



MOSCOW NIGHTS

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Biography

Moscow Nights is an exciting, versatile ensemble of world-recognized, prize-winning musicians from Russia. They have already established themselves as one of the fastest rising folk groups in the United States. These classically trained artists first took Western Europe by storm and now have brought their dazzling, toe-tapping music to North America.

Led by **Vitaliy Bezrodnov** on Bayan Accordion, the group was initially formed under his direction in Kaluga, Russia in the late 1980's where Mr. Bezrodnov attended Kaluga Music Conservatory. After completing his conservatory studies, he successfully reorganized the group in the United States in 1996.

Initially touring the Western states and the Hawaiian Islands, the ensemble met with great acclaim due to their considerable talents and natural exuberance. Their venues have been as varied as First Night New Year's Eve Celebrations to the Denver Center for the Performing Arts. They also initiated a charity program entitled *Music in Mission* and *Rotary Children's Fund* which raises money for the orphans of Russia.

Balalaika-Prima player **Sergey Pudov**, originally from Magnitogorsk, Russia, graduated from the Magnitogorsk Music conservatory (Professor Petr Tzokolo). Mr. Pudov's considerable talent is well known throughout Europe, and he is the winner of International, All Russia, Europe and Asia competitions. With his finesse, virtuosity, and charming personality, Mr. Pudov is a welcome addition to Moscow Nights.

Most recently, **Anton Fadeev** joins the ensemble on contra-bass balalaika. Hailing from a very professional, musical family, Mr. Fadeev was immediately accepted into the St. Petersburg Academy of Music and Culture. In addition to playing contra-bass, he is an accomplished jazz bass guitar and symphony bass, and he has toured the world as part of other ensembles and orchestras.

The music of Moscow Nights is predominantly authentic, traditional Russian folk music. During his conservatory years, Mr. Bezrodnov spent considerable time traveling deep into the Russian countryside, interviewing the eldest members of each village in an effort to preserve and resurrect pre-revolution Russian culture. Their current program incorporates obscure folk instruments such as percussion "Treshotki" and birch-bark whistles. Thus, Moscow Nights is able to bring to audiences a unique program of a culture that had almost lost its original identity.

Moscow Nights' concerts offer audiences an entertaining glimpse into Old Russia through music, song, and dance. This helps bridge a three-quarter century of isolation between our countries. The dazzling, toe-tapping program is broad and varied with something to appeal to everyone – from youngest to oldest and everyone in between.