

# Russian Music and Dance Group Visits Wayland

# WaylandPatch

Jan 3, 2011

Russian folk song and dance take the stage at Wayland's Community United Methodist Church.

By [John Keklak](#) | [Email the author](#)



[Moscow Nights/Golden Gates](#), a troupe of Russian musicians, singers and dancers performed at [Community United Methodist Church](#) in Wayland on Sunday, Jan. 2.

The 90-minute performance combined virtuoso instrumentals with traditional Russian songs and dances. The music ranged from familiar tunes to the beautiful ballad "Russia," to a variety of regional folk songs such as "Pimushki," a Siberian folk tune.

Vitaliy Bezrodnov is the founder of Moscow Nights/Golden Gates. He is also a member of Moscow Nights, a three-piece band comprised of Bezrodnov on bayan accordion, Sergey Pudov on balalaika-prima and Roman Ped on contra-bass balalaika. A balalaika is a guitar-like traditional Russian instrument consisting of a triangular body with three strings. The members of Moscow Nights performed several songs, one of which was the strikingly familiar theme to Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker."

The other group performing, the Golden Gates, is a singing and dancing ensemble featuring four female vocalists as well as three female and three male dancers. The Golden Gates members, all teenagers who have been with the group since 2003, reside in St. Petersburg, Russia, and attend the Author's Aesthetic Music Secondary School.

Portions of the performance provided opportunity for audience participation. At one point, audience members learned a folk dance, while in a musical piece, audience members accompanied Moscow Nights on various percussion instruments. "This is really a two-way cultural exchange," Bezrodnov said. "American audiences learn about traditional Russian music and dance, and the performers experience the United States."

The Wayland performance was the first of a 2011 U.S. tour that will take the troupe to about 20 cities throughout the next several weeks. The Wayland Community United Methodist Church has welcomed the group during each of its four previous U.S. tours.



A portion of the proceeds from the tour is being donated to a charity program titled "Music in Mission" and Rotary International Children's Fund, which raises money for orphanages in Russia.