

DAKHABRAKHA

VOCALS, DARBUKA, TABLA, ACCORDION Marko Halanevych
VOCALS, DJEMBE, BASS DRUMS, ACCORDION, PERCUSSION,
BUGAY, ZGALEYKA, PIANO Iryna Kovalenko
VOCALS, BASS DRUMS, PERCUSSION, GARMOSHKA Olena Tsybulska
VOCALS, CELLO, BASS DRUM Nina Garenetska

Zellerbach Theatre
Sunday, November 16 @ 7 PM

There will be no intermission.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS

DakhaBrakha

DakhaBrakha is a quartet from Kyiv, Ukraine. The group's "ethno chaos" sound spans years of performances prior to Russia's 2022 invasion, but war is in everything now. The group masterfully blends Ukrainian traditional music with influences from around the world, resulting in unexpected new music.

Traditional music has seen a resurgence in Ukraine over the past decades, after being suppressed during Soviet rule. DakhaBrakha uses Ukrainian polyphony as its foundation, interweaving complex rhythmic and melodic structures from India, Arabia, Africa and Australia. The group's music is textural, layered sounds with distinctive percussive heartbeats, thumping bass lines, distorted electric guitars and influences of jazz, spoken word, rap and even punk. DakhaBrakha calls this tapestry of influences "ethno chaos." This chaos is a strength, allowing for music that connects Ukraine with the world.

The members of DakhaBrakha are troubadours, activists and educators. Though the group's name means "give/take" in the old language, DakhaBrakha represents new Ukraine, both pre-colonial and post-Soviet, working within a global network of art and music. It aims to help audiences see Ukraine not as a monolith, but as a cosmopolitan culture that takes in other cultures and gives in return.

DakhaBrakha was created in 2004 at the Kyiv Center of Contemporary Art "DAKH" by the avant-garde theatre director Vladyslav Troitskyi. Theatre has left its mark on the band's performances as the concerts are always staged with strong visual elements. Projected behind the performers are a mix of animations from different Ukrainian artists and photos of life in today's Ukraine. Some are celebratory, bright and bold. Some are dark, others curious, a reflection of the many facets of Ukrainian culture.

In March 2011, DakhaBrakha was discovered by the Australian WOMADelaide festival, beginning its ascent in the international music scene. The group has since played hundreds of concerts and performances at major international festivals including Big Ears Festival, Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival, WOMAD, Roskilde Festival and the main stage at the Glastonbury Festival. In March 2020, DakhaBrakha won the Shevchenko National Prize for Musical Arts, the biggest award in Ukraine in the sphere of contemporary art, confirming its place in culture once again. In 2023, DakhaBrakha won globalFEST's Artist Award in the USA and became Chevaliers of the Order of Arts in France.

The band is currently in the process of recording their first album since 2020 in Kyiv, which combines material created before and during Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

Marko Halanevych (Vocals, Darbuka, Tabla, Accordion)

Halanevych is the only representative of the countryside in the band. He was born in the village of Krushenivka, in the Vinnitskiy region into a family of village intellectuals. He graduated from the faculty of Ukrainian philology but came into the theatre. He became an actor of the DAKH Centre of Contemporary Art and then accidentally found himself working with the band. Halanevych is fond of design, creating the visuals for DakhaBrakha and for the DAKH Theatre where he continues to perform on stage as an actor.

Iryna Kovalenko (Vocals, Djembe, Bass Drums, Accordion, Percussion, Bugay, Zgaleyka, Piano)

Kovalenko has played Ukrainian ethnic music since her early childhood and graduated from the faculty of folklore. She is fond of yoga, yachting and rowing. Kovalenko is responsible for the "brass section" of the group, as she easily gets the feel of different musical instruments. She also performs at the DAKH Theatre as an actress.

Olena Tsybulska (Vocals, Bass Drums, Percussion, Garmoshka)

Tsybulska is one of the specialists at the folklore department of the National University of Ukraine. When she has time off, she works on preparing her candidate's dissertation about traditional Ukrainian wedding songs. She is fond of driving, sewing and interior design.

Nina Garenetska (Vocals, Cello, Bass Drum)

Garenetska professionally studied folklore and is a self-taught cellist. She is the most artistically open-minded member of the band and is always up for collaborating with other musicians. Garenetska is fond of traveling, photography, fancywork and adornment creation.