



Yuri Shishkin – Balalaika Guest Artist, Balalaika Technique

Yuri Shishkin, born in 1975 in St. Petersburg, Russia, fell in love with the sounds of the traditional Russian instrument – the triangular balalaika - at an early age. He continued through music school, Music College and the St. Petersburg Music Conservatory (Professor Senchurov). He began his professional career as a balalaika player and was invited to be the soloist for the Federal Orchestra “Metelitsa”.

Yuri has participated as a soloist and as a member of many ensembles, performing in Russia, Europe and Asia. He represented the Russian folk traditions by playing balalaika for Bill and Hillary Clinton, Mrs. Putin, and members of Summit G20 in 2013. Yuri received an award as Best Balalaika Player for the “All Russia Competition” in Murmansk.

Annually Yuri participates as a member of the Jury for the international Instrumental Competitions in Russia. He is the author of numerous educational materials on the balalaika, and he contributes his work to St. Petersburg Musical Instrument Museum.

Currently Yuri is active as a soloist and tours with Yulia Sydykbayeva (Balalaika & Piano Duo) and with the Moscow Nights Trio.