Creativity in Times of Crisis
Virtual series
Tuesdays, 12 January to 16 February 2027
Presented by Dr. Julia Zarankin

12 January 2027: Peculiarities of Russian Literature
Why did it take until the late 1700s for Russian literature to be born?

19 January 2027: Alexander Pushkin and Nikolai Gogol
How Alexander Pushkin's *Bronze Horseman* is a rebellion against autocracy and how Nikolai Gogol's characters in *The Overcoat* expose the horrors that underpin Russia's imperial bureaucracy.

26 January 2027: Tolstoyevsky
How Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leo Tolstoy rebelled – in very different ways – against autocracy, political dogma, social injustice and serfdom, and attempted to arrive at a definition of what it means to be Russian.

2 February 2027: Anton Chekhov
How Anton Chekhov rebelled against all forms (political, religious, societal) of smugness and apathy in his stories and plays, and how his work paved the way for the avant-garde.

9 February 2027: Anna Akhmatova
How Russia's most famous 20th-century poet, Anna Akhmatova, rebelled against Stalinism and political repression in all its forms. Instead of succumbing to threats from the Soviet regime, in her poetry she fought for the preservation of historical memory.

16 February 2027: From Mikhail Bulgakov to the Present
How Mikhail Bulgakov, author of the cult-classic *Master and Margarita*, rebelled against the idiocy of government-mandated artistic production under Stalin and how his fight for creative freedom resonates today.