

2017 Workshop Staff and Guest Artists

Svetlana Nikonova – Festival Orchestra Conductor



Svetlana 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 U.S., Svetlana and her husband, Bayan virtuoso Vladimir Zakharevich, traveled and performed throughout Europe as a musical duo. She has been the artistic director of the Washington Balalaika Society since 2003 and is a gifted and experienced arranger and conductor. Svetlana currently plays domra with the St. Petersburg Trio and with the Beltway Balalaikas. This will be Svetlana's fifth appearance as conductor of the BDAA Festival Orchestra.

Andrei Saveliev – Balalaika Technique / Balalaika Soloist



Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, Andrei began his musical education early in his youth and went on to graduate from the Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory. He was trained as a balalaika soloist and has an extensive repertoire of performance pieces. Andrei played balalaika with the Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra after graduation, as well as with local and touring ensembles before immigrating to the U.S. in 1992. Currently, Andrei is a balalaika soloist for the Washington Balalaika Society and plays contrabass in the St. Petersburg Trio. Andrei teaches Balalaika by using the same techniques he learned as a student in St. Petersburg and is universally beloved by his students.

Anna Shatilova – Domra Technique / Domra Soloist / Lecturer*



Anna is a professional domra player from St. Petersburg, Russia. She began her musical career at the musical lyceum Kikiny Palaty and toured Europe with Alexey Dolgov's Russian Folk Youth Orchestra. Anna studied domra with Svetlana Grischenko and has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Young Talents award from the government of St. Petersburg. She continued her education at the St. Petersburg State University of Culture, where she played in the Esse-Quintet ensemble. Presently, Anna is pursuing a master's degree in musicology at the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston and actively performs with ensembles from the department of Contemporary Improvisation.

Volodymyr Marunych – Bayan & Accordion / Guest Artist



Volodymyr is a bayan virtuoso and an acting professor at the National Music Academy named after P.I. Tchaikovsky in Kiev, Ukraine. At the academy, Volodymyr teaches conducting and instrumentation and continues to express his talent in other roles, such as the artistic director and conductor of the National Music Academy of Ukraine Student Folk Orchestra. During 2002-2011, he has been a part of the instrumental ensemble Dyvohray of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. Volodymyr collaborates with multiple musical organizations, such as the Folk Orchestra of the Teleradio Company of Ukraine, the Ukrainian National Orchestra of Folk Instruments, and the National Male Choir named after L. Revutskyi. He also arranges and composes pieces for the Marunych Duo with his wife and domraist, Natalia Marunych.

Natalia Marunych – Prima Domra / Guest Artist



Natalia is a prominent professional domra soloist and an artist at the famous folk ensemble Ridni Naspivy of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. She teaches at the Kiev Institute of Music named after Reingold Glier. As young musicians, Natalia, her husband, Volodymyr Marunych, and Iryna Honcharova started a musical trio and became laureates of the National Ukrainian Contest in 1988 and 1989, as well as laureates of the International Music Contest in 1991. Today, many of Natalia's students have also gone on to become laureates of the same contests. Natalia and Volodymyr have traveled and performed an extensive repertoire as the Marunych Duo and continue to tour and entertain audiences across the U.S. and Europe.

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Anna Gubenkova – Chorus / Folk Dance / Vocal Soloist*



Anna was born in Orsha, Belarus, and became interested in music at a very young age. When she was four, she joined the children's folkloric ensemble Ternitsa, and she graduated from high school minoring in choral music. At the age of fifteen she began studying choral conducting at the Rimsky-Korsakov State Music College, where she graduated with high honors. She entered the Belarusian State University of Culture and Arts in Minsk in 2010 but immigrated to the U.S. before graduating. In Madison, she met Victor Gorodinsky and began singing with the University of Wisconsin Russian Folk Orchestra regularly. Besides music, Anna is interested in arts, poetry, and literature.

Peter Omelchenko – Domra & Balalaika Rhythm / Guest Artist / Lecturer*



Peter is currently a member of Moscow's Osipov Balalaika Orchestra, a domra virtuoso, arranger, composer, and was a featured soloist with the Nekrasov Radio and Television Folk Instrument Orchestra. Peter spent his childhood in the south of Russia, surrounded by the rich folk-music traditions of the Cossack people. Peter studied at the Gnessin Academy with Alexander Tsygankov and has subsequently won many prestigious competitions, such as the Cup of the North in Cherepovets. A consummate entertainer, Peter has recently become active in musical theater and performing on stage in a number of roles: singing, dancing, and improvising, while additionally contributing original music and choreography.

Charley Rappaport – Domra Choir/ BDAA Co-Founder



Charley's first instrument was a mandolin that his grandfather carried to the U.S. in a pillowcase from Odessa. In 1964, Alexander Kutin, conductor of the Balalaika Symphony Orchestra, lent Charley his first domra. From there, Charley has appeared as a soloist at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center, Town Hall in New York, and the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. Charley has organized orchestras in New York, Houston, and Atlanta, and co-founded the BDAA. In 2003, he was featured in *Mandolin Magazine*, and in 2004 he was named a Master Folk Artist by the Pennsylvania Council for the Arts. Today he is the executive / music director of the Pittsburgh Mandolin Society and conductor at the Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra.

Victor Gorodinsky – Guest Festival Orchestra Conductor / BDAA Board Member



Victor is a Slavic languages librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Originally from Moscow, Russia, Victor immigrated to the U.S. in 1982. He holds a master's degree in music (classical guitar and orchestral conducting) from Gnesin College of Music in Moscow. Before moving to Madison in 1995, he was assistant director (under the late Professor John Garvey) and later, music director of the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra, the official School of Music performing and touring ensemble. In 1996, with the generous financial help from the University, Victor was able to purchase authentic Russian folk instruments and founded the UW-Russian Folk Orchestra. When Victor happens to have free time, he likes to spend it reading, listening to other music, traveling, and performing magic.

Jeanne Stolberg – Kokoshnik (Traditional Russian Headdress) Workshop



Jeanne's interest in making the traditional Russian headdress worn by women started with her association with the New Archangel Dancers in Sitka, Alaska. She has performed with them for 25 years and served as their dance director for seven years. As the dance troupe added new dances and costumes, she learned how to make the kokoshnik easily and quickly. Jeanne has lived in Sitka, Alaska for 39 years. She now works as a concert sound engineer mixing live shows, as well as recordings. She is also a potter, owning her own studio. Jeanne plays prima balalaika with two music groups in Sitka: the Balkan Conspirators and the SitNiks. She has served on the BDAA board of directors and coordinated the 2009 Convention in Sitka, Alaska.

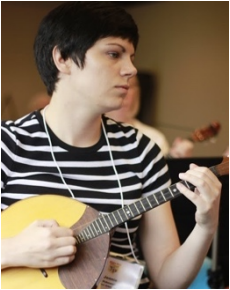
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Jason Schreiber – *Beginning Balalaika / Balalaika Choir / BDAA Board Member**



Jason is a music educator, arranger, and ethnomusicologist / biomusicologist currently residing in Patagonia, AZ, where he teaches K-12 music. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in music from Northern Illinois University in steel band, music theory, and ethnomusicology. He performed in Trinidad and Tobago for the 2000 World Steel Band Music Festival and in South Korea for the 2002 Seoul Drum Festival. While in Trinidad and Tobago, Jason conducted field work to study the organology of the steel pan. Recently, he has worked with the Hummingbird Monitoring Network to analyze hummingbird vocalizations and songs. In addition to balalaika, he performs on tenor banjo, guitar, mandolin, accordion, trumpet, upright bass, piano, and voice.

Jennie Bukowski – *Beginning Domra / BDAA Board Member**



Jennie is a Ph.D. student at Colorado State University, where she does research in atmospheric physics & climatology. She received her M.S. from the University of Michigan in atmospheric and space sciences in 2016. Although she works in a STEM field, Jennie majored in Russian language and literature and Soviet history at UW-Madison. It was there that she met Victor Gorodinsky and joined the UW-Russian Folk Orchestra on domra. Since then, she has been active in the BDAA: serving on the board, working with the Youth Initiative, and teaching a high school domra workshop at the 2015 Akron convention. Growing up, Jennie was trained as a classical violinist and has since picked up the fiddle, accordion, erhu, bass, and guitar.

** The workshop leader or invited artist is a member of the BDAA Under 40*