

Svetlana Nikonova, Orchestra Conductor and Arranger



Svetlana Nikonova graduated from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia, with a degree in orchestral conducting. She is a professional domra soloist, and played with the Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra in St. Petersburg. Before immigrating to the United States, Svetlana and her husband, bayan virtuoso Vladimir Zakharevich, traveled and performed throughout Europe as a musical duo. She is a gifted arranger and conductor and has been the Artistic Director of the Washington Balalaika Society since 2003. Svetlana also plays domra with the St. Petersburg Trio (with bayanist Vladimir Zakharevich and contrabass balalaikist Andrei Saveliev) and with the Beltway Balalaikas. This will be Svetlana's fifth appearance as conductor of the BDAA Festival Orchestra. She looks forward to again working with the BDAA, and will be creating arrangements that are both enjoyable to play and accessible to all levels of BDAA musicians.