

BANDURA

2026 CONCERT SERIES

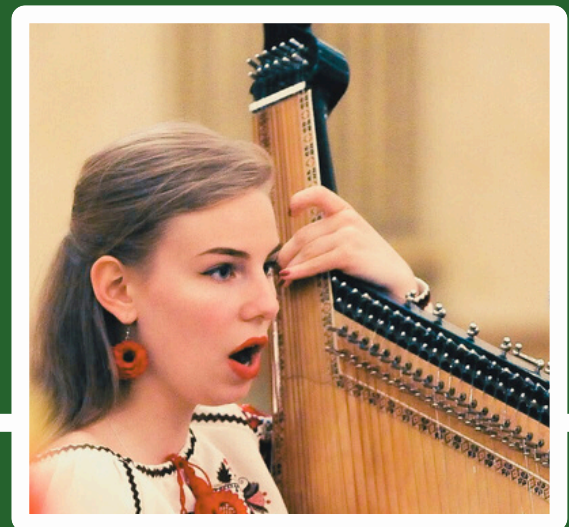
ON BLOOR



OSTAP STAKHIW

PEOPLE'S ARTIST OF UKRAINE

ALISA OSAVELYUK



APRIL 17, 2026
UCC OF THE HOLY PROTECTION
30 LEEDS STREET, TORONTO

CONCERT PROGRAMME

TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL



GLORY TO UKRAINE! СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

Welcome to this year's first Bandura on Bloor concert, featuring *Ostap Stakhiw* and *Alisa Osavelyuk*!

We are delighted to host you here this evening, as our programme today will feature a contemporary start with Western and Ukrainian rock classics from Alisa Osavelyuk, followed by a return to the old but modernized repertoire of the Kobzars, songs of the Ukrainian Sich Riflemen, Ukrainian insurgency songs of the 1940s, as well as religious songs, all performed by a legendary bandurist and People's Artist of Ukraine - Ostap Stakhiw!

In the fourth year of Russia's brutal, genocidal full-scale invasion of Ukraine, a war that really began 12 long years ago in 2014 with a Russian invasion of Ukraine's Autonomous Republic of Crimea, as well as the invasions Donetsk and Luhansk Oblasts of Ukraine, the Toronto Bandura Festival continues to donate the net proceeds from all of our events to various humanitarian and charitable efforts supporting Ukraine and Ukrainians, until Ukraine is victorious and rebuilt. Today's concert is not an exception to this practice and is a fundraiser for the Guardian Angels Ukraine Fund of the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women.

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.

Thank you for your support and attendance, and we hope you enjoy the concert!

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.



FIRST BIENNIAL TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL (OCTOBER 25, 2025)

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!



BANDURALICIOUS (DECEMBER 19, 2025)



DIVKA (MAY 30, 2025)



MARIJA SMOLINSKA (MAY 30, 2025)



TERYN KYTASTY-KUZMA (MARCH 21, 2025)

FEATURED ARTISTS



OSTAP STAKHIW

PEOPLE'S ARTIST OF UKRAINE

Ostap Stakhiw began his professional career in 1981 as a soloist with the Lviv Philharmonic and as a member of the “Vatra” vocal-instrumental ensemble between 1983 and 1985. In 1985, he became the leader and soloist of the “Drymba” folk ensemble at the Lviv Philharmonic and, three years later, founded and directed the “Folklore Theatre” at the Hnat Khotkevych Palace of Culture in Lviv, Ukraine. Beginning in the mid-1980s, Ostap Stakhiw has proudly represented Ukraine on international stages across Europe and Asia, and has toured in countries such as Poland, the Czech Republic, and Greece. In 1992, Ostap was awarded the title Honoured Artist of Ukraine and conducted a major concert tour across the United States, followed by a concert tour across Canada in 1993.

In 2001, he performed at the World Championship of Performing Arts (WCOPA) in Los Angeles, where he won gold and silver medals for vocal performance and bandura artistry. From 2000 to 2010, Mr. Stakhiw was chosen as the National Director of the Ukrainian delegation to WCOPA in Los Angeles (Hollywood). In 2007, he also founded an orchestra of modern folk music, known for programs such as “Christmas in Lviv” and “Spirit of Ukraine,” as well as innovative instrumental interpretations of carols and traditional songs.

In 2011, Ostap was awarded the Jubilee Medal for “20 Years of Independence of Ukraine” in honour of his continued cultural contributions to Ukraine, and, in 2014, was awarded the highest honorary title for performing artists — People’s Artist of Ukraine. A pioneer in bridging tradition with modernity, Mr. Stakhiw has spent decades reimagining classic Ukrainian folk melodies. Throughout his distinguished career, Mr. Stakhiw has been featured in numerous films, video productions and recordings. Mr. Stakhiw has also been a highly respected educator, teaching bandura and vocal performance at the Lviv State Conservatory named after Mykola Lysenko between 1989 and 1992. As an active musical figure, musicologist, and bandurist, Ostap Stakhiw is a jury member of numerous festivals and competitions, and a founder of the non-profit organization BandurArts.



ALISA OSAVELYUK

Alisa Osavelyuk was born in Ukraine, in the Western City of Ternopil. Alisa started playing bandura at the age of 9 years old. While in Ukraine, she played in a bandura ensemble called “Silver Strings”. Alisa moved to Canada with her family in 2014. Away from home, she became even more passionate about her beloved instrument. Alisa found a talented teacher, Oksana Zelinska-Shevchuk, in Mississauga and joined the Vira Zelinska Bandura Capella “Zoloti Struny” (“Golden Strings”). To improve her singing skills, she added formal vocal training to her weekly routine as well. Alisa has participated in many music festivals, such as the Ukrainian Music Festival and the Kiwanis Music Festival of Greater Toronto, where she was able to achieve Golden and Platinum awards and win numerous scholarships. Alisa is also a member of the Women’s Bandura Ensemble of North America. Alisa has promised herself that she will not leave her love for music behind and has kept that promise ever since. So today, she cherishes every moment that she gets to perform on the stage and do what she loves the most!

CONCERT PROGRAMME

Introductory Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

ALISA OSAVELYUK

1 SLEEP ALONE (Спи собі сама)

Music & words by A. Pidluzhnyi (Skryabin), Arr. M. Krut

2 NOTHING ELSE MATTERS

Music by J. Hetfield and L. Ulrich, Arr. by Y. Dzhus

3 MAMA (FROM BOHEMIAN RHAPSODY)

Music by F. Mercury, Arr. by B. Ostapienko

OSTAP STAKHIW

4 SING YOU LADIES (Заспівайте паняночки)

5 I TAKE A BANDURA (Взяв би я бандуру)

6 HEY FALCONS (Гей, соколи)

7 DUMA ABOUT A KOZAK BANDURIST (Дума про козака-бандуриста)

8 THE STEPPE WIND BLEW (Повіяв вітер степовий)

9 OH, HOW I LOVE OUR MOUNTAINS (Ох, як люблю ті наші гори)

10 IT'S GETTING LATE (Вже вечір вечоріє)

11 DUMA ABOUT MOTHER UKRAINE (Дума про Матір Україну)

12 A BOAT SAILS (Пливе човен)

13 PEOPLE, SAVE OUR SONG (Рятуйте, люди, пісню)

14 MOTHER'S HOUSE (Мамина світлиця)

15 PUNISHMENT (Кара)

16 PRAY YOU ALL TO GOD (Моліться, люди, всі до Бога)

Closing Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

GUARDIAN ANGELS UKRAINE FUND

LEAGUE OF UKRAINIAN CANADIAN WOMEN



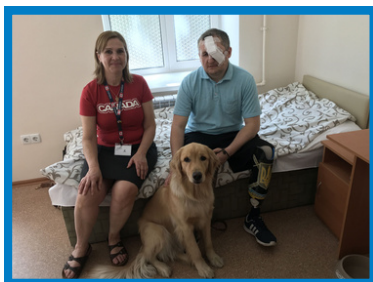
The League of Ukrainian Canadian Women (LUCW) is a Canadian non-governmental organization that supports a strong Ukrainian community in Canada and also promotes Ukraine's right to protect its national independence, security, and territorial integrity within the European family of nations. Founded in 1951 by post-World War II Ukrainian emigres who fled repression under Nazi and Soviet regimes, the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women works closely with its partner organization, the League of Ukrainian Canadians.

The League of Ukrainian Canadian Women promotes humanitarian and reform-oriented projects in the areas of education, medical assistance, and activities that strengthen civil society in Canada and Ukraine. We work with parliamentarians and government representatives to enhance Canada's special relationship with Ukraine and facilitate Ukraine's Euro-Atlantic integration.



Guardian Angels Ukraine — is a Canadian non-profit fund initiated in 2014 by the League of Ukrainian Canadian Women in response to the urgent need to provide support to veterans, soldiers and civilians, injured as a result of Russia's military aggression against Ukraine.

The fund's mission is to support the medical treatment, physical and psychological rehabilitation, and social reintegration of Ukraine's wounded soldiers, veterans, volunteers and victims of the war. The project collaborates with the government of Ukraine, its network of military and civilian hospitals and rehabilitation centres, leading academic institutions, local NGOs, charitable foundations, medical specialists and associations.



All net proceeds from today's concert will be donated to the Guardian Angels Ukraine Fund.

To donate additional funds to Guardian Angels Ukraine Fund:

1. Visit <https://bcufoundation.com/donate-today/>
2. Select "Guardian Angels Ukraine Fund" in the dropdown menu
3. Write "Bandura on Bloor April 17" in the Donation Memo

UPCOMING EVENTS

BANDURA ON BLOOR 2026 CONCERT SERIES

SAVE THE DATES

JUNE 5, 2026 - JULIAN KYSTASTY

OCTOBER 23, 2026 - GEORGIY MATVIYIV

DECEMBER 18, 2026 - DIVKA (CHRISTMAS SPECIAL)

The full details will be released soon, so stay tuned!

For ticket and events about upcoming concerts visit us at

torontobandurafestival.ca/events

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

Follow us on our social media accounts!



torontobandurafestival.ca