

# BANDURA

2025 CONCERT SERIES



Christmas Special

# ON BLOOR

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2025 HELICONIAN HALL



OLEKSANDER PETLURA | BORYS OSTAPIENKO

# BANDURALICIOUS

REPRESENTING VIRA ZELINSKA BANDURA CAPELLA "ZOLOTI STRUNY"

# BANDURA TRIO

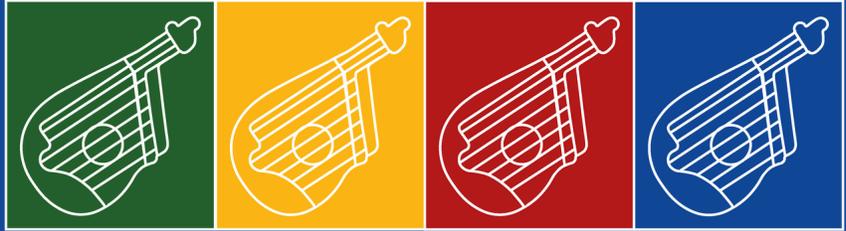
WITH A SOLO PERFORMANCE FROM  
SOLOMIA SHEVCHUK



SOLOMIA SHEVCHUK | DARIA SULIPKA | SOLOMIA KOSARENKO

CONCERT PROGRAMME

# TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL



## GLORY TO UKRAINE! СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

Welcome to this year's final Bandura on Bloor concert, featuring duet *Banduralicious*, the *Bandura Trio* and *Solomia Shevchuk*!

We are delighted to welcome you this evening as we celebrate the Christmas season through the distinctive and expressive sound of the bandura. Tonight's concert features an almost entirely instrumental programme showcasing unique, never-before-heard arrangements of Christmas music alongside Ukrainian traditional and contemporary tunes. Through a wide range of styles and moods, the bandura brings familiar seasonal melodies and Ukrainian repertoire to life, highlighting both its rich heritage and its versatility as a concert instrument.

Today's concert is also a fundraiser supporting scholarships for Ukrainian children who have recently moved to Canada due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, enabling them to attend the Litnia Zustrich Bandura Camp in Hawkestone, Ontario, in August 2026. We hope to provide young Ukrainian children — many of whom have never played the bandura — with the opportunity to discover this wonderful instrument here in Canada. Thank you for joining us and for supporting Toronto's bandura community. We hope this evening brings you warmth, reflection, and festive joy as we share these sounds together.

We respectfully request that you switch your electronic devices to silent during the performance. Non-flash photography is permitted; however, we ask that you take photos discreetly, without disrupting the experience for other guests, and with respect for the performers.

*We hope you enjoy the concert!  
Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!*

**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 a biennial bandura festival featuring bandura performances and a biennial bandura music competition in Toronto, Ontario, and to 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



## BANDURALICIOUS

OLEKSANDER PETLURA | BORYS OSTAPIENKO

Banduralicious is a musical project by two close friends, Oleksander and Borys, dedicated to reimagining the Ukrainian bandura for the modern world. Known for blending tradition with innovation, Banduralicious prepares a sonic cuisine by improvising popular melodies that span from timeless folk tunes to contemporary hits. Each performance is an exploration: improvisation brings spontaneity, while the selection of repertoire connects with audiences across generations and genres. Ready to stir the pot, Banduralicious is an invitation to hear the bandura in a fresh light and unmistakably tasty way, leaving you hungry for more!



REPRESENTING VIRA ZELINSKA BANDURA CAPELLA "ZOLOTI STRUNY"

## BANDURA TRIO

SOLOMIA SHEVCHUK | DARIA SULIPKA | SOLOMIA KOSARENKO

Representing Vira Zelinska Bandura Capella "Zoloti Struny", the Bandura Trio consists of young, talented bandurists Solomia Kosarenko, Solomia Shevchuk, and Daria Sulipka. In addition to playing as part of Zoloti Struny, the girls perform regularly as soloists and in duets, trios, and quartets. As a trio and individually, they are Platinum Award winners at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival and prizewinners at the Marta Krawciw-Barabash Ukrainian Music Festival in Toronto. The Trio is skilled in both instrumental and vocal music, performing a variety of genres and styles from classical to modern popular songs.



## SOLOMIA SHEVCHUK

BANDURA

Solomia Shevchuk, a young rising artist, has been playing bandura for 11 years, beginning her musical journey at the age of five. She studies under the guidance of her teacher, Oksana Zelinska-Shevchuk, an experienced bandura instructor, whose mentorship has helped shape her growth as a dedicated and expressive performer. Throughout her musical development, Solomia has participated in numerous competitions and festivals, earning recognition for her skill, achievements and commitment. Annually, she has competed successfully in the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival and the Marta Krawciw-Barabash Ukrainian Music Festival in Toronto, where her performances have been recognized with Platinum awards and top scholarships. With many years of experience and a strong passion for music, Solomia continues to refine her artistry and share her talent with her community.

# CONCERT PROGRAMME

## Introductory Remarks

*Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival*

## SOLOMIA SHEVCHUK

### 1 EXPROMPT

*Music by S. Bashtan*

## BANDURA TRIO

**Solomia Kosarenko, Solomia Shevchuk, Daria Sulipka**

### 2 CHRISTMAS BELLS

*Music by O. Herasymenko*

### 3 SILVER CAROL

*Music by V. Morozov, Words by M. Savka, Arr. by L. Klimchenko*

### 4 CAROL OF THE BELLS

*Music by M. Leontovych, Arr. by O. Shlonchyk*

## BANDURALICIOUS

**Oleksander Petlura, Borys Ostapienko**

### 5 JINGLE BELLS

### 10 JUICY SUMMER (Medley)

### 6 ON THE JORDAN RIVER

### 11 I WOULD TAKE A BANDURA

### 7 SWANS OF MOTHERHOOD

### 12 HEY, LETS ALL PUT DOWN A THALER

### 8 THE BLACKTHORN BLOOMS

### 13 JOY TO THE WORLD

### 9 OH, THERE'S A WILLOW IN THE FIELD

## Closing Remarks

*Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival*

# LITNIA ZUSTRICH BANDURA CAMP



Litnia Zustrich Bandura Camp is a summer music camp dedicated to the study and celebration of the bandura, organized by the Vira Zelinska Bandura Capella “Zoloti Struny.” Held annually each August in Hawkestone, Ontario, the camp brings together young musicians from across Canada and beyond for an immersive musical experience. Under the artistic leadership of Oksana Zelinska-Shevchuk, students are grouped according to their playing level — from experienced bandurists to complete beginners — ensuring focused instruction and a supportive learning environment. In addition to daily bandura rehearsals and ensemble playing, the camp offers a wide range of summer activities, including sports, outdoor games such as scavenger hunts, swimming, art projects, and many other traditional summer camp experiences. The camp concludes with a final concert on the last day, featuring all participating campers performing both within their level-based groups and together as a full camp ensemble. Beyond musical training, Litnia Zustrich fosters a strong sense of community and cultural connection, inspiring the next generation of bandurists to grow as musicians and as custodians of this unique Ukrainian instrument.



*Partial net proceeds from this concert will sponsor scholarships to the Litnia Zustrich Bandura Camp for Ukrainian children who recently moved to Canada due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine.*

For more information about Litnia Zustrich Bandura Camp please visit their [FACEBOOK PAGE](#)  
Registration for the 2026 Litnia Zustrich Bandura Camp will start in May 2026.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## BANDURA ON BLOOR 2026 CONCERT SERIES

### SAVE THE DATES

MARCH 20, 2026

MAY 29, 2026

OCTOBER 16, 2026

DECEMBER 18, 2026

**The full schedule will be released in January 2026, so stay tuned!**

For ticket and events about upcoming concerts visit us at  
[torontobandurafestival.ca/events](https://torontobandurafestival.ca/events)

**Thank you to all of our sponsors this year:  
Ukrainian Credit Union  
Canadian Bandurist Capella**

**Thank you to all of our volunteers who have  
helped make this TBF's first year both incredibly  
memorable and successful!**

**Follow us on our social media accounts!**



[torontobandurafestival.ca](https://torontobandurafestival.ca)