

TAMARA VOLSKAYA, Domra
ANATOLY TROFIMOV, Bayan



Tamara Volskaya is considered to be one of the leading contemporary performers on the domra. She is a Merited Artist of Russia, a Laureate of the USSR competition, and a Professor at the Mussorgsky Ural State Conservatory of Yekaterinburg, Russia.

Volskaya's flawless technical ability and expressive performances have stunned audiences around the world from Japan to Europe and America. Tamara is a versatile performer mastering programs on mandolin, as well as on domra. She is a recognized authority in the mandolin world, and a regular guest artist and instructor of the Classical Mandolin Society of America conventions. She regularly appears as a domra and mandolin soloist with orchestras across the US, the former USSR and Canada. Tamara's recent achievements include a performance at Avery Fisher Hall at the "Mostly Mozart Festival" with Russian baritone Dmitri Hvorostovsky, and at Merkin

Hall as a soloist with chamber orchestra "Bachanalia" under Nina Beilina. In January 2004 she was a soloist in the concerts with the Seattle Chamber Orchestra performing two concertos for the mandolin by Vivaldi and by Pergolesi. In March 2004 Tamara completed a concert tour to Russia where she performed a world premiere of the new concerto for domra or mandolin by a famous modern Russian composer Yefrem Podgayts. In 2006 she had successful concert tours in Japan, Spain, Russia and Canada. In November, 2006, Tamara was a soloist with Shevchenko Mandolin Orchestra (Canada) and performed at famous Glenn Gould Studio in Toronto. In 2007 - 2008 Volskaya toured to Spain and Israel, twice to Russia, and twice to Japan where she performed as a soloist with mandolin orchestra and in duo with Anatoliy Trofimov.

Tamara is not only a gifted performer, she is also a recognized teacher. She organized and headed the Folk Instrument Faculty at the Conservatory's School for Gifted Students in Russia. Many of her students are winners of international and national competitions. She has conducted numerous master classes on the domra and mandolin worldwide, and is the author of several scholarly works on the domra.

In America, Tamara has done a great deal to popularize Russian Folk instruments in the cultural world of New York City. Together with her husband, Anatoliy Trofimov, she has organized "Russian Carnival", a Folk Russian Instruments ensemble, which attracts audiences by emotional and festive performances. Soon after the "Russian Carnival" ensemble was established, the group became a prominent feature of New York City's musical scene. The ensemble's highlight of 2004 was its performance at Avery Fisher Hall as part of the "Russian Splendor" program. In February 2006 the ensemble had a recital at the famous Weill Recital Hall of Carnegie Concert Hall.

Tamara's repertoire, both on domra and mandolin, spans a wide range of musical periods and styles, from classical to modern, as well as folk music based on Russian, Flamenco, Gypsy, Jewish, and American themes. It includes the great violin classics such as "*Introduction and Rondo Capriccioso*" (Saint-Saens), "*Zigeunerweisen*" (Sarasate) and others. Tamara also masters a repertoire including Vivaldi's *Concertos*, "*Russian Dance*" from *Swan Lake* (Tchaikovsky), "*Rhapsody in Blue*" (Gershwin) and selections by Scarlatti, Beethoven, Chopin, Kreisler, Shostakovich, and many more. Volskaya's unusual musical talent, combined with great emotional depth, exceptional musicality, impeccable taste, and virtuoso command of the instrument, has made her one of the greatest masters ever on the domra.

Anatoly Trofimov is a bayan (button accordion) virtuoso, music teacher, and prolific composer. He has composed and arranged many works for domra and bayan, folk ensembles, and orchestras. His compositions were published and performed throughout Russia. Anatoly Trofimov has won major international competition in Vienna, and has appeared as guest artist in France, Germany, Hungary, and Finland. He taught bayan and accordion master classes at folk music conventions throughout USA and Canada. One of the greatest bayan accompanists in the world, Anatoly creates a serene yet powerful musical atmosphere in each of his performances.

Together, Tamara Volskaya and Anatoliy Trofimov comprise one of the most remarkable and inspiring musical duos to be found anywhere in the world. Winners of international and national competitions they have toured throughout Russia, Europe, Canada, Australia, Japan, and have recorded several CDs.

The family ties of these musicians have a direct influence on the duo's performances. Their collaboration is that of the soul. The harmony of the duo's sound mesmerizes audiences by the total musical understanding of the two. Emotion and professionalism are the building blocks of "The Russian Duo's" success.

The Duo is a subject of a popular book, *Tamara Volskaya and Anatoliy Trofimov Perform*. Anatoliy Trofimov is also a talented arranger of a great number of the duo's pieces. The wonderful compilation "Reminiscence", dedicated to Tamara and Anatoliy's parents, is a great example of the duo's spiritual collaboration, and of Anatoliy's thoughtful arrangements.

"The Russian Duo" has gained a prominent place in American musical scene. In 1999 and 2005 the duo was featured on NPR's nationally syndicated program "All Things Considered" and "Performance Today", and on WMAR-ABC TV. The most recent of "Russian Duo's" achievements was a performance at Weill Recital Hall at Carnegie Hall in February 2005.

While in America, Tamara and Anatoliy established the "Russian Carnival" ensemble in New York, which has gained great popularity, not only in the Russian community, but among music lovers of all genres. The ensemble performs regularly in New York area and has released two outstanding recordings. In October 2004 "The Russian Carnival" Ensemble performed at Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center as a part of "Russian Splendor" concert.