

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music for a Mission: An Afternoon of Eclectic Beats & Ukrainian Eats to Benefit Humanitarian Aid in Ukraine

JEWETT, NY — September 10, 2026 — The Grazhda Ukrainian Community Center will host "Music for a Mission," a community benefit featuring live music, authentic Ukrainian comfort food, and a fundraising campaign to purchase a humanitarian aid vehicle for Ukraine. The event takes place on Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM on Ukraine Road, just off Route 23A in Jewett, NY.

The afternoon brings together local residents and visitors for an easygoing, family-friendly gathering centered on solidarity and community support. Admission is free, with all proceeds and donations directly funding the purchase of a bus to deliver critical medical supplies, food, and basic necessities to communities in the warzone, and transport wounded and evacuees.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet Michael, a local volunteer who has completed three humanitarian missions to Ukraine. Guests can hear firsthand accounts of his relief work, and how the previous vehicle purchases funded by community donations have been put to use.

Event Highlights:

- **Live Musical Performances:** A diverse lineup of professional musicians will perform throughout the afternoon:
 - **1:00 PM – 2:00 PM:** Justin Kolb, internationally renowned pianist
 - **2:00 PM – 3:00 PM:** Local musicians with Ukrainian roots, featuring Olya Fryz performing on the bandura, the national instrument of Ukraine
 - **3:00 PM – 4:00 PM:** Craig Werth, folk singer/songwriter
 - **4:00 PM – 5:00 PM:** Stephan Said, singer/songwriter and activist
- **Authentic Ukrainian Cuisine:** The menu features traditional handmade *varenyky* (pierogies) served alongside warm, hearty traditional *borshch* which will be available for sale while supplies last.

There is no admission fee for the event. Donations can be made on site. All purchases of food will also directly support the vehicle acquisition fund. Community members, families, and media representatives are invited to attend, enjoy the performances, and support the fund drive.

Event Details:

- **What:** Music for a Mission: Eclectic Beats & Ukrainian Eats
- **When:** Saturday, October 17, 2026, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM
- **Where:** Grazhda Ukrainian Community Center, Ukraine Road (off Rt. 23A), Jewett, NY 12444
- **Cost:** Free admission; donations accepted for humanitarian aid
- **Homemade Ukrainian food available for purchase**

Media Contact: Fred Herzog

Music For a Mission

845-254-4720

Musicforamission@yahoo.com

Justin Kolb Internationally Renowned Pianist



Justin's collaborations include solo performances with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Hamburg Philharmonic. From Eastern Europe and the Middle East to Santa Barbara in the US, his solo recitals, conservatory "power talks" and motivational "kids clinics" have shaped a successful 21st century career. The NY Times [Alex Ross] and Chicago Tribune [John von Rhein] laud his American music performances. Justin serves as Executive Secretary of the American Liszt Society.

Olya Fryz Vocalist and Bandura Instrumentalist



An accomplished vocalist and bandura instrumentalist, Olya has been entertaining audiences for over 25 years. Olya is a multi-faceted performer incorporating her many years of music and dance studies. After singing at age 5 in her church choir, at 6 she began ballet and Ukrainian dance. Then Olya fell in love with the bandura and she's been singing, playing and entertaining ever since. She shares her Ukrainian music and heritage with many different audiences around the world through performances, workshops, and collaborations. She has 4 recordings on iTunes, Spotify & all your favorite streamers.

Craig Werth Composer/Songwriter/ Performer



Composer, songwriter and performer from Newmarket, New Hampshire (and formerly from New Durham!) Craig is the winner of the Canadian Juno Award for his work with Canadian folk hero, David Francey, and has performed throughout Canada and the United States, and in Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands, Ireland, England, Scotland and Australia. He honors tradition in his work, and his compositions are filled with an understanding of the human condition. He has been recognized by organizations who value his use of song in lifting up causes. An interfaith-minister, board-certified clinical chaplain, Music Minister at the Chaplaincy Institute of Maine, he is Artist-In-Residence and Program Facilitator with the David Krempels Brain Injury Center of Portsmouth, NH. Craig lives with his wife in Newmarket where they have built hundreds of musical instruments.

Stephan Said Singer/Songwriter/Activist



Stephan Said is an internationally acclaimed musician, writer and activist, and the host/cofounder of Borderless, a global movement and platform lifting the voices of people making a better world. His songs have helped build movements for social justice across the world. Billboard Magazine said to call him "this generation's Woody Guthrie." His song 'Glory To Ukraine' (Slava Ukraini) became an anthem shortly after the invasion began and was sung notably in Times Square with the Ukrainian Dumka Chorus joining him. His latest release this summer is 'We Must Overcome' with Dave Matthews and Allison Russell. He has been featured in the New York Times, BBC, NPR and RFI, Deutsche Welle, TIME, NBC, and more.