



Russian Duo

Oleg Kruglyakov & Terry Boyarsky

Residency/Outreach

We are available for educational concerts, workshops, and residencies.

“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 on stage using Russian percussion instruments.

“Troika!” Workshop (Designed for grades K-8. Study guides available upon request.)

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 symbolism 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.

Residency Options

Oleg and Terry create a residency in tandem with your class curriculum and interests, aligning to Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Music standards. We teach Russian folk dances, beloved folk songs, tell Skazi (folk tales), discuss historical, cultural, and musical significance. We bring Russian percussion instruments to play - *treshyotka*, *lozhky*, *buben*, *korobochka*, *jaleika* and birch bark whistle. Songs, dances and stories can be included in a culminating performance with the Duo.

Topics can include, but are not limited to:

Chastushki - *Chastushki* are the traditional Russian form of jamming and joking in rhymed couplets - a democratic form of art where a crowd gathers to encourage the spontaneous creativity of the participants. We will re-enact the process, creating our own verses, improvising dance movements and performing to balalaika accompaniment and Orff instruments (if available).

Kalinka (the Viburnum Tree) - a beloved Russian folk song helps teach music and mathematics. In learning “Kalinka” students understand measure, form, structure, pattern, and timing. Musical concepts of steady beat, meter, *accelerando*, *fermata*, *ostinato* and melodic line are enhanced with body percussion.

Haul Away! Comparison of the River System in Russia and Canal System in Upstate New York. Students learn the famous song “Volga Boatmen,” understand the symbolism of the words, the historical context, and study a famous painting of the *burlaki* (Volga boatmen). We compare this phenomenon to travel on the Erie Canal, look at paintings of, and sing the “Erie Canal.”

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.