

Alexander Tsygankov, Domra



People's Artist of Russia and winner of All-Russia, virtuoso domra player **Alexander Tsygankov** belongs by right to the top league of modern Russian performers. His natural gift of musical ingenuity, diligence, high culture, and erudition has led him to create a unique style of performance which has placed the domra in line with other traditionally classical instruments. In addition to performing, Tsygankov has composed an extensive professional concert repertoire for the domra.

Born in the Siberian city of Omsk, Tsygankov graduated from a local school under the teaching of G.A. Lanin, as well as the music school named after V. Shebalin (domra class of V. Patrasheva). In 1967-1974, Tsygankov was a student of the State Teachers Training College of Music, where he studied at graduate and post-graduate level under

Rudolf Belov, winner of the All-Russia competition. As a first-year student in 1968, Tsygankov won the International Competition at the World Festival of Youth and Students in Sofia, Bulgaria. He also received the first prize during the first All-Russia competition for folk instrument performers in Moscow, in 1972. During that time, he was the soloist and concertmaster of the State Academic Russian National Orchestra, headed by the first-rate Russian conductor Viktor Dubrovsky. Young Tsygankov composed "Comical Ditties", "Dancing Tunes", "Belolitsa-Kruglolitsa" and "Dunia's Ferry Boat" for that renowned orchestra. The pieces showcased the domra with a cascade of new techniques, strokes, and colors. Other pieces include "Overture Rhapsody on Russian Themes", "A Poem in Memory of D. Shostakovich", and a musical picture "Gusliar and Skomorokh." Young musicians who perform at competitions with original compositions for domra and piano favor Tsygankov's "Elegy", "Scherzo-Tarantella", "Five Caprices in Romantic Style" and "Suite for Children." Mr. Tsygankov also successfully arranged the transcription of "Faust" (Wieniawski- Gounod), "Waltz Scherzo" (P. Tchaikovsky), "Basque Capriccio" and "Navarre Jota" by P. Sarasate for domra.