



# MOSCOW NIGHTS/IVERIA

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## Georgian National Song & Dance Company

### Biography

Ensemble "Iveria" was founded in St. Petersburg in 2002 with the Georgian community. The head of the ensemble is Honored Worker of Culture of Georgia, David Rusia and the choreographer, musical director is Irakli Rusia.

Like many of Georgia's best dancers Irakli Rusia began dancing at a very early age, joining Tbilisi's professional children ensemble at the age of 5. He has soloed with Georgia's top ensembles. He is a very versatile dancer and has toured in many countries. Also he was trained in the best Georgian Conservatories as a singer and choral director. He is particularly well-versed in the folklore and church music.

The aim of the ensemble "Iveria" is to familiarize with the Georgian folk art and to impart to children a sense of tolerance and respect for other cultures. Ensemble "Iveria" takes part in all festivals and celebrations of St. Petersburg. In the days of commemoration of 300 years of St. Petersburg ensemble has participated in major festive concerts and festivals, won first place and was awarded the diplomas.

In connection with the 60th anniversary of the Blockade of Leningrad ensemble has performed at a gala concert and has earned the love of the audience. Ensemble "Iveria" is a winner of all festivals, parades and contests genre. Since 2006, the "Iveria" is a permanent participant of the festival of national-cultural associations of St. Petersburg "Joining Hands Friend", for which they were awarded diplomas of the Governor of St. Petersburg.

In 2006 the ensemble received a diploma of the winner of the festival of folk art to the 100th anniversary of the trade unions and certificates "For the preservation of folk traditions and high performing art" from the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia. In January 2007 the ensemble "Iveria" was awarded the International Festival "St. Petersburg Snowstorm".

The ensemble's repertoire includes songs and dances from almost all regions of Georgia. "Iveria" is distinguished by its traditional approach. All the songs and dances are performed in their authentic style, which was the original idea of the ensemble.

Mastery of young dancers was applauded by spectators of many cities. Iveria is always greeted very warmly by audiences. Their admiration is always expressed very emotionally with excited applause. They especially like the fiery dances. Georgian folk songs sound so modern that it's hard to believe in their folk origin and antiquity.