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To Whom It May Concern:

Russian Duo, Terry Boyarsky and Oleg Kruglyakov, performed as part of our Calico Children's Theatre series on March 4 and 5, 2011 featuring multiple performances of their youth-focused concert, *Russia and Beyond*, as well as the workshop *Troika*. Young and old alike were amazed by Oleg's showmanship and mastery techniques of the balalaika, including the brief playful bit of strumming the instrument while twisting, turning and even passing the instrument around his body. Terry and Oleg took the audience on a musical voyage through Russia from Moscow to Siberia while weaving historical and geographical details throughout the performance.

We presented the kid-friendly performances of *Russia and Beyond* in both our public series as well as our daytime school series all in which the special feature was a mini-concert starring volunteers from the audience. Children were selected and invited on stage to accompany Terry and Oleg on instruments, such as wooden blocks, tambourines, bells and more, which included some handmade instruments by Russian Duo. A child "conductor" was chosen, instructions were given by Terry and the impromptu concert commenced receiving much applause from proud parents and teachers.

As if our time with Russian Duo could not get any better, we had a dozen children participate in the *Troika* workshop which the children greatly enjoyed. While images of troika, a three horse-drawn carriage, played in the backdrop, Terry gave the easy-to-follow instructions, Oleg played the balalaika and the children learned a beautiful and well-known Russian folk dance.

In all, our time with Russian Duo was educational, engaging and culturally stimulating! Terry and Oleg were flexible and wonderful to work with and we hope to work with them again in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nikki Vargas".

Nikki Vargas
Program Manager