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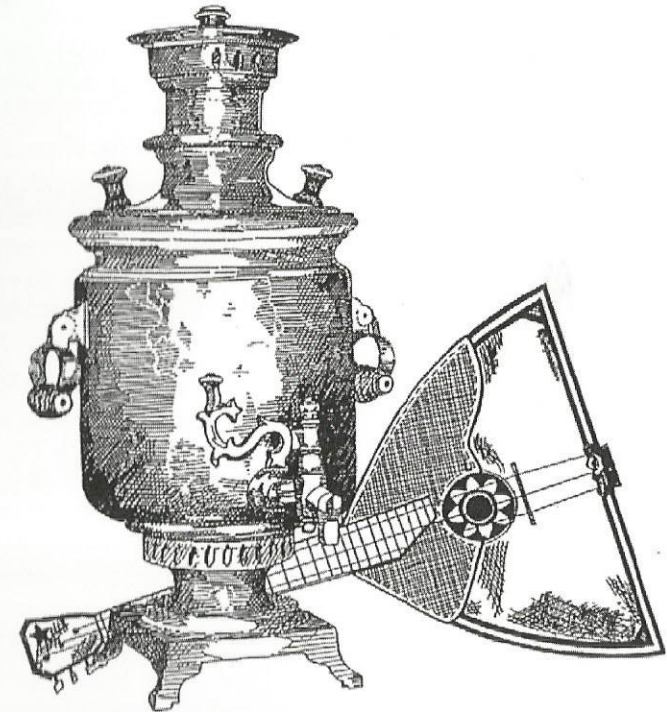
**2017 BDAA Convention Coordinators:**  
Jason Marzuola and Victor Gorodinsky

We want to extend our sincere thanks to the many people from the Washington area and elsewhere who have helped to make our Convention and Festival Concert a success.

- Stephen Shetler and the staff at Schlesinger Concert Hall
- The management and staff at Holiday Inn and Suites, Old Town
- Irene Perloff McCullough and Kathy Mittelstadt for publicity coordination
- Members of the Washington Balalaika Society for support in planning and logistics for the Convention and Concert
- Michaela Staskiewicz, Helms-Briscoe Associates

If you enjoyed this evening's performance, check [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org) regularly for news of upcoming concerts by the Washington Balalaika Society

**The Balalaika and Domra Association  
of America**



**39th Annual  
Russian Festival Concert**



**Saturday, July 22, 2017**

**Rachel M. Schlesinger  
Concert Hall and Arts Center  
Alexandria, Virginia**



**Welcome to the 39th Russian Festival Concert of the Balalaika and Domra Association of America**

Good evening, and thank you for confirming by your attendance tonight our conviction that Alexandria was an outstanding choice for our 2017 BDAA Convention. We have spent a delightful week enjoying the ambience and diversity of your community and tonight's concert is the culmination of that experience. We thank the many members of the community who helped us make our conference and this program a success.

The BDAA, formed in 1978 by three musicians from different parts of the U. S. who thought to create something larger, more inclusive and more visible than they enjoyed separately, gave birth to an association international in scope and committed to preserving the common heritage and traditions represented by the instruments they play. Though "America" is our last name, our membership today includes musicians from Canada, France, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Russia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and Australia as well as the United States

Our annual conferences, held in a different city each year, bring us together for a week of study, performance and fun with others who share common interests. Musicians from beginner to world-class professional share in these experiences, and learn from each other through a week of workshops and seminars, intensive study and rehearsals as well as our less formal jam sessions and social interchange.

The traditional concert at the end of the week is our opportunity to showcase our guest artists and other talented musicians who have taught our classes and enlivened our evenings with music. The 95-member Festival Orchestra composed of conference attendees rehearsed each day under the direction of conductor Svetlana Nikonova, who also arranged most of the music they will play tonight.

We are pleased to share this extraordinary music with you, and hope on hearing it you will share our enthusiasm for this remarkable culture.

Jane Malackany  
President

Maxwell McCullough  
Executive Director



**THIS EVENING'S PROGRAM**

The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra  
Svetlana Nikonova, Artistic Director

- Slavsya! N. Glinka  
Medley of Popular Russian Folk Themes Traditional, arr. S. Nikonova  
Dance of Bessarabian Gypsies arr. V. Marunych  
Natalia and Volodymyr Marunych, domra and accordion duo  
Moi Muzhenka A. Shveshinkov  
Peter Omelchenko, domra soloist  
Ochi Chorniye (Dark Eyes) Traditional, arr. S. Nikonova  
Olga Orlovskaya, soprano soloist  
Anna Shatilova, domra  
Accompanied by pianist Jon Laird  
Vocalise Op. 34 No. 14 S. Rachmaninoff  
Concerto for Domra and Orchestra, Movement 1 N. Budashkin  
Barynya Dance Ensemble  
Valentina Kvasova and Boulat Moukhametov  
Hopak Traditional Ukrainian dance  
Andrei Saveliev, balalaika  
Accompanied by the Russian Festival Octet  
Russian Tunes Medley Traditional  
Kolso dushi-devici arr. A. Shalov  
Selskaya kadri! Russian country dance  
Barynya Dance Ensemble  
Gypsy Dance (Melody: Two Guitars) Traditional  
The Founders Quartet  
Charley Rappaport ~ Lynn Carpenter ~ Elena Pavlova ~ Victor Gorodinsky  
Moldavian Suite Traditional  
Csárdás V. Monti  
Tsygane yedut, with the BDAA Gypsy Chorus Traditional Gypsy  
**🎻 INTERMISSION 🎻**  
The 2017 BDAA Festival Orchestra  
Hymn to the Great City R. Glière  
Russkiye Pereplyas V. Gorodinsky  
Nocturne A. Borodin  
Dance of the Gypsy Women, from the opera, "Aleko" S. Rachmaninoff  
Anna Shatilova, domra soloist  
The Second Waltz D. Shostakovich  
Kon' arranged and conducted by Victor Gorodinsky  
Anna Gubenkova, vocal soloist  
Tunes and Dances of Russian Gypsies Trad./arr. S. Nikonova  
Po nebu, po sinemu ... arr. A. Shalov  
Andrei Saveliev, balalaika soloist  
The Devil's Wheel A. Babadjanian

*All pieces arranged or orchestrated by Svetlana Nikonova unless otherwise indicated*

## The 2017 BDAA Russian Festival Orchestra

### Prima Domras

Anna Shatilova, Concertmistress  
Teresa Allen  
John Blanck  
Alice Blistein  
Jennie Bukowski  
Olga Douglas  
Patrick Fazzino  
Tiffani Ferrantelli  
Christine Gao  
Kathleen Hulan  
Virginia Lieneck  
Jane Malackany  
Mike Markowitz  
Natalia Marunych  
Kathy Mittelstadt  
Alex Prescop  
\*\* Charley Rappaport, Founder  
Katie Richardson  
Kathleen Schwartzman  
Cindy Stroup  
Li Tang  
Joseph Thibodeau  
June Whelan  
Charles Winkler  
Debbie Yavelak Sieff

### Alto and Tenor Domras

Wren Abramo  
Marie Cohen  
Lynn Falk  
Frances Fite  
Vikki Ganger  
Mia Gay  
Marilyn King  
Joel Leonard  
Rosita Kirkman  
Nancy Maia  
Barbara Massoudi  
Irene McCullough  
Maxwell McCullough  
Peter Omelchenko  
Patrick Thibodeau  
Zhenya Tochenaya  
Vladimir Trubetskoy

### Bass Domras

Carl Culig  
Joanne Dodd  
Claudia Dwass  
Elizabeth Gardner  
Raymond Kane

### Winds

Amy Lochhaas, flute  
Art Shaw, flute  
Rachael Bredefeld, oboe  
Patricia Sherago, clarinet

### Prima Balalaikas

Andrei Saveliev, Principal  
Janet Bohm  
Kirill Chernoff  
Carmela DelVecchio  
Evgeniia Leshchinskaia  
Ron Markvan  
Erin Martin  
David Martin  
\*\* Lynn Carpenter McConnell, Founder  
Aaron Mott  
Dan Nicolini  
Bill Parsons  
Jim Pope  
Sieglinde Prodehl  
Jeanne Stolberg  
Denise Taplin  
Olga Trubetskoy  
Nancy Wight

### Sekunda Balalaikas

Claus Prodehl (Guitar)  
Jane Purcell  
Barbara Thomason

### Alto Balalaikas

Gabriella Carney  
Henry Lowman  
David McCullough  
Jason Schreiber  
Judy Sherman

### Bass Balalaika

Victor Gorodinsky

### Contrabass Balalaikas

Richard Hulan  
Paul Kauriga, Jr.  
Alex Krowzow  
George Leshkevich  
Elliott Mills

### Accordions and Bayans

Volodymyr Marunych, principal  
Barbara Bowsher  
Barbara Cakshiri  
Peter DiGiovanni  
Paul Jankowski  
Judy Meyers  
Sandy Mills  
Elena Pavlova

### Guslis

John Gardner  
Karen LaCrosse  
Olya Naidenko

### Percussion

Jim Coffey  
Judith Casper Humphrey  
Rob Miller

## The Balalaika Orchestra As An Art Form

While many nations of the world have musical instruments of primitive origin unique to their cultural evolution, few of these have achieved the stature within the national awareness that the balalaika has in Russia -- that of a folk instrument elevated to the concert stage and taught in conservatories. The same may be said for the companion instrument, the domra, as the two share the same ancestral lineage traceable back to a two-stringed variant brought by the Mongols from China -- but of the two it seems that it is the balalaika that has a certain mystique and commands the attention.

As the historians tell it, the balalaika was first mentioned in writing in 1688 when the reigning authorities banned its use, citing instances of disrespect of both the Crown and the Church on the part of jesters and street musicians who poked fun at these hallowed institutions. The ban may have had some effect in the larger cities but the instrument itself in its various forms remained in use by the peasant class through the years in "outlying areas" -- in other words, much of the vast territory of Russia.

In the early 1880s a nobleman and musician named Vasily Andreev, as the story goes, heard one of the peasants on his estate playing the balalaika and was impressed with the possibility of 'perfecting' this crude folk instrument so that it could be brought to the concert stage. Andreev saw that the balalaika's unique and inimitable sound was intrinsic to Russian folk music and that both deserved greater recognition.

Despite the difficulty of finding anyone, including the instrument-makers of the time, who took him seriously, Andreev pressed his case relentlessly and in 1888 presented the first public performance by his eight-member 'Circle of Balalaika Players,' suitably attired in formal dress, in a theatre in St. Petersburg, at that time the cultural center of Russia.

The resoundingly positive response may have astonished even the optimistic Andreev, who found his ensemble much in demand. It grew in numbers as well as popularity and by 1913 the Orchestra had grown to 30 members and become well known in Russia and abroad, with tours in Germany, France, Great Britain, America, and Canada. The domra and gusli (plucked psaltery) joined the balalaika in this cultural pursuit, and the group was renamed the Imperial Russian Court Orchestra. The jubilee concert that launched this enterprise was attended by the highest St. Petersburg society, including the Imperial Court.

After one concert the famous basso, Fyodor Chaliapin (whose great-granddaughter, soprano Olga Orlovskaya, will appear in tonight's program as a special guest), proclaiming Andreev's success, said: "Dear Vasily Vasilievich, you have cherished an orphan-balalaika in your bosom. By your love and care it has become a real Russian Beauty and conquered the world with its charm".

Its popularity and status survived revolution, wars and societal change and today there are orchestras such as the one you see today in many cities in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus as well as in Europe, Australia and North America. The BDAA is pleased to carry on these proud traditions in association with orchestras, ensembles and individual artists throughout the world.

## Featured Artists

### ❖ **The Washington Balalaika Society**

The WBS, formed in 1988 with eight musicians interested in bringing the unique sound of the balalaika and domra to audiences in the Washington DC area, is today the largest such orchestra outside the former Soviet Union with more than 50 musicians. Its members are delighted to have been asked to open the program tonight and help welcome the BDAA participants from around the world who have come to participate in this week's activities. As a part of its presentation the WBS will feature three soloists who are attending the Convention from Ukraine and Russia, as well as the eminent soprano Olga Orlovskaya, who appears regularly with the WBS in its concerts.

### ❖ **Andrei Saveliev – 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 soloist**

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.

### ❖ **Charley Rappaport – BDAA co-founder and domra soloist**

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.

### ❖ **Volodymyr and Natalia Marunych – Domra/bayan duo**

Volodymyr is a bayan virtuoso and an acting professor at the P.I. Tchaikovsky National Music Academy 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 was a part of the instrumental ensemble Dyvohray of the National Philharmonic of Ukraine. He also arranges and composes pieces for the Marunych Duo with his wife, domrist Natalia Marunych.

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 Reinhold Glière/Kiev Institute of Music. As young musicians, Natalia, Volodymyr 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. 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.

### ❖ **Peter Omelchenko – Domra soloist**

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.

### ❖ **Anna Gubenkova – Vocalist**

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. She choreographed tonight's first-half finale.

### ❖ **Olga Orlovskaya – Vocalist**

Russian-born soprano **Olga Orlovskaya** inherited her talent from her great-grandfather, the legendary Russian basso Fyodor Chaliapin. She graduated with honors from the Russian Academy of Music and attained the degree Master of Arts with specialty in voice. Olga was a participant and finalist in multiple national and international festivals and competitions including "Palaces of St. Petersburg", "Norway Cultural Festival", "Opera Ischia Festival", "Roma Opera Festival" and "Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival". Ms. Orlovskaya made her debut in the United States in winter 2006 with Helicon Opera as Adele in "Die Fledermaus" on the stages of 50 theaters of the continental US. She has performed as a soloist with the Washington Balalaika Society each year since 2010.

### ❖ **Valentina Kvasov and Boulat Moukhametov – Dancers**

**Valentina Kvasova** is a professional dancer specializing in Russian, Cossack, Ukrainian and Russian Gypsy (Roma) traditional dance. Born in Rostov-na-Donu, Russia, she has a degree from the Voronezh Choreographic School, and has been a principal dancer for the Rostov Don Cossacks State Academic Song and Dance Ensemble. For the past twelve years she has been principal dancer and choreographer for Barynya, the largest Russian dance and music ensemble outside of Russia. **Boulat Moukhametov** received his early dance training at age 11 studying ballet at the Rudolph Nureev Academy in Ufa, Russia. At age 18 he joined the Presidential Dance Company of the Republic of Bashkortostan, touring Europe, and later becoming a soloist with the Song and Dance Company of the Baltic Navy Forces. He joined ensemble Barynya in New York in 2009.

### ❖ **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.

### ❖ **Victor Gorodinsky – Guest Festival Orchestra conductor**

Victor is a Slavic languages librarian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Originally from Moscow, 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 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 CREECA, Victor founded the University of Wisconsin Russian Folk Orchestra. Victor also serves as Comptroller of the BDAA.