



## Charley Rappaport

### Domra Choir Workshop

Born in Brooklyn, New York, **Charley Rappaport** began playing in college concert halls and coffeehouses in the early '60s. Early on he perfected his own style of performance of Gypsy music as leader of a number of groups - most recently ***The Great American Gypsies*** with Joseph Kovach and ***Mistral***, with Dean Shumaker. He is also music director of ***The Gordon Neidinger Trio*** and plays guitar in that group. Charley has appeared as a soloist in New York's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Town Hall, in Washington's Kennedy Center and in many other important venues in North America and Europe. He has 5 recordings to his credit, the latest being ***Before I Had a Red Tomato*** on Caravan Recordings.

In 1978 he co-founded ***The Balalaika and Domra Association of America (BDAA)***, an international organization to preserve and proliferate Russian folk music and Russian folk instruments. In 1975 he founded the ***Houston Balalaika Society***, in 1981 he founded the ***Atlanta Balalaika Society*** and in 1994 he co-founded the ***Atlanta Mandolin Society***, all still thriving orchestras.

In 2003 he was the subject of the cover story of ***Mandolin Magazine***, a national publication. In 2004 he was named a ***Master Folk Artist*** by the ***Pennsylvania Council for the Arts***, and awarded a grant in conjunction with their Master/Apprentice program. In October of 2006 he assumed the posts of Executive and Music Director of the ***Pittsburgh Mandolin Society*** and he is conductor of the ***Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra***. He has been teaching fretted instruments privately both in Pittsburgh and in Albion, PA since 2003.