily threats, they, too, bear the burden of this defence of global democracy.

Your donation to the CUF-UCC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal through to April 6th, 2025, will directly support mental health and medical programs, rehabilitation services, and other essential humanitarian assistance for veterans and civilians affected by the war. Every contribution helps provide a lifeline to those who've sacrificed so much to protect us all. Together, we can ensure that no Ukrainian faces their internal battles alone.

All net proceeds from this concert will be donated to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation Even the Brave Struggle Campaign. We encourage all of you to please make additional donations today to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation either in person or online at www.cufoundation.ca

UPCOMING EVENTS



Friday, May 30, 2025

Bandura on Bloor returns with a show featuring Victoria-based Ukrainian bandurist Mariia Smolinska and Toronto-based folk fatale duet band DIVKA!

**Royal York Road United Church
851 Royal York Road, Toronto
7:30 PM**



October 17-18, 2025

**1st Annual
Toronto Bandura Festival**

Location TBA

For ticket and events about upcoming concerts visit us at
torontobandurafestival.ca/events

UPCOMING BANDURA CAMPS AND WORKSHOPS IN NORTH AMERICA

Bandura at Bobriwka

Colebrook, Connecticut, USA

June 21-28, 2025

This one week bandura reunion and workshop fosters a love for bandura, music, and friendship, and has attendees returning year after year.

bandura-at-bobriwka.com

Kobzarska Sich

Emlenton Pennsylvania, USA

July 27-August 9, 2025

Established in 1979, this two-week intensive bandura program focuses on establishing proper bandura technique and playing through group instruction, individual attention and participation in ensembles.

banduracamp.org

Litnia Zustrich

Hawkstone, Ontario

August 17-24, 2025

This one week bandura camp provides an opportunity for both ensemble playing and individual instruction, mixed in with fun activities and a wonderful community atmosphere.

facebook.com/LitniaZustrich

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR!



We would like to thank Ukrainian Credit Union for supporting our organization. Their donation helped make this event possible.

Follow us on our social media accounts!



torontobandurafestival.ca