



Tetiana Khomenko

Balalaika Technique and Balalaika Choir Workshops

Tetiana (Tanya) Khomenko has been playing balalaika for 22 years ever since her first music teacher, Oleksandr Vinnichenko from Kyiv music school #14, came to her classroom and asked “Who wants to play the balalaika?” Tetiana is a graduate of the Glière Kyiv Institute of Music, and earned a master’s degree at the P. Tchaikovsky National Music Academy, studying under the Honored Artist of Ukraine Professor Yuri Aleksyk. Her master’s thesis dealt with the problems of stress in music and ways to overcome it as a balalaika player.

Tetiana studied conducting at the Institute, crediting instructors Valery Varakuta, Anatoly Dubina, Volodymyr Marunych, and Ihor Savkov with the knowledge that allowed her to conduct and perform world masterpieces. Ihor Savkov taught Tetiana orchestration, and she now plays in his orchestra at the Kyiv Music Institute. Tetiana’s favorite balalaika repertoire include Evgeny Trostyansky’s “Nocturne” and his “Grotesque and Pondering,” which she performed as a soloist in her first year at the academy.

Tetiana loves her quartet Bravo Band, which she calls the “Hipsters of Folk Music.” Performing music from the Renaissance to the present day, the group appears regularly at concerts and festivals, and in June 2013 won the International competition "Samorodki".

Tetiana attended her first BDAA convention in 2014 in Kalamazoo, and in 2015 was the balalaika guest artist at the Akron convention. Tetiana loves the BDAA, and is thrilled to be able to attend the 2016 convention in Bloomington with her husband Oleksandr and 9-year old daughter, Viktoriia (Vika).

Tetiana is busy writing music for her balalaika choir class which will include a jazz piece! Tetiana and Vika recently formed a balalaika-piano duo that performed at Vika's school; they hope to perform as a duo at Bloomington's Open Mike Night!