

Vladimir Dimitrov - 1882-1960

# KITKA

## Harmony & Dissonance

A 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Reunion Concert

Sunday, March 10, 2019 • 7:30 PM

First Congregational Church

2501 Harrison Street, Oakland, CA

[www.kitka.org](http://www.kitka.org)

# KITKA

## WOMEN'S VOCAL ENSEMBLE

### 2018-19 Season Core Ensemble Members

Kelly Atkins • Kristine Barrett • Shira Cion • Erin Lashnits Herman • Janet Kutulas  
Hannah Levy • Maclovia Quintana • Katya Schoenberg • Lily Storm

### Kitka Reunion Choir

Tzvetanka Varimezova, conductor

Caitlin Tabancay Austin • Natalie Bartlett • Miriam Beer • Mantra Ben Ya'akova Plonsey  
Jeanne Benioff • Leslie Bonnett • Briget Boyle • Lucia Comnes  
Catherine Rose Crowther • Peggy Datz • Sue Douglass • Joyce Gibrick • Cherrymae Golston  
Juliana Graffagna (music director emeritus) • Natalie Hicks • Lise Liepman • Cynthia Lohr  
Irina Mikhailova • Ann Moorhead • Lita Munich • Barbara Petterson • Betty Schreck  
Julia Sewell • Michele Simon • Bon Singer (music director emeritus) • Juliana Svetlitchnaia  
Corinne Sykes • Natalia Ukrainska • Louise Weiler • Sonia Beth Wyman

### Special Guest Artists

Russian House Kedry's Kostroma Vocal Ensemble  
(names)

George Chittenden, gajda • Lise Liepman, accordion • Rumen Sali Shopov, darabuka

### Maestra of Ceremonies

Elizabeth Seja Min

### Harmony & Dissonance Production Team

Shira Cion, *Executive Artistic Director*  
Kelly Atkins, *Deputy Director*  
Janet Kutulas, *Harmony & Dissonance Music Director*  
Briget Boyle, *Harmony & Dissonance Production Manager*  
Rachel MacFarlane, *Directors' Assistant and Volunteer Coordinator*

Jennifer Tait, *House Manager*  
Gregory Kuhn and Guy Brenner, *Sound Design*  
Stephanie Johnson, *Lighting Design*  
Kelly Atkins, Genevieve Hand (Rapt Productions), *Projection Design*  
Lindsay Gauthier (Rapt Productions), *Videography*  
Tomas Pacha & Lenny Gonzales, *Photography*  
Rock Paper Scissors, *Media Relations*  
Greg Jalbert (Imaja), *Graphic Design*  
Heli Roiha, *Bookkeeping*

## HARMONY & DISSONANCE

### Kitka's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Reunion Concert

#### PROGRAM NOTES

#### PUSTONO LUDO I MLADO §§

*Rhodope Mountain Region, Bulgaria, Traditional*

“That brash young man is asking me for a gift, mama—he wants me to give him my black eyes. How can I give them to him when his mother is watching me from over there?’ ‘Give them to him, my girl—he’s crazy for you!’ ‘Now he’s asking me to give him my fair face. How can I give it to him when his father is watching me?’ ‘Give it to him, my girl—he’s crazy for you!’ ‘Now he’s asking me to give him my slender body. How can I give it to him when he’ll just make a mess of it?’”

#### OJ JABUKO ZELENIKO \*\*

*Croatia, arr. Božo Potočnik*

“Oh, green apple, you bore beautiful fruit. Each bough has three branches, the biggest has four.”

#### LOOMINE

*Estonia, from Heinavanker Ensemble, arr. Margo Kõlar, adapted for Kitka by Kristine Barrett*

A Runic folk hymn describing the creation of the world. Much like the spinning of fibers to create a thread, so too do the lyrics and structure of the song work to spin the cosmos into existence.

“A beautiful bluebird flew into our meadow, and made a nest in a paddock. There were three bushes in the meadow: one was a blue bush, one was a red bush, the third was a golden bush. She did not care about the blue bush nor the red bush, but she was pleased with the golden bush. The bird started to build a nest: she worked on it for a month, for a second month, for a third month, for a week in the fourth month, for a bit more in the fifth month. She started to lay eggs: she laid for a month, for second month, for a third month, for a week in the fourth month, and a bit more in the fifth month. One chick became the moon for Kurland, the second became the sun for Pärnu County, the third became the world, the fourth became the stars, and the fifth became the rainbow.”

#### ACH'ARULI MAQRULI

*Ach'ara region, Georgia, traditional, from Ketevan Mindorashvili*

A fertile cultural exchange existed between ancient Egypt and Georgia. While contemporary Georgians will say that the opening text of this wedding feast song is nonsense syllables, Ketevan Mindorashvili told us that these are actually invocations to Ra, the ancient Egyptian sun god.

“Vorera, vorerorera! Look out, mother-in-law, we have brought your daughter-in-law. If you won't be able to look upon her with kindness in your eyes, jackals will nibble at your bones!”

#### DVA ŠOPSKI DUETA

*Šop region, Bulgaria, arr. Stefan Mutafčiev, from Tzvetanka Varimezova*

This piece is a compilation and embellished arrangement of fragments of several traditional diaphonic folk songs from western Bulgaria. Basil holds fascinating symbolic meaning in Bulgarian folklore, and it is used to adorn churches and infuse holy water during many sacred rites.

“Three stars shone the earliest. Oh, brother banner bearer, white basil, I plant you in the dewy garden. / Dona fell sick in the meadow. Not in the village or close to it. / A maiden digs a ditch by herself, and draws water from it. Hey, maiden, hey, to water the garden, to harvest basil. / And now a young gray horse is running through the meadow, dragging his bridle through the grass. Oh, my dear!”

#### HEYAMOLI \*

*Lazona (a region on the Black Sea coast divided by the Turkish and Georgian border), arr. Tamar Buadze, inspired by a melody found in the collection of folklorist Grigol Chikhikvaidze*

Kitka learned this Laz love song from the Georgian women's choir Tutarchela on an unforgettable rainy afternoon in Tbilisi in 2010. Laz is an endangered South Caucasian language, related to Mingrelian, Georgian, and Svan.

“Let's say one or two words about your beauty. I'm abandoning my mother and father and I'll be yours, your slave. Everyone's wishes are fulfilled, but you are not satisfied, my dear.”

#### MARIK'ELA JASHIS, KALO

*Guria province, Georgia, arr. Tamar Buadze, from Tamar Buadze and Tutarchela.*

This song, praising a woman named Marik'ela, features a uniquely Georgian yodeling style called krimanchuli.

“Marik'ela Jashi, what a beautiful thing you are! I'd pick roses and violets for you. I'd never live in this world if you were not mine. Girl in the red blouse, if you leave, what will I do? I don't want any more consoling. Smile for me and make me happy.”

#### ŽEGAR POLJE GOJI JANJE MOJE

*Village of Žegar, Dalmatia, from the repertoire of Mira and Nada Vukanac and the Žegar Živi Group, from Svetlana Spajić*

“The field of Žegar feeds my lamb. The village of Krupa nourishes me to grow strong. There is no paradise more lovely than one's birthplace. There is no birthplace better than Žegar.”

## K'VIRIA \*

*Svaneti, Georgia, composed by Ilia Paliani (1886-1966), from the repertoire of the Rustavi Choir and the Kartuli Ensemble*

In the isolated, proud, and independent region of Svaneti, high in the Caucasus Mountains in northwestern Georgia, the pre-Christian god K'viria is still celebrated with song, dance and ritual. This piece was composed by the Svan composer Paliani and utilizes many traditional regional polyphonic motifs. A pagan hero and son of gods, K'viria served as mediator between the supreme god (Ghmerti) and humanity as protector of society and an instrument of divine justice.

“Oh, K'viria! Sun of the Heavens, K'viria! Almighty K'viria!”

## ZAPOVEDI BLAŽENSTV (THE BEATITUDES) \*

*Russia, composed in 1998 by Vladimir Martynov (b. 1946), from the repertoire of the Sirin Ensemble, arranged for Kitka by Caitlin Tabanca Austin and Janet Kutulas*

The Beatitudes are eight blessings sung as the Third Antiphon in the Divine Liturgy in Slavic Orthodox practice. They call upon the listener to embody the ideals of mercy, spirituality, and compassion.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are those who weep, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those that hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those that are persecuted for the sake of justice, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you when you are offended and persecuted, and when they say all kinds of evil lies about you for my sake; Rejoice and be glad, for your reward shall be great in the heavens.”

## ◆ ◆ ◆ INTERMISSION ◆ ◆ ◆

## LELEM

*Skof, St. Petersburg region, Russia, traditional, from Russian House Kedry*

“The Virgin Mother herself came out into the street, took out keys to lock up winter and unlock summer. Oh, may God give us summer, may the corn sprout in great bushy sheaves with plentiful ears.”

## VESNA-KRASNA

*Novosibirsk, Russia, traditional, from Russian House Kedry*

“Beautiful spring, warm summer; summer is warm, winter is cold. Oh God, grant us a good and plentiful harvest.”

## IVANOVY PČOLKI

*Smolensk, Central Russia, traditional, from Russian House Kedry*

“Ivan's bees flew above a field. They gathered honey and poured it into goblets to honor the reapers. Thank goodness!”

## SAZEIMO PERKHULI

*Svaneti, Georgia, traditional, from Carl Linich and Trio Kavkasia*

A festive round dance from the Northwestern mountains of Georgia with a text consisting entirely of archaic nonsense words such as worera, voisa-rera, dila-wadila, etc.

## VDOVA

*Village of Kriačivka, Poltava region, Ukraine, traditional, from Mariana Sadovska and Drevo Ensemble*

“A widow walking through the valley sat down to rest and feed her small child. ‘Oh my son, my little one, where is your dear father?’ An eagle flying by answered her: ‘Oh widow, how beautiful you are but how hard is your fate. I know your husband well. I see him every day. For breakfast, lunch and dinner, I perch on his brow. I scatter his bones over bridges. I cover the grasslands with his black hair. That is how I know your husband.’”

## GORANI §

*Historical Western Armenia, arr. Tatul Altunyan, from the Armenian State Folk Song and Dance Ensemble, Tom Bozigian, and Hasmik Harutyunyan*

Gorani is a pre-Christian ceremonial dance song that symbolizes death and resurrection, the eternal continuation of life. Over the centuries, the song's text underwent changes, becoming connected with the loss of the Armenian homeland, which is symbolized by the singer's longing for their beloved.

“In the plains of Moush, they say there are 105 villages. A breath of air (from Moush) is a remedy for my beloved. Gorani, my dear, gorani. You have given me news, and soothed my suffering. Alashkert, Malazkert (Western Armenian regions), beautiful green plains, the fragrance of your lovely plains, the fragrance of my beloved. Gorani, my dear, gorani. I know, my beloved, of missing/longing. May God curse the old mother now, I have a love, the say to abandon her. Gorani, my dear, gorani, a young one loved an older one, and the said to leave her.”

## ZVEZDA VEČERNICA \*

*Šop region, Bulgaria, arr. Stefan Dragostinov, from the repertoire of the Philip Koutev Ensemble, from Tzvetanka Varimezova*

In Slavic mythology the Evening Star was a female deity associated with the planets Venus and Mercury. By some accounts she was a virgin goddess, and according to others she was the wife of the Moon god and mother of all the stars. Christian lore incorporated the Evening Star into the nativity story as the Star of Bethlehem.

“The evening star shone way up on high.  
It lit up the broad earth and even further afar.”

## BAREM SA ERGEN, MAMO, NAHODIH §

*Dobrudža region, Bulgaria, traditional, composite arrangement  
with Shen khar venakhi by Tzvetanka Varimezova*

“When I was a bachelor, Mama, I went everywhere kissing beautiful girls from Sliven and slender tall, girls from Jambol. Bachelorhood, dear Mama, is a carefree life. Girlhood, dear, Mama, is a privileged life. How sweet life is while still living with Mama.”

## SHEN KHAR VENAKHI §

*Georgia, traditional, from the repertoire of the Rustavi Choir and  
the Telavi Women’s Chorus*

A song of praise to the Divine Feminine, dating back at least 1000 years. During the communist era, this song became a hymn to the female vineyard worker. Today, it is often sung at Georgian weddings in honor of the bride.

“You are a vineyard just blossoming, young and good, springing up in Eden. A fragrant poplar growing in Paradise. May God adorn you, no one is more worthy of praise. You are the sun, brilliantly shining.”

## ERGEN DEDA

*Bulgaria, traditional text, music by Petür Ljondev, from Le  
Mystère des Voix Bulgares*

“An old bachelor man, ruddy and tipsy, wore his hat askew, and capered about, this way and that. He set off for the village and grabbed onto the dance line next to the girls. All the girls ran away, except for the youngest one, Angelina.”

## DUMAJ, ZLATO \*\*\*

*Sandanski, Southwestern Bulgaria, arr. Philip Koutev, from the  
Philip Koutev Ensemble via Ethel Raim and the Pennywhistlers*

“Speak up, Zlata, speak with your mother about giving (your hand) to me (in marriage).’ ‘I spoke, young man, to my mother and to my father. They will not allow it, because you are too poor.’ ‘Tell them I’m going far abroad to work, Zlata, I will earn money. Speak, Zlata, speak with your mother.’”

## SVATBA \*\*

*Bulgaria, music by Hristo Todorov,  
from Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares*

“A heavy, dark, fog appeared, Stojan. It wasn’t a heavy, dark fog, Stojan. It was a big nobleman’s wedding.”

## POLEGNALA E TODORA

*Pazardžik region, Bulgaria, arr. Philip Koutev from the Philip  
Koutev Ensemble via Ethel Raim and the Pennywhistlers*

“Todora took a little nap under an olive tree. A mountain breeze began to blow and it snapped off a twig from the olive tree, and awakened her. She became bitterly angry: ‘Oh wind, why did you have to blow right now? I was having such a sweet dream! My true love came to me and brought me a many-colored bouquet, and nestled in that bouquet was a golden ring.’”

\* Recorded on Evening Star (2018)

\*\* Recorded on Kitka (1989)

\*\*\* Recorded on Nectar (1999)

§ Recorded on Sanctuary: A Cathedral Concert (2008)

§§ Recorded on Voices on the Eastern Wind (1992)

These and other recordings by Kitka are available for sale in the lobby.



Kitka would like to thank the following individuals for their assistance with song translations for tonight’s program:

Shira Cion, Hasmik Harutyunyan, Khatchadour Khatchadourian, Margo Kōlar, Ksenia Kruglova, Carl Linich, Rachel MacFarlane, Ketevan Mindorashvili, Andranik Michaelian, John Morovich, Vladimir Morosan, Mariana Sadovska, Rumen “Sali” Shopov, Svetlana Spajić, Yasemin Taşkın, Tanya Teodorovich, and Tzvetanka Varimezova

Harmony & Dissonance is supported, in part, by grants from:

**NATIONAL ENDOWMENT** for the **ARTS**  
arts.gov

 **CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL**



**ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**



**Kurz**  
Family Foundation

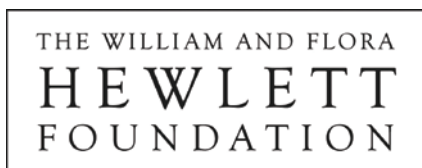
Special thanks to our  
Harmony & Dissonance hospitality sponsors

**Acme Bread**  
**Berkeley Bowl West**  
**Cowgirl Creamery**  
**Chef David Robert Johnson of**  
**Port and Provisions, Sausalito**



**Mission Minis**  
**Numi Tea**  
**Lohr Vineyards**  
**Trader Joes, Emeryville**

Kitka's 40th Anniversary Season is also supported by  
general operating support grants from



and the

**SAM MAZZA FOUNDATION**

*Heartfelt gratitudes to  
these people, ensembles, and  
organizations who have  
helped to shape Kitka  
over the past 40 years.*

**Kitka Music Directors Emeriti**

Susan Mintz (1979-1981)  
Bon Singer (1982-1996)  
Juliana Graffagna (1997-2007) &  
Janet Kutulas (1997-2010)  
Elizabeth Setzer (2010-11)

**Kitka Administrative Managers  
and Directors Emeriti**

Anastacia Metcalf Lundholm  
Russ Jennings  
Raquel Lopez

**Kitka Directors' Assistants  
Emeriti**

Leslie Bonnett  
Briget Boyle  
Zina von Bozzay  
Harlow Carpenter  
Deborah Crooks  
Dana Edwards  
Joyce Gibrick  
Allison Rolls  
Sonia Wyman

**Kitka Alumnae**

*Those unable to join us,  
but who are singing with us  
in spirit this evening*

Margie Allen  
Carla Angel\*  
Kit Bardell Kovach Oster  
Barbara Boysen  
Barbara Byers  
Ellen Chanterelle  
Alexandra Cons  
Beth Crespan  
Deborah Dietrich  
Joan Ferguson-Young  
Cherie Hawkins  
Arlene Hoffman  
Lily Huang  
Roseanne Hudspeth\*  
Dorothy Isaacson  
Phoebe Jevtovic Rosquist  
Thea Kelly  
Aina Kemanis  
Lise Kropp  
Julie Lancaster  
Nancy Lawson  
Anastacia Metcalf Lundholm

Beverly Mann  
JoAnn Martin  
Leanne Mennin  
Sandie Merrill  
Susan Mintz  
Sandrine Monlezun  
Kyle Rolnick  
Eva Salina Primack  
Tatiana Sarbinska  
Leni Seigel  
Elizabeth Setzer  
Samantha Shokin  
Moira Smiley  
Laine Snowman  
Joanne Splivalo  
Zlatka Stanilova-Baneva  
Debbie Tannenbaum  
Christine Tweetie  
Rachel Tree  
Sunita Vatuk

**Kitka's Folk Singing Mentors**

*who have generously shared their  
songs with us over the years:*

Lili Abdulishi (Lazona)  
Akhalsikhe Girls' Choir  
(Georgia)  
Sumru Ağryürüyen (Turkey)  
Michael Alpert  
(USA/Yiddish Song)  
Basiani Ensemble (Georgia)  
Vasil\* & Maria Bebelekovi  
(Bulgaria)  
Latif Bolat & Yasha  
(Turkey/USA)  
Božy  
i (Ukraine)  
Tamar Buadze & Tutarchela  
(Georgia)  
Karen Clark and Vajra Voices  
(USA)  
DakhaBrakha (Ukraine)  
Dalepe Nena (Lazona)  
Drevo (Ukraine)  
Evgeni Efremov (Ukraine)  
Christos Govetas & Ruth Hunter  
(Greece/USA)  
Merita Halili & Raif Hyseni  
(Albania)  
Hasmik Harutyunyan &  
Shoghakhen Ensemble  
(Armenia)  
Aram & Virginia Kevropanyan  
(Armenia)  
Donka Koleva (Bulgaria)  
Olga Krasojević (Serbia)  
Alma Kunanbaeva & Izaly  
Zemtsovsky, Silk Road House  
(Kazhakstan/Russia)

Alan Gasser, Carl Linich, and  
Stuart Gelzer, Trio Kavkasia  
(USA/Georgia)  
Natalia Gilyarova (Russia)  
The Grandmothers of  
Svaryseviči, Havronshchyna,  
and Ričice (Ukraine)  
John Morovich (Croatia)  
Le Mystère des Voix Bulgares,  
Dora Hristova, director  
Mirjana Lausevi  
\* (Bosnia)  
Refika Kadioglu (Lazona)  
KeKeCa (Turkey)  
Vadim Kolpakov  
(Russia/Romani Song)  
Kurbasy (Ukraine)  
Evie Ladin & Keith Terry (USA)  
Brenna MacCrimmon  
(Canada/Macedonia/Turkey)  
Nina Matvienko (Ukraine)  
Ketevan Mindorashvili &  
Zedashe Ensemble (Georgia)  
Nadja Novakovic (Serbia)  
The Pilpani Family (Georgia)  
Natalka Polovynka &  
Maisterni Pisni (Ukraine)  
Ethel Raim (USA/Yiddish Song)  
Esma Redžepova\*  
(Macedonia/Romani Song)  
Susan Rode Morris &  
Ensemble Alcatraz (USA)  
Yanka Rupkina (Bulgaria)  
Russian House Kedry's  
Kostroma Vocal Ensemble,  
Tatyana Teodorovich, Director  
Mariana Sadovska (Ukraine)  
Tatiana Sarbinska (Bulgaria)  
Irina Shachneva (Russia)  
Elena Sharkova (Russia)  
Polina Skovoroda Shepherd  
(Russia/UK)  
Mary Sherhart  
(USA/Bulgaria/Bosnia)  
Rumen "Sali" Shopov  
(Bulgaria/Romani Song)  
Lorin Sklamberg  
(USA/Yiddish Song)  
Milan Slavov (Bulgaria)  
Grigory Smirnov (Russia)  
Slavyanka (USA/Russia)  
Svetlana Spajić (Serbia)  
Daniel Spassov (Bulgaria)  
Dragi Spasovski (Macedonia)  
Kremena Stancheva\* (Bulgaria)  
Juliana Svetlitchnaia & PAVA  
(Russia/USA)  
Nadia Tarnawsky  
(USA/Ukraine)

Gerry Tenney  
(USA/Yiddish Song)  
Linda Tillery and the  
Cultural Heritage Choir (USA)  
Biroł & Güler Topaloğlu  
(Lazona)  
Mahsa Vahdat (Iran)  
Tzvetanka & Ivan Varimezovi  
(Bulgaria)  
Vladimir Zenevitch (Belarus)

#### **Kitka's Collaborators**

*who have expanded Kitka's  
performance practice through  
adventuresome projects*

American Conservatory Theater  
Axis Dance Company  
Balkan Cabaret  
Eric Banks,  
composer and conductor  
Thomas Binkley,  
early music scholar  
Alina Bokovikova,  
costume designer  
Dan Cantrell,  
composer and performer  
Michelle Carter, playwright  
Ellen Sebastian Chang,  
theater director  
Chicago Children's Choir  
Catherine Rose Crowther,  
illustrator  
Ross Daly & Kelly Thoma,  
composers (Greece)  
Davka  
Olympia Dukakis, actress  
Richard Einhorn, composer  
Ensemble Alcatraz  
Andre Erlen, theater director  
(Germany)  
Monica Favand, choreographer  
Kaila Flexer & Gary Haggerty,  
Teslim  
Katie Geissinger, vocalist  
Richard Gibbs, film composer  
Kit Higginson, record producer  
Maurice Jarre, film composer  
Marcel Khalife, composer  
(Palestine)  
Khadra  
Kugelpex  
Janet Kutulas, composer  
David Lang, composer  
Thais Mazur,  
director and choreographer  
Susan McMane and the  
Young Women's Choral Project  
Sarah Michaels, composer  
Meredith Monk,

multi-disciplinary artist  
Neva Russian Dance Ensemble  
Robert Henry Johnson,  
choreographer, and  
the Oakland Ballet  
Oakland East Bay Symphony  
Pauline Oliveros\*, composer  
Carey Perloff, theater director  
Thilo Reinhard, composer  
(Norway)  
San Francisco Chamber Orchestra  
San Francisco Girls Chorus  
Andrea Serrahn, costume designer  
Elizabeth Setzer,  
composer/performer  
Shadowlight Productions  
Shotgun Players  
Erika Chong Shuch,  
theater director and choreographer  
Karmina Šilec, composer,  
conductor, theater director  
(Slovenia)  
Bon Singer, composer/performer  
SoVoSo  
Teatr Zar (Poland)  
Janika Vandervelde, conductor  
Roy Whelden, composer  
Melissa Wortman, costume designer  
Katrina Wreade, composer  
International Body Music Festival  
The Women's Philharmonic,  
JoAnn Falletta, director  
Theresa Wong, composer/performer  
Chen Yi, composer  
Ziyia

#### **Kitka's Organizational Strategy Consultants**

Miriam Abrams  
Susan Colson  
LouAnn Lucke\*  
Laurie MacDougall  
Elizabeth Seja Min

\*In memoriam

NOTE: Kitka did our best  
to research and crowd source  
information and make these  
lists as complete as we were  
able. We sincerely apologize for  
any unintentional omissions. If  
you notice any names missing,  
please write us at [kitka@kitka.org](mailto:kitka@kitka.org). This list will become a  
living document on our 40<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary webpage.

# About KITKA WOMEN'S VOCAL ENSEMBLE

**K**itka is an American women's vocal arts ensemble inspired by traditional songs and vocal techniques from Eastern Europe and Eurasia. Founded in 1979 as an offshoot of the Westwind International Folk Ensemble, Kitka began as a grassroots group of amateur singers from diverse ethnic and musical backgrounds who shared a passion for the stunning dissonances, asymmetric rhythms, intricate ornamentation, and resonant strength of traditional Eastern European women's vocal music. Since its informal beginnings, the group has evolved into an award-winning professional touring ensemble known for its artistry, versatility, and mastery of the demanding techniques of regional vocal styling, as well as for its innovative explorations in new music for female voices.

With an overarching mission of cultivating local and global community through song, Kitka's activities include an Oakland-based home series of concerts and vocal workshops, leadership of community choirs, regional, national, and international touring, programs in the schools, recording, publication, and broadcast projects, artist residencies, commissioning original works, community service, and adventuresome collaborations.

Kitka's wide-ranging performance, teaching, and recording activities have exposed millions to the haunting beauty of the ensemble's exquisite and unusual repertoire. With deep ties to Balkan, Slavic and Caucasian lands, Kitka has performed, taught, and conducted cultural exchange activities in Poland, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia, as well as in communities throughout the USA, Canada, and beyond. The ensemble has produced 14 critically acclaimed recordings on the group's independent Diaphonica label (most recently, *Evening Star*), songbooks, soundtracks for major motion pictures and independent films, and *Kitka and Davka in Concert: Old and New World Jewish Music*, a PBS television special.

An important aspect of Kitka's work has also been the creation of multidisciplinary vocal theater works that tell stories of unconventional women in Eastern European folklore, myth, and history. Projects of note include ACT's productions of *Hecuba* with Olympia Dukakis and Viola Davis, directed by Carey Perloff with original music by David Lang; *Women in Black* with AXIS Dance directed by Thais Mazur with original music by Katrina Wreade, *Songs from Mama's Table* with Linda Tillery and the Cultural Heritage Choir; *Cantigas de Amigo* with Ensemble Alcatraz; *The Rusalka Cycle: Songs between the Worlds and Singing Through Darkness*, directed



Kitka L-R: Maclovia Quintana, Shira Cion, Lily Storm, Janet Kutulas, Erin Lashnits Herman, Kristine Barrett, Katya Schoenberg, Kelly Atkins. Not pictured: Hannah Levy. Photo by Tomas Pacha

by Ellen Sebastian Chang and Andre Erlen with original music by Mariana Sadovska; Meredith Monk's *Vocal Alchemy*; Eric Banks' *I will remember everything: a lyric biography of Sophia Parnok*, and, most recently, a critically acclaimed, sold out run of *Iron Shoes*, a contemporary folk opera created by Janet Kutulas (composer), Michelle Carter (playwright), and Erika Chong Shuch (director and choreographer), co-produced by Shotgun Players.

Kitka was recently honored by a coveted Hewlett50 Arts Award, with which they will commission Slovenian composer and stage director Karmina Šilec to create *BABA*, a new dramatic work inspired by the lives of transgender "sworn virgins" of the Balkan highlands.

A frequently occurring symbolic word in Balkan folk songs, *Kitka* means bouquet in Bulgarian and Macedonian.



For more information, call or write:

Kitka  
1201 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Suite 103  
Oakland, CA 94612 USA

Tel: 510.444.0323

[www.kitka.org](http://www.kitka.org)  
[www.facebook.com/kitkavocalsemble](https://www.facebook.com/kitkavocalsemble)  
[www.youtube.com/kitka](https://www.youtube.com/kitka)



# Kitka presents Ensemble Adilei featuring The Chamgeliani Sisters



Kitka is thrilled to host an amazing ensemble of young vocalists from the Republic of Georgia as our artists-in-residence next month.

Praised for their collective approach, superior improvisational skills, and a fresh and lively repertoire. Adilei's passion lies in music from Guria in western Georgia, home to a complex and colorful form of polyphonic singing and yodels. We are especially excited to present the US debut of the Chamgeliani Sisters, who sing hauntingly beautiful traditional songs from Svaneti, a remote region in the Caucasian highlands.

**Friday, April 19, 8 PM**  
An intimate evening of Georgian  
Wine, Song, Storytelling, and Song

**Saturday, April 20, 7 PM**  
SUPRA! A Georgian Ritual Feast  
with Uplifting Toasts and Table Songs

**Sunday, April 21, at 2 PM**  
Georgian Polyphonic Singing Workshop  
with Adilei and the Chamgeliani Sisters

All events with Adilei and the Chamgeliani Sisters will take place at

**ERISTAVI FAMILY WINERY**  
1300 Potrero Avenue, San Francisco, CA

## Kitka in Concert

**Saturday, May 11, 8 PM**  
Up Close Concert Series  
PJCC

800 Foster City Boulevard, Foster City, CA

**Friday, June 21, 5–9 PM**  
Garden of Memory Festival  
CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES  
4499 Piedmont Avenue, Oakland, CA

For tickets and more information about these events, as well as upcoming Kitka vocal workshops, community choirs, and more, visit

[www.kitka.org](http://www.kitka.org)



## It really does take a village...

For 40 years, Kitka's mission has been devoted to cultivating global community through the practice of cross-cultural song sharing and collective harmony singing.

In today's sociopolitical climate, Kitka's work is more important than ever. Our performances, community choirs, vocal workshops with master artists from around the globe, multicultural/multidisciplinary collaborations, and song documentation and sharing activities all serve a vision of a world in which cultural diversity is celebrated—and human connection is rediscovered—through shared experiences of creativity and beauty.

Those of us in the field of arts and culture believe that the most valuable and meaningful things in life are experiential rather than material. Still, resources are required to do our work in a manner that honors the time and skills of our artists and organizers, and allows us to provide experiences for our audiences and participants that are designed with love and conscientious care. The income Kitka earns from performances, workshops, and music sales covers less than half of our operating expenses. In honor of our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have set a goal of raising \$40,000 in charitable gifts from our village to make ends meet and launch our 5<sup>th</sup> decade of harmony making.

This season of giving, we hope you'll contribute to Kitka and other organizations that work tirelessly to make the world a more hopeful, harmonious, and humane place to live.

Every chord our voices sing resounds as a result of your support. We thank you for all the generosity you've shared with us in so many forms over the years, and look forward to offering you another season of soul-stirring music.

## In peace and music, The Women of Kitka

*Kelly Atkins, Kristine Barrett, Shira Cion,  
Erin Lashnits Herman, Janet Kutulas, Hannah Levy,  
Maclovía Quintana, Katya Schoenberg, and Lily Storm*

**PS: Donation envelopes are available at our merchandise table.**

**PPS: Year-end gifts and pledges of support can also be mailed or phoned in to: KITKA**

1201 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Suite 103  
Oakland, CA 94612 USA  
Tel: 510.444.0323 Email: [info@kitka.org](mailto:info@kitka.org)

Donate online tonight!

[www.kitka.org/donate](http://www.kitka.org/donate)



Illustrations: Catherine Rose Crowther

**Kitka's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Season is supported, in part, by grants from:**

The National Endowment for the Arts, The California Arts Council, The City of Oakland Cultural Funding Program, The East Bay Community Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, The Kurz Family Foundation, The Sam Mazza Foundation, The Zellerbach Family Fund.

