



Russian Duo

Oleg Kruglyakov & Terry Boyarsky

Residency/Outreach

We are available for educational concerts, workshops, residencies, and lecture-demonstrations.

“Russia & Beyond” Performance

Discover teamwork in action. Experience how performers, composers and audiences work together. Oleg Kruglyakov, balalaika virtuoso, and Terry Boyarsky, masterful pianist, offer an introduction to Russian folk music through the balalaika, a traditional Russian 3-stringed instrument. Students will be captivated by exuberant music, energized by dynamic rhythms, moved by beautiful melodies. Learn how the balalaika came onto the concert stage from humble peasant origins in Old Russia. The audience becomes an essential part of the concert, collaborating with Oleg and Terry on stage using Russian percussion instruments.

Workshops

Workshops are designed for grades K-6. Study guides available upon request for:

Workshop 1: *Troika!* There is nothing more quintessentially Russian than the three-horse-drawn carriage known as the troika. Students learn the folk dance “Troika” with ethnomusicologist Terry, and perform it to balalaika music played by Siberian-born Oleg. Students will understand the era in Russia when troikas were used in a sophisticated mail relay system and contrast it to today's communication systems. A brief power point underscores the imperative of teamwork in the troika, and demonstrates the derivations of our dance. While dancing and accompanying each other with Russian percussion instruments and lots of bells, students also learn about counting beats, form/structure, and patterns.

Workshop 2: *Kalinka (the Viburnum Tree)* This integrated workshop uses a beloved Russian folk song to teach music and mathematics. In the process of learning “Kalinka” students understand measure, form, structure, pattern, and timing. Musical concepts of steady beat, meter, accelerando, fermata, ostinato and melodic line are learned by singing and body percussion. We use the Russian percussion instruments *treschyotki*, *lozhki*, *buben*, wood block and whistle.

Workshop 3: *Haul Away!* Comparison of the River System in Russia and Canal System in Upstate New York. Students learn the famous song “Volga Boatmen” (a new translation by the Russian Duo), understand the symbolism of the words, the historical context, and study a famous painting of the *burlaki* (Volga boatmen). We compare this phenomenon to how boats were hauled on the Erie Canal, look at paintings of, and sing the “Erie Canal.”

Workshop 4: *Korobushka - the Peddler.* With stories about the door-to-door salesman pulling fabric and haberdashery out of his little basket to sell to the villagers, this charming folk song and dance teaches children about the lifestyles of Old Russia and early America.

Residency Options

Oleg and Terry create a residency in tandem with your class curriculum, aligning to Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Music standards. We teach Russian folk dances such as *Korobushka*, *Katya*, *Troika*, *Russian Two-Step*, *Sasha!*. We include beloved folk songs - *Kalinka*, *Birch Tree*, *Kalina*, *Volga Boatmen* - discussing the historical, cultural, and musical significance as well as comparing and contrasting to life in America. We demonstrate how to play Russian percussion instruments - the *treschyotka*, *lozhky*, *buben*, wood block - Oleg plays *jaleika* and birch bark whistle - and include all in a culminating performance with the Duo.