BANDURA ON BLOOR

2026/27 CONCERT SERIES



GEORGIY MATVIYIV



RON DEMEDA

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2026

SVI THEATRE

620 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO

CONCERT PROGRAMME

TORONTO BANDURA FESTIVAL



GLORY TO UKRAINE! СЛАВА УКРАЇНІ!

Welcome to out sixth Bandura on Bloor concert and the first of our 2026/27 Season! Вітаємо!

We present to you an evening of Ukrainian instrumental music exploring the relationship between tradition and contemporary expression. Our featured artist, Georgiy Matviyiv, brings the bandura into dialogue with jazz, blues, and improvisation, using inventive techniques, varied tonal colours, and dynamic rhythms to expand the instrument's musical vocabulary. The programme opens with Toronto bandurist Ron Demeda, whose performance reflects a deep engagement with and showcases the Ukrainian-Canadian bandura tradition in its best light. While the two artists offer distinct musical perspectives, both share a commitment to exploring the bandura's expressive potential and sustaining its place in Ukrainian musical culture. Together, their performances reveal the instrument's remarkable versatility and the continuing dialogue between its traditional foundations and contemporary possibilities.

We respectfully request that you silence your electronic devices 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. If you do take photos and short videos to post on your social media, we encourage you to tag Toronto Bandura Festival in your stories and reels on Instagram and Facebook, and to drop us a follow and a like on those platforms!

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)



JULIAN KYTASTY (JUNE 12, 2026)



DIVKA (MAY 30, 2025)



MARIIA SMOLINSKA (MAY 30, 2025)



OSTAP STAKHIW (APRIL 17, 2026)



TERYN KYTASTY-KUZMA (MARCH 21, 2025)

FEATURED ARTISTS



GEORGIY MATVIYIV

Georgiy Matviyiv is a professional bandurist, virtuoso, composer, and Doctor of Philosophy in Music Art (Bandura), laureate of international competitions, and inventor of the latest methods of playing the bandura. Soloist of the Ukrainian National Academic Orchestra of Folk Instruments (NAONI) in Kyiv, Ukraine from 2018 to 2023. Soloist of the Ensemble of Ukrainian Music, Song and Dance "Chaika" at the Odesa Philharmonic Theatre in Odesa, Ukraine from 2006 to 2018. In 2012, Georgiy became the first and so far the only participant from Ukraine in the "European Jazz Orchestra 2012" – an international project by the founders of the Eurovision Song Contest where musicians were selected according to the principle of "one musician from one European country".

He has performed at EXPO 2020 Dubai, Palace "Ukraine", National Opera of Ukraine, & National Philharmonic of Ukraine, and at over 500 concerts as a soloist and ensemble member from 2007-2023. Bandura instructor at the Odesa Conservatory from 2011 to 2018. An author of scholarly articles. In 2021, he defended his candidate's thesis and received a Doctorate in Art Criticism for Bandura from the Odesa Conservatory. Recipient of a Grant of the President of Ukraine (2021) for the creation and implementation of the creative project "Bandura in Jazz". Winner of more than 30 academic and bandura competitions and festivals.



RON DEMEDA

Ron Demeda is a long-standing bandurist, instrumentalist, and instructor of bandura in the Toronto area. An accomplished bandura soloist, Ron has performed at countless concert events in the Toronto area, across Southern Ontario, New York, Vegreville, Alberta, and at the Chervona Ruta festival in Ukraine. For many years, Ron performed at Toronto's International Caravan Festival's Odesa, Kyiv, and Kolomyia pavilions, and also as a regular at the Ukrainian Caravan Restaurant in Toronto. Ron is currently the Concertmaster of the Canadian Bandurist Capella in Toronto, performing with them regularly at concerts in the Toronto area, around Ontario, and most recently on their 25th Anniversary concert tour of Eastern Canada. He also scores musical arrangements for many of their songs. Ron is also the Musical Director and instructor of the St. Demetrius Bandura School in Etobicoke, providing lessons to students of all ages since 1983. Ron has led bandura lessons at the St. Volodymyr Institute in Toronto (1989-94), St. Sophia in Mississauga (1989-90), as well as the UNO West Ridna Shkola in Toronto (1989-91). He has performed as a member of the St. Demetrius Bandura Ensemble, the Barvinok Bandura Ensemble under Mr. Petro Boris, the Hnat Khotkevych Bandurists' Ensemble and Bandura Quartet under director Walentyna Rodak, and since 2022 as a member of the Canadian Bandurist Capella. In addition to being an accomplished bandurist, Ron is also a proficient tsymbalyst, accordionist, and singer as a member of the St. Demetrius Quartet.

CONCERT PROGRAMME

Introductory Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

RON DEMEDA

1 FANTASIA ON THE THEME OF UKRAINIAN FOLK SONGS

Music by V. Kukhta

2 MY KYIV - MY UKRAINE

Music by I. Shamo & M. Kostetskyi

3 POTPOURRI (O MIO BABBINO CARO, PERFECT, MEMORY)

Music by G. Puccini, E. Sheeran, & A. L. Webber

4 HAYDUK "WARRIOR"

Traditional

GEORGIY MATVIYIV

1 WHEN I'M THINKING ABOUT YOU

Music by G. Matviyiv

2 SUBMERGENCE

Music by G. Matviyiv

3 UNHARNESS THE HORSES, BOYS (IMPROVISATION ON THE THEME)

Music by G. Matviyiv

4 DO NOT GO AWAY

Music by G. Matviyiv

5 IN PURSUIT OF A DREAM

Music by G. Matviyiv

6 FOOTRINTS IN THE SAND

Music by G. Matviyiv

7 ON THE ROAD BEETLE (IMPROVISATION ON THE THEME)

Music by G. Matviyiv

CONCERT PROGRAMME CONTINUED

8 I WOULD TAKE A BANDURA (IMPROVISATION ON THE THEME)
Music by G. Matviyiv

9 BLUES OF THE NIGHT PIER
Music by G. Matviyiv

10 THE WIND DANCE
Music by G. Matviyiv

11 GAME OF THRONES
Music by R. Djawadi

12 HOUSE OF THE RISING SUN
North American Folk Song

13 WILD WEST JAZZ
Music by G. Matviyiv

14 YESTERDAY
Music by P. McCartney & J. Lennon

15 DEJA VU
Music by G. Matviyiv

Closing Remarks

Orest Chornomaz - Toronto Bandura Festival

Everyone is welcome to stay for the post-concert reception after the show!

Ukrainian Museum of Canada Ontario Branch

Founded by the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada in 1944, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch (UMCO) preserves and honours the cultural resilience, creativity, and community-building of Ukrainians in Canada. Rooted in the stories, traditions, and lived experiences of immigrants and their descendants, our museum safeguards a vibrant heritage while sharing it with all Canadians. We celebrate the enduring spirit of our people – past, present, and future – and serve as guardians of a legacy that educates, inspires, and unites.

The mission of the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch is to collect, preserve, celebrate, and share Ukrainian cultural heritage through storytelling, exhibitions, educational initiatives, and community engagement – ensuring our impact endures through responsible stewardship and long term financial sustainability.





The Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch aims to be a leading centre for preserving, sharing, and celebrating Ukrainian cultural heritage. The Museum brings to life the human experience behind the collections, creating connections across generations, with the broader community, and around the world – highlighting the ongoing relevance of Ukrainian culture in today's diverse society.

All net proceeds from today's concert will be donated to the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch.

To donate additional funds to the Ukrainian Museum of Canada, Ontario Branch, visit:

https://www.umcontario.com/donors



Current Exhibit

TESTAMENT

Testament – Zapovit is the first retrospective of Ihor Rodion Dmytruk (1938–2021), a Ukrainian Canadian artist whose work reflects cultural memory, resilience, and a lifelong connection to Ukraine. Born in pre-war Ukraine and raised in Canada, Dmytruk built a distinguished career in Alberta as both an artist and influential teacher. His life — spanning wartime upheaval, immigration, Ukraine's independence in 1991, and his passing just months before the 2022 full-scale invasion — traces the arc of a turbulent century in Ukrainian history, which he incorporated poignantly into his work.

TODAY IS THE LAST DAY TO SEE THIS EXHIBIT BEFORE/AFTER TODAY'S CONCERT!

UPCOMING EVENTS

BANDURA ON BLOOR 2026-27 CONCERT SEASON



DIVKA & Yarko Antonevych
Winter Special
Friday, December 18, 2026
Heliconian Hall
35 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto

TICKETS



Victor Mishalow
Taisa Kulyk
Solomia Stakhiv
Friday, March19, 2027
Royal York Road United Church
851 Royal York Road, Toronto

TICKETS



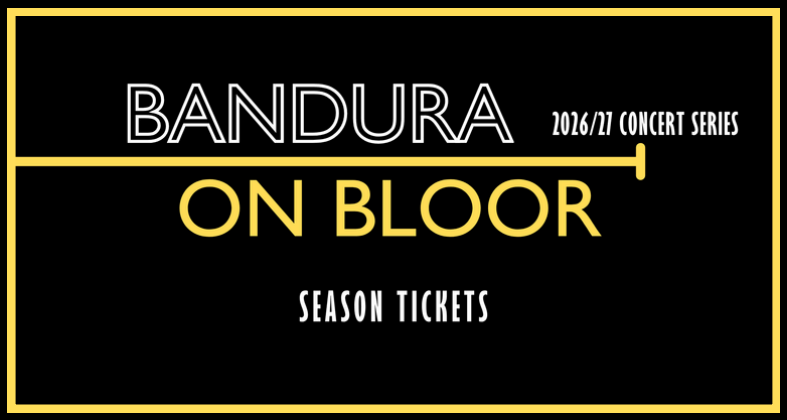
Borys Ostapienko
Juliana Lachance
Friday, May 14, 2027
Heliconian Hall
35 Hazelton Avenue, Toronto

TICKETS

THREE CONCERTS PASS

2026/27 Bandura on Bloor

If you would like to attend all three of our upcoming Bandura on Bloor shows on December 18, March 19, and May 14, we are offering a Three Concert Pass for the small price of $65.00



To reserve, visit:
https://torontobandurafestival.ca/events/bandura-on-bloor/

Thank you to all of our volunteers!

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

Follow us on our social media accounts!

torontobandurafestival.ca