

საქართველო

Journey to the Source of Songs

# GEORGIA

4-12 September 2025



## **Singing together in Georgia.**

Join us, if a holistic approach to voice and singing in a supportive group is important for you.

Join us, if you already sing and want to explore polyphonic Georgian songs at the source with local singers.

## **Songs from the source.**

Our masters are ethnomusicologists and singers, leaders who care for Georgian culture.

They will tell us stories and take us to the places where songs are born.

Let us sing together with  
Georgians, raising a toast to life!

**Gaumarjos!**

*Olga Lidia  
& Justyna*

# Why are we inviting you?

We like this state  
when everything falls into the  
right place and you don't have to  
think too much, when we are in  
**a state of connection**  
- when we sing.

We met in Georgia and decided  
we will come back here with a  
pack of people who love the same  
thing and for whom listening to  
each other and having fun, good  
food and adventure are  
important. **Some things can  
only happen together  
in a meeting.**

Here is our invitation to you,  
will you join?



# What makes our offer special?

We thought through the meaning of this event not only for us, but also for our Georgian hosts and singers. That is why **this event consciously supports both our health and local communities.**

## **Support local families**

We will be hosted only in the homes of our masters and with private hosts, with a local Georgian character.

## **Full ecological food, wine**

Everything we eat is local and prepared for us by our host families and their friends with passion and care for us.

## **Songs from the source**

Our masters are ethnomusicologists and singers, leaders who care for Georgian culture. They will tell us stories and take us to the places where songs are born.

## **Embodied and holistic approach to voice**

Each singing session will begin with a short embodied practice to tune in oneself and a musical group feeling. We will also have sessions to play and improvise.

## **Balance of learning and resting in Nature**

For balance and relaxation, we have planned excursions and walks to local waterfalls, rivers and other soothing places in nature. And a cooking lesson with a Georgian mom!



# Who is the Journey to the Source of Songs designed for?

**The trip is for people who already sing**, have experience with singing in polyphony and want to explore polyphonic Georgian songs at the source with local singers. We invite everyone for whom a holistic approach to the voice is important. And for those for whom the experience of singing in a safe and supportive group is important. There is no need to know music theory.

## How will we meet the songs?

We will focus on traditional Georgian songs - at the source. **We will learn by ear in a traditional way.** The songs will be passed on to us traditionally by singers. Others will appear more than once during the supra, the Georgian toasting meeting. Many songs which we will hear directly from our masters are connected with local stories. The journey is also an ideal opportunity for a spontaneous exchange of songs and stories between us.

**JOIN NOW**



# Meet the organizers and leaders

## Olga Lidia Kozłowska



Psychologist, psychotherapist and group facilitator as well as a singer and voice researcher. She applies knowledge about the relationship between nervous system and voice. Since 2011 she has been running Authentic Voice workshops focused on the voice as a way of expression and self-knowledge: in Poland, Slovakia, Czechia, Germany and France. She combines traditional Polish and Georgian songs with the Usakhelo Trio.

## Justyna Dziuma



Computer science engineer by profession, choir freak by passion. Founder and spiritus movens of Chórtownia Foundation that supports amateur choirs and organises international choral projects, like “Music - Supporting People in Depression” or “The Sound of Europe” CD with choral works from 7 countries, including Georgia. A promoter of the Kodály method in music education. A big fan of Georgian polyphony, student of maestro Kakhaber Onashvili, Mdzlevari choir conductor.

# Our singing masters and local guides

## Turmanidze family



Living 700 metres above sea level in the singing village of Merisi in Ajara, West Georgia, Turmanidze's family is well known for their folklore experience with 6 generations of singers. The family has received many awards for promoting Adjarian songs.

We will be warmly welcomed by **Khatia**, the daughter.

We will learn from **Jemal**, the father, and **Beso**, one of the sons, and visit **Amiran**, the grandfather and a passionate singer and educator, living on the mountain above the village.

Mom **Manana** will share with us the best food-made-with-love and uncover some secrets of Adjarian cooking.



# Our singing masters and local guides

## Zurab Tskrialashvili



Director and singer of The State Folk Ensemble of Georgia Basiani. Associated professor/Dean at the Giorgi Mtatsmindeli University of Chant. Holds Master's degree in Choir conducting. Georgian traditional music performer. Choirmaster. Church Musicology PhD Student at the Tbilisi State Conservatoire. Conductor of the male choir at Tbilisi Holy David Garejeli (Mamadaviti) Monastery on Mount Mtatsminda. Leads lectures, workshops and masterclasses on traditional Georgian polyphony. Publishes Georgian folk songs' music books.

## Lolita Surmanidze



Singer, Master of ethnomusicology and a specialist on the Ajarian folk music culture. Working at the Batumi State Art Teaching University, Faculty of Music and living in Batumi. Cooperating with many Folk Centres in Georgia. Leader of the womens' Ensemble Iagundi. We will visit with her Culture Centre of Keda Municipality and sing beautiful songs from Ajara and Lazeti region.

# Our Singing Journey flow

## Day 1

4.09.2025

At 12:00 we meet at the Bagrati Cathedral in **Kutaisi** and travel to **Grigoleti**, a nice village at the Black Sea. In the evening we will start with an opening session and singing.

## Day 2 - 3

5-6.09.2025

**Singing with Zurab Tskrialashvili** \*, Director and singer of The State Folk Ensemble of Georgia **Basiani**. The teacher will guide us through traditional songs, explaining the stories and cultural significance behind each one. We will develop our vocal skills and experience Georgian music and community connection. Between the sessions, there will be time to walk through the seaside, **take a bath in a salty water of the Black Sea**, visit Dendrological Park, and immerse yourself in the atmosphere of local nature.

\* There is a small possibility that Zurab will not be able to teach us. In that case, he will recommend another trusted teacher.

## Day 4

7.09.2025

Breakfast and traveling to Merisi. We will stop by the waterfall and eat lunch, **reaching Merisi village in the evening** to have a wonderful dinner cooked for us by the Turmanidze family.





# Our Singing Journey flow

**Day 5 - 8**

**8-11.09.2025**

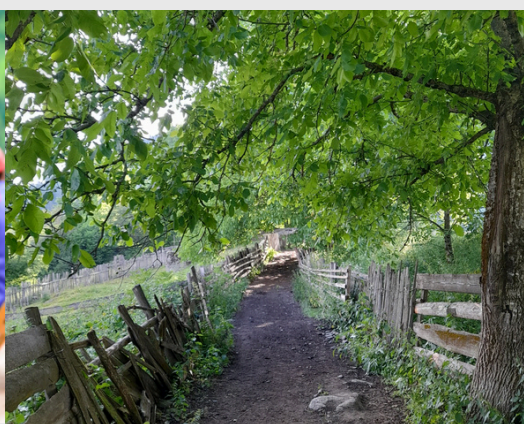
**Singing and homestay in Merisi village in Ajaria region with the Turmanidze family** and visit Folk House Keda with Lola Surmanidze. As a family of singers, the Turmanidze family is delighted to host singing workshops for us. We will learn joyful traditional Merisi songs, harmonize, and create beautiful melodies together. There will be time to take a refreshing dip in the nearby river and take a walk to the waterfall, where the crystal-clear water offers an invigorating experience. Let us enjoy the serenity of the surroundings and let the natural beauty of the mountains embrace us. One afternoon we'll get **hands-on experience in Manana's kitchen** and learn how to prepare traditional dishes from Turmanidze family recipes. Another one we will **visit Folk House Keda with Lola Surmanidze**, Ajarian ethnomusicologist and singing leader in the region.

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**Day 9**

**12.09.2025**

After a delicious breakfast, we will have the last morning singing session in Merisi. This day is our **journey back to Kutaisi...** but it's not yet the end as we will **stop by the sea in Grigoleti** and have our thanks ceremony there. Reaching Kutaisi and saying goodbye to the people who by this time maybe become our dear friends.



# What is included?

**All transportation during our journey.**

**All accommodation in local Georgian homestay houses in 1-5 person rooms.**

**All organic food and wine 3 times a day.**

**All classes, excursions and activities.**

**Bank transfer - 1000 EUR**

**+**

**Cash on the spot - 490 EUR**

for the Journey to the Source of Songs: Georgia

Registration is now open.

The number of places is limited to 18.

**Take yours!**

**JOIN NOW**



# What people say about us?



*Olga Lidia, as an organizer, truly convinces me. Last year, I participated in a trip that she co-organized and co-led, and it was an unquestionably positive experience. She knows Georgia, its songs, and its people. She can sing and, even more importantly, she can teach others how to sing. She lives and breathes music. On top of that, she has that spark of positive madness in her eyes, which often turns her workshops into exciting, artistic adventures. I've already decided — in 2025, I'll join her in Georgia again.*

*Wojtek*

*Justyna is g(e)orgeous, so it's no wonder she feels drawn to Georgia. All the musical events organized by her foundation, Chórtownia, are stunning and absolutely beautiful. Taking part in such an event gives me a wonderful sense of co-creation, and the preparation itself feels like a true massage for the brain :)*

*Anna*

*In 2019, I joined the regular Georgian song workshops led by Olga Lidia in Wrocław. It was an excellent decision! Thanks to Olga, I discovered many beautiful songs, intriguing and heart-touching harmonies, a new perspective on singing, and met many amazing people with whom I had the pleasure to sing in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. I was absolutely thrilled to hear about the workshops organized by Olga in Georgia, which I am, of course, planning to attend. I wholeheartedly recommend this trip!*

*Piotr*

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Where and when will we start and end our journey?**

4.9.2025 at noon and 12.9.2025 afternoon at the Bagrati Cathedral in Kutaisi, Georgia.

## **What musical abilities do I need to have to join?**

The journey is for those who already sing, have experience with polyphonic singing and want to explore polyphonic Georgian songs at the source with local singers in our group. There is a need to maintain tone while singing. There is no need to know music theory or notes. We will learn by ear in a traditional way. We will also record each voice of each song for us to remember.

## **Is there anything not covered in the price?**

Yes, your travel to our meeting and from our ending point, your insurance and your private souvenirs.

## **What about the current political situation in Georgia? Is it safe to go there?**

It is now safe in the places that we are going to visit. We are carefully observing the situation to make sure that it is safe to go.

The main political events are happening in the country's capital Tbilisi which we are not going to visit. In an unlikely situation that poses any threat to our safety we will cancel the event and give back all the payments.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## **Who are the organizers and what is their experience in organizing and leading groups?**

Olga Lidia and Justyna are highly competent organizers with more than 15 years of experience each. Olga is a group facilitator and a psychologist, leading workshops since 2011. Justyna is a community leader and international projects coordinator. We are also friends and we like and respect each other.

## **What is the main language we will use? Will there be any translation?**

All teaching and communication concerning organization and group sharing will be held in English. We won't be able to provide regular translation to other languages.

## **Tell me more about food! Will my dietary requirements be met?**

Meals will be a mix of traditional family recipes, cultural dishes of the regions and Georgian cuisine. Cooked with love by our amazing hosts and their friends. Georgian mom, Manana Turmanidze, will lead a cooking class for us in Merisi village in their house. All food is organic, we will also have local wine. During the registration process you can tell us about your dietary needs and our cooks will prepare the best possible solution for our group. It is good if you also bring your own favorite snacks and other food that makes you feel well when traveling.

## **How much will we sing?**

A lot, and then we will rest to sing again! We planned one or two sessions a day with our singing teachers. As it is a 9-day long journey, we will care for reasonable balance.



# Join us!

## **Fundacja Chórtownia**

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44-100 Gliwice, Poland

KRS number: 0000507967

[chortownia.org](http://chortownia.org)



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## **Olga Lidia Kozłowska. Authentic Voice**

[instagram.com/olgalidia.authenticvoice](https://www.instagram.com/olgalidia.authenticvoice)

**JOIN NOW**



## **Can I get an invoice for my company?**

Yes. Leave us your data in the Registration form.

## **Want to ask us about anything?**

Write Olga Lidia at [drogaglosu@gmail.com](mailto:drogaglosu@gmail.com)

(please title the message “Journey to the Source of

Songs: Georgia 2025”).

**[Terms of participation](#)**

