



### **Alexander Tentser – Conductor, Concert Pianist, Lecturer**

Alexander Tentser was the music director and conductor of the Balalaika and Domra Association Festival Orchestra in Kalamazoo, MI in July of 2014. In July of 2019 he will join the BDAA Orchestra once again in Austin, TX.

Concert pianist, chamber music collaborator, educator and conductor, Tentser is an unusually gifted and versatile musician. He began studying piano at the age of four with his father, choral conductor, singer and accordionist in Kiev, Ukraine. He was quickly accepted at the Ukraine State School for Gifted Children sponsored by the Kiev Conservatory.

After a highly acclaimed performance of the Grieg's Piano Concerto at the age of twelve, he was recommended for studies at the Gnesin Music College in Moscow, Russia, the oldest music college in the country. He continued his piano education at the Russian Gnesin Music Academy with Professor Theodore Gutmann, who, as a student of Henry Neuhaus, continued the celebrated Russian piano tradition producing hundreds of wonderful pianists working all around the globe.

In 1991 he was offered a full scholarship for doctoral studies at the University of Arizona with Professor Nohema Fernandez. In his first year Alexander received a Creative Achievement Award for the top graduate students and became a winner of the President's Concerto Competition. As a result of this, he was engaged to appear with the Tucson Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven's Concerto #4 in 1993-1994 concert season. Since then, he was invited back as a guest soloist in 1998, and 2003.

As a conductor, Alexander directs Pima Community College Orchestra producing a variety of programs including the works of Baroque, Classical, and Modern composers. In the spring of 2008, the PCC Orchestra and Opera singers performed Mozart's "Magic Flute" at the Proscenium Theater in Tucson. For several years, Alexander has conducted the [Arizona Balalaika Orchestra](#) in their annual January/February concerts of Russian music.

In 1997 Alexander became a Music Faculty member at both Cochise College in Sierra Vista, and Pima Community College in Tucson, Arizona. In 2005-2007 and 2017-2018 seasons Alexander was a member of the Piano Faculty at the University of Arizona in Tucson.