

BANDURA ON BLOOR

2025 CONCERT SERIES



**MARIIA
SMOLINSKA**

BANDURA

FRIDAY MAY 30 7:30 PM

ROYAL YORK ROAD UNITED CHURCH
851 ROYAL YORK ROAD, TORONTO



DIVKA
BANDURA | VIOLA

CONCERT PROGRAMME

TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL



СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ! – GLORY TO UKRAINE!

Thank you for attending today's performance!

Today, the Toronto Bandura Festival continues its 2025 Bandura on Bloor Concert Series with a concert featuring bandurist Mariia Smolinska and bandura-viola duet DIVKA. We hope today's concert will spark your interest in the bandura, broaden your perception of the versatility of this instrument in playing diverse repertoire from across the globe, and leave you with a lasting and enjoyable listening experience that you will remember for many years!

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 ON BLOOR

CONCERT SERIES

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 ARTIST - MARIIA SMOLINSKA



MARIIA SMOLINSKA is a talented bandura player from Ukraine who has gained recognition in international competitions and festivals. Born in Odesa, Mariia began playing the bandura at the age of 7. In 2015, she earned her diploma from the Odesa College of Arts and Culture, studying in the class of Olha Kasyanova and giving her first solo concert. In 2019, Mariia obtained her bachelor's degree from the Odesa Conservatory (A. V. Nezhdanova Odesa National Academy of Music), where she studied under Liudmyla Chernetska. This period was filled with numerous performances and competitions, contributing to her artistic development. In 2021, Mariia received her master's degree in musical art from the Odesa Conservatory.

Mariia's performances range from meditative melodies and lyrical compositions to energetic and danceable tunes, including tracks from her favourite video games, captivating audiences with emotional depth and vibrancy. With a strong educational background, Mariia combines traditional Ukrainian music with contemporary influences, including jazz and popular covers. She also creates unique arrangements, showcasing the limitless possibilities of the bandura. Mariia actively engages with her audience through her social media project, "The Legend of Bandura," where she shares her art and encourages a greater appreciation for the bandura. Her passion and creativity make each performance a unique and unforgettable experience.

FEATURED ARTIST - DIVKA

DIVKA is comprised of bandurist (esoteric Ukrainian harp) Alina Kuzma and violist (not a violin) Zoë Ěoz. They perform primarily Eastern European folk songs about badass women in all their glory. As a sonic rebel reckoning, DIVKA's music is charged with mythology and traditional village singing with generations of femme power, mystic whimsy, and a dash of vengeance.

With sharp tongues and a deep passion for ethnomusicology, Alina Kuzma and Zoë Ěoz bring a unique sonic experience using bygone folk songs from global women's music-making traditions. DIVKA weaves a sonic constellation of delicate arpeggios and guttural ancient invocations. Alina Kuzma, a tradition-refocusing bandurist and vocal forest nymph, brings a rich waterfall of sound with her mastery of the bandura. Her ethereal vocals and skillful plucking transport listeners to a mystical realm where folklore comes alive. Zoë Ěoz, a chaos-nurturing violist and raging woodland sprite, adds a layer of complexity and tension to DIVKA's sound. Their viola balances wild energy with refined technique, equally alarming and enchanting audiences with her spirited performances.



Birthed in October 2024, DIVKA has burst onto Toronto's world music scene. In a short time, they have performed in different global genres and collaborated with many renowned local artists and groups, including Leen Hamo, Jaash Singh, Naghmeh Farahmand, Marichka Marczyk and Kosa Choir. Last fall, they launched their single, *Harbuz*, and toured in Senegal in West Africa.

[VISIT DIVKA'S WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION!](#)

CONCERT PROGRAMME

Introductory Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

DIVKA

1 Of Babas, Rabbits and Fiddles

Ukrainian Folk Songs

2 My Looks Get Boots

Ukrainian Folk Song

3 Marble Stone in the Sea

Ukrainian Folk Song

4 Kailailiri

Finnish Karelian Folk Song

Crimean Tatar Folk Song

5 Malanka

Ukrainian Folk Song

6 I Didn't Know

Adaptation of "I Didn't Know the Gun Was Loaded" by Patsy Montana

7 Stork in the Weed

Ukrainian Folk Song

8 Rusalka

English sections by DIVKA, Ukrainian texts from Taras Shevchenko's *Prychyna* and a *Rusal'na* folk song from Sumy, Ukrainian Folk Song

9 Enchantress

Ukrainian Folk Song

10 Shopski Prispevki

Bulgarian Folk Song

11 For the Love of Goat

Ukrainian Folk Songs

Canada Ukraine-Foundation

Marianna Kaminska (Project Manager)

CONCERT PROGRAMME

MARIIA SMOLINSKA

1 Canadian Sunset

Music by Eddie Heywood

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

2 Resting Grounds

Original Soundtrack "Hollow Knight"

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

3 Not Tomorrow

Original Soundtrack "Silent Hill"

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

4 Tunnel

Music by Georgiy Matviyiv

5 Secunda

Original Soundtrack "The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim"

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

6 Song of Storms

Original Soundtrack "The Legend of Zelda:

Ocarina of Time and Majora's Mask"

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

7 Tango XIX

Music by Fabius Constable

8 Reflection

Music by Oleksii Rubak

9 Karma Police

Music by Radiohead

Arr. Mariia Smolinska

10 Super Mario Bros. Theme

Music by Koji Kondo

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.

UKRAINE HUMANITARIAN APPEAL

Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal (UHA) – launched in January of 2022 by the Canada-Ukraine Foundation (CUF) and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress (UCC) to coordinate the provision of humanitarian assistance quickly and efficiently to civilians impacted by Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, including relief for displaced persons in Europe and Canada.

Food, medicine, emergency shelter support, mental health care, firefighting gear, individual first aid kits, ambulances, and generators are some of the types of aid provided by the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal funding.

A lot of humanitarian aid has already been deployed, and much more is in the works. We rely on your continued support to enable us to carry on our crucial work.

All net proceeds from this concert will be donated to the Canada-Ukraine Foundation CUF-UCC Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. 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



October 18-19, 2025

**1st Annual
Toronto Bandura Festival**

Location TBA



Friday, December 19, 2025

Bandura on Bloor returns with a Christmas-themed show featuring Toronto-based bandura duet *Banduralicious* (Borys Ostapienko and Oleksander Petlura) as well as other guest performers!

Location TBA

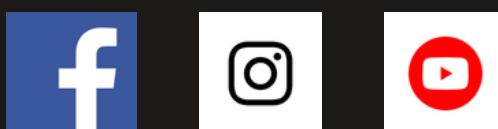
For ticket and events about upcoming concerts visit us at
torontobandurafestival.ca/events

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!



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