

FIMA CHUPAKHIN

Harold Prince Theatre

Thursday, February 29 @ 7:30 PM

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Yukhym "Fima" Chupakhin is a NYC-based Ukrainian jazz pianist and multimedia composer. In 2019, Chupakhin was nominated for Best Composer of the Year by the Ukrainian Film Awards for his music for *The Wild Fields*, a feature film based on the book *Voroshylivgrad* by the acclaimed Ukrainian writer and poet, Serhyi Zhadan. Chupakhin and Zhadan also collaborated in a duo project, combining spoken word with piano and electronics, for which they recorded two albums. Most recently, Chupakhin scored a debut feature film by the 2020 Sundance-winner, Ukrainian director Iryna Tsilyk. A full list of Chupakhin's works for film, TV and commercials is available at fimamusic.com/works.

Chupakhin is highly regarded in the New York music scene as an exquisite jazz pianist, versatile keyboardist, composer, arranger and sound-producer. His debut U.S. album, *Water*, was self-released in 2019 and acquired positive reviews worldwide. The American jazz journalist Ted Panken wrote that on *Water*, Chupakhin "engages with the last forty years of swing-oriented Black American Music on its own terms of engagement, guiding the flow with a strong compositional hand..." At this performance, Chupakhin premieres the Penn Live Arts-commissioned solo piano work *The Song Of Tomorrow*, which is dedicated to the bravery and resilience of the Ukrainian people in their fight against invading forces of the Russian Federation.

Chupakhin is currently working on a new album with his trio and a solo piano record that would include this Penn Live Arts-commissioned piece, as well as the new piano suite *One Day They Will Be Dancing* and other through-composed pieces. In addition to his acoustic piano medium, he plays keys/synths and sound produces the Brooklyn-based soul/R&B band, fake tapes. He also frequently collaborates with singers and instrumentalists on both sides of the pond, including American artists such as the jazz singer Andromeda Turre, jazz and R&B singer Kristina Koller, Ukrainian pop singers/songwriters Jamala (winner of the 2016 Eurovision Song Contest), Svyatoslav Vakarchuk, Serhyi Babkin and many others.

Chupakhin first came to the U.S. in 2012 as a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to study with one of his jazz heroes, Mugrew Miller, who at the time was the head of the jazz program at the William Paterson University of New Jersey. Since moving to New York in 2015, Chupakhin played as both a sideman and a band leader at several U.S. jazz festivals, including the Mid-Atlantic Jazz Festival, New York Winter Jazz Fest and White Plains Jazz Fest. He plays in many famous NYC clubs, such as Smalls Jazz Club, Mezzrow, Ornithology, Minton's, Pianos, Bowery Electric, Rockwood Music Hall, Bitter End, The Nest and others. As a sideman, Chupakhin has appeared on more than 30 records.

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