



**Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra**

*Continuing the celebration of our 35th year, with*



# Musical Magic!



**Svetlana Nikonova, Conductor**

**Saturday, November 18, 2023 at 8:00 pm**  
F. Scott Fitzgerald Theater  
Rockville, MD

**Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 3:00 pm**  
Kenmore Auditorium  
Arlington, VA



*Today's concert is dedicated to the memory of Patricia Scherago, our longtime clarinet player, who passed away on 10/24/23 after a long illness. Pat grew up in a very musical family, singing and playing music from a very young age. Her primary instruments included clarinet, saxophone, and flute. In high school, she received academic honors and the Arion Award as an outstanding music student. Pat graduated with honors from the University of Miami's School of Music, with an emphasis in orchestral music. While there, she served as principal clarinetist with the Miami Symphony. After serendipitously reuniting with a fellow band-mate from elementary and high school, Pat married Robert Scherago in 2003. They played in several groups together including the Kings Park Concert and German Band. Pat loved the*

*music, the other players, the WBS conductor, and the whole experience of playing with such a fine orchestra. She is survived by her loving husband of 20 years, Robert, three children, nine grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. She is sorely missed by her family, friends, and the whole WBS Orchestra family.*



We weren't entirely sure what we were doing back in 1988 when we got together to see who might like to play balalaika and domra just for fun, but you have exceeded our fondest dreams.

Best wishes for another enchanted weekend with your spectacular ensemble and outstanding director.

Please know that I'll be watching, very proudly.

*Francie Fite*

**Mary Prussing**, a longtime supporter and friend, and the mother of Amy Lochhaas, our Principal flutist, passed away on October 7, 2023 at 98 years young. Mary was a beloved mother to three children, grandmother to four, and great grandmother of two! She was a singer from the get-go, loved her time gardening, helping women further themselves with her friendship as well as through a women's group called PEO, and traveling on cruises all over the world, with her beloved Max Roos (also a longtime supporter of WBS). She had a funny personality; a spunky side to her, and always had a smile or a hug to greet you without guile of any kind. She attended every major performance of WBS until just this last year, which totaled over 20 years' worth of gorgeous music. She is sorely missed by her family and friends, but we celebrate her joy every day seeing the beauty in all the little things around us.



**David Mott**, another longtime supporter and part of the WBS family, died suddenly on October 26, 2023. He was 55 years old. David was the loving husband of Megan Mott and the father of Aaron and Parker Mott. Aaron plays Prima Balalaika in WBS. David was also the son-in-law of WBS President Jan Bohm. David earned Bachelors and Masters degrees in Aerospace Engineering from Texas A&M University. He went on to earn a Masters in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Aerospace Engineering and Scientific Computing



from the University of Michigan. He was highly regarded in his role as Director of the Laboratory for Computational Physics and Fluid Dynamics at the Naval Research Laboratory. In addition to being a wonderful husband and father, David was a stalwart supporter of WBS. He worked tirelessly behind the scenes helping Megan and Jan manage concert lobby operations and hauling lots of equipment to and from various concert venues. He also supported WBS in many other ways at other types of events. His sudden tragic death is an incalculable loss to his family, friends, and coworkers. The grief his family and we all feel at David's sudden and unexpected death, simply defies description. Our collective hearts are with Megan, Aaron, and Parker.

## PROGRAM NOTES

***PROLOGUE TO PICTURES AT AN EXHIBITION***, by Modest Mussorgsky was originally a piano suite. It is a musical depiction of an exhibition that took place at the Imperial Academy of Arts in St. Petersburg, featuring the works of Viktor Hartmann. Each of the 10 movements relates to one of Hartmann's artistic works: chickens, witches, catacombs, rattling carts, etc.

***CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA***, an opera in one act, takes place in a Sicilian village on Easter morning. The story is typical of many operas with the requisite sad ending, but the opera was an instant success for the composer, Pietro Mascagni, who was only 26 years old and **INTERMEZZO** is a favorite for choirs worldwide.

***THE SWAN***, by Camille Saint-Saens, is the 13<sup>th</sup> movement of his "The Carnival of the Animals." Saint-Saens was born in 1835 in Paris and died in 1921 in Algeria. He was an organist, conductor and pianist of the Romantic Era. Along with Carnival of the Animals, he composed the equally well-known Danse Macabre.

***LARGO FROM XERXES*** was composed by George Frederic Handel, the German-British composer well known for operas, anthems, concerti grossi, oratorios and organ concertos. He was born in 1685 in Halle, Germany, but spent most of his life in England and was buried in Westminster Abbey in London. Beethoven named Handel the greatest composer ever!

***SICILIENNE*** is a dance meant to convey melancholy emotions or pastoral scenes. The form was commonly used in baroque operas. Faure's most well-known work is his Requiem. After it was not performed in the production for which it was intended, Faure arranged it for different solo instruments and it was included in a other theatrical productions.

***SVAD'BA*** was composed by ARNO BABAJANIAN, Armenia's most well-known composer. He lived during the Soviet Era and was recognized as a People's Artist of the Soviet Union. We have played another of his well-known compositions, The Devil's Wheel.

***POMP AND CIRCUMSTANCE*** was one of 5 marches composed by Sir Edward Elgar published during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An alternate name of "Land of Hope and Glory" applies to the familiar tune. It was first played at a graduation ceremony at Yale University on 28 Jun, 1906 when Elgar received an honorary doctorate of music.

# Musical Selections

*Promenade* ..... M. Mussorgsky  
*Intermezzo* from “Cavalleria Rusticana” ..... P. Mascagni

*Kokhanochka Ukrainian Folk Dance* ..... Traditional  
Elena Rector, Prima Domra

*The Swan* from “Carnival of the Animals” ..... C. Saint-Saens  
Claudia Dwass, Bass Domra

*Hawaiian Hum* ..... Z. Zakharevich

*Largo* from “Xerxes” ..... G. Handel  
Lorrie Brown, Oboe

*Jewish Selections* ..... Various

*Sicilienne Op. 78* ..... G. Fauré  
Amy Lochhaas, Flute

*Old Movie Favorites* ..... H. Mancini, H. Arlen  
*Svad’ba* ..... A. Babadzhanyan

♪ INTERMISSION ♪

*Pomp and Circumstance* ..... E. Elgar

*Liebeslied* ..... F. Kreisler

*Rio-Rita (Pasodoble)* ..... E. Santeugini

*Let’s be Happy* ..... G. Feidman  
Bernard Arons, Clarinet

*Karelian-Finnish Polka* ..... V. Gridin  
Vladimir Zakharevich, Bayan

*I Met You* ..... arr. M. Rozhkov

*Ural Dance* ..... B. Troyanovsky  
Andrei Saveliev, Prima Balalaika

*The Great Gate of Kiev* ..... M. Mussorgsky

*All selections arranged or orchestrated for the WBS Orchestra  
by Svetlana Nikonova*

## **Svetlana Nikonova**

### *Artistic Director and Conductor*

Since taking the job of WBS Artistic Director and Conductor in 2003, **Svetlana Nikonova** has elevated the performance of the WBS Orchestra to extraordinary levels.

Nikonova trained at the esteemed Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St Petersburg, Russia. She taught children



at the St Petersburg Kirov Music School (1984-1992), taught conducting at the Mussorgsky Music College (1987-1992), and played with the world-renowned Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra (1991-2000).

Nikonova and her husband, Vladimir Zakharevich, also a Rimsky-Korsakov graduate, toured Europe and Russia from 1992-2003 prior to her moving here to become the WBS Orchestra Conductor. Nikonova's and Zakharevich's daughter Varvara played percussion with the orchestra for several years after the family first arrived. Their son, Zakhar, a gifted pianist and composer, plays gusli.

A gifted arranger and inspired conductor, Nikonova spends countless hours seeking out and arranging music that the orchestra enjoys playing and audiences enjoy hearing.

# **The Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra**

*Svetlana Nikonova, Artistic Director and Conductor*

*Jonathan Lochhaas and Andy Sigle, Announcers*

## **Prima Domra**

Elena Rector, Principal  
Radina Dosseva  
Al Esguerra  
Alina Konshina  
Cindy Stroup \*  
Sergei Terekhov  
Svetlana Velkovskaya  
Marlee Warwick  
June Whelan, Vice President \*  
Charles Winkler

## **Alto and Tenor Domra**

Marie Cohen  
Olga Douglas  
Barbara Gorin  
Evelyn Harpham  
Max McCullough \*

## **Bass Domra**

Steve Cohen  
Claudia Dwass, Treasurer \*

## **Gusli**

Zakhar Zakharevich

## **Accordion and Bayan**

Vladimir Zakharevich, Principal  
Peter DiGiovanni  
Yimeng Huang  
Justin Paschalides

## **Prima Balalaika**

Andrei Saveliev, Principal  
\* Janet Bohm, President  
Dean Chambers  
Tommy Grottker  
Aaron Mott  
Kathleen O'Connor-Bater  
\* Jim Pope  
Denise Taplin  
Kareen Wenk

## **Sekunda Balalaika**

Sal Ferrantelli

## **Alto Balalaika**

Julie Eddinger  
Anne Salzberg

## **Bass Balalaika**

Anna Pechnikova

## **Contrabass Balalaika**

Paolo Zanotti Fregonara  
Richard Hulan  
Peter Mazikins

## **Flute**

Amy Prussing Lochhaas, Principal  
Jonathan Davidson  
\* Art Shaw

## **Other Winds**

Bernard Arons, Clarinet  
Lorrie Brown, Oboe

## **Percussion**

Julianna Lee, Percussion  
Robert Miller, Timpani

\* *member of the WBS Board of Directors*

*The Washington Balalaika Society is proud to feature some of our talented in-house musicians!*



**BERNARD ARONS**, clarinet, enjoys playing clarinet with a variety of chamber groups, jazz combos, the DC Klezmer Workshop, and for the past year with the WBSO. A graduate of Oberlin College with a major in Religion and Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine, Bernie's "day job" is in the public behavioral health field. Svetlana Nikonova has orchestrated the wonderful *Let's Be Happy!* by Argentinian Israeli clarinetist Feidman.



**LORRIE BROWN**, oboe, will be playing Handel's *Largo* from "Xerxes" today. A retired MSG from the US Army, Brown is certified in Spiritual Direction & Traumatology. She holds an EdD in Educational Leadership, and a MM & BM in Music. Having taught all ages of learners, as well as in higher education, she has offered outreach, workshops, and classes across four continents. Lorrie is very grateful for her many opportunities to perform with some of the world's finest ensembles and musicians, including WBS.



**CLAUDIA DWASS**, WBS principal bass domra player, studied cello as a child and started playing bass domra with the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra. While living in Ann Arbor, MI she played sekunda balalaika with the Balalaika Orchestra of Detroit. She has played with WBS for over twenty years, and today, she will perform the familiar *The Swan* from "Carnival of the Animals."



**AMY LOCHHAAS**, WBS principal flutist, was immersed in music from a young age. Lochhaas graduated college with a Bachelors of Music in performance. She has taught and soloed in numerous groups and played with the WBS for over twenty years. Today, she will perform the Faure's familiar *Sicilienne Op. 78*.



**YELENA RECTOR**, WBS Concertmistress and principal prima domra player, hails from Izhevsk Russia. Rector started her early training on piano and focused on domra in her Saratov Conservatory studies. After graduating from the conservatory, Rector played with several ensembles and travelled extensively playing with several ensembles. She emigrated in 2000 and made Virginia her permanent home. Rector teaches piano to all levels of students. Proficient on prima and tenor domras, today, Rector will be featured in *Kokhanochka*, a lively Ukrainian folk dance.”



**ANDREI SAVELIEV**, WBS Concertmaster and principal prima balalaika player, is a perennial audience favorite. Saveliev graduated from the esteemed Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory in St. Petersburg, Russia and played balalaika with the world-renowned Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra, as well as local and touring ensembles before emigrating in 1996. Saveliev is a gifted teacher and beloved by his students. Today he will play Rozhkov’s *I Met You* and Troyanovsky’s *Ural Dance*.



**VLADIMIR ZAKHAREVICH**, WBS principal bayan player and bayan virtuoso, will play Gridin’s *Karelian-Finnish Polka*. Gridin is known for his complex bayan arrangements with orchestra accompaniment. Listen for the complicated interwoven musical patterns in this piece, especially the bayan solo part. Gridin arranges his pieces for highly skilled virtuoso bayan performers, and Zakharevich makes this challenging masterwork look easy.



**The Balalaika Guild®** recognizes the generous financial contributions of those whose support helps us meet our ongoing obligations and undertake exciting new programs. Membership requires an annual tax-deductible contribution of \$50 or more. Guild

members receive a quarterly newsletter and advance notice of WBS performances and special events. The WBS is a 501.c.3 organization.

**Cumulative recognition levels are:**

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***It is EASY to support WBS!***

⇒ ***JOIN the WBS Balalaika Guild here:***

***[https://www.balalaika.org/bal\\_donate.html](https://www.balalaika.org/bal_donate.html)***

⇒ ***Name WBS as your favorite charity at [www.igive.com](http://www.igive.com) and every time you shop at one of their participating online stores, iGive will donate a percentage to WBS!***

⇒ ***When you use PayPal to donate to WBS, the PayPal Giving Fund will send the funds to WBS and send you a receipt. (Look for one of their supported platforms, such as PayPal, eBay, GoFundMe, Humble Bundle).***

# ∞ The Balalaika Guild 2023 ∞

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***Like to have fun? And make new friends?***

♪ ***Join the WBS Orchestra and perform a variety of music!***

♪ ***Music is provided!***

♪ ***Authentic folk instruments are available to borrow!***

♪ ***Conservatory-trained teachers are available!***

♪ ***All players are welcome, beginners through expert!***

**We rehearse on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in Arlington, VA.  
And often on Saturdays at 10 am near Baileys' Crossroads.**



***If you can read the  
bass clef, you can  
learn the bass  
balalaika or domra!***



***We also need percussionists!***



*If you play violin or mandolin, you can already play the prima or tenor domra!*



*Guitar players will find it an easy transition to playing a rhythm balalaika (sekunda or alto) and might want to try the prima balalaika!*



*For a truly unique experience, piano players might want to try their hand at the GUSLI!*

*(an ancient instrument similar to a table harp)!*



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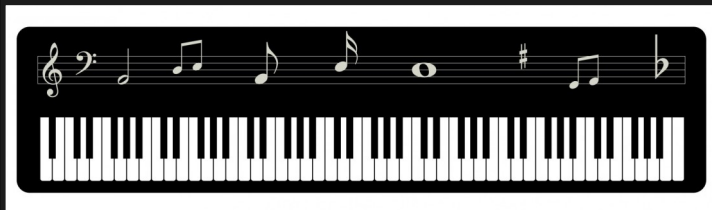
**EMAIL: [balalaika@balalaika.org](mailto:balalaika@balalaika.org)**

**PHONE: 703-549-0760 or 703-764-0048**

**Zakhar Zakharevich**

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This ad was placed by Marie and Tom Cohen in honor of their son Michael Cohen, who died in 2017 at the age of 25 from Diabetic Ketoacidosis due to undiagnosed Type 1 Diabetes. Please read and know the signs.

*It could save a life!*

**Michael B. Cohen**



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## *About The Washington Balalaika Society*

**The Washington Balalaika Society** was founded in 1988 by a group of local musicians interested in studying and performing a wide spectrum of music on traditional folk instruments including the balalaika, domra, bayan and related folk wind and percussion instruments.

The Society's initial membership of eight grew to over sixty, and even with losing concert and rehearsal time the past few years due to Covid, the WBS Orchestra continues to be the largest and most active of its kind in America with musicians at all levels from beginner to professional, and from teens to 80s in age. The Society's performing elements include the WBS Orchestra as well as the smaller Slavic Dreams folk ensemble.

The WBS Orchestra is organized in instrumental sections similar to a symphony orchestra, under the direction of a professional conductor. The instruments include domras in five voices (first and second prima domra, alto, tenor and bass), five sizes of balalaikas (prima, sekunda, alto, bass, contrabass), guslis (table psalteries), accordions, bayans, wind instruments (flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, folk winds) and both conventional and folk percussion instruments.

The WBS Orchestra presents a dozen or more concerts each year including our annual Spring and Fall Series, festivals, parks, community concerts and other public and private venues. The WBS Orchestra has performed at the Kennedy Center Concert Hall with the Paul Hill Chorale and The Choral Arts Society of Washington; Carnegie Hall in New York; the Round Lake Auditorium in New York's Adirondacks; Lisner Auditorium; Constitution Hall, the Smithsonian Institution, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington; Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall in Alexandria; James Madison University; Kean University in New Jersey; The Theater at Washington, VA; Randolph-Macon Woman's College; Walters Gallery in Baltimore and the Ceres Mansion and Weinberg Theatre in Frederick, MD as well as many other sites both large and small in the greater Washington area.

Membership in WBS is open to musicians at all levels who share an interest in these instruments and their performance possibilities. We're also always in need of willing workers in the areas of publicity and promotion, concert logistics, outreach, liaison with other arts organizations, fund raising and grant requests, maintenance of our music library, audio recording, stage management, costumes and many other tasks.

We rehearse on Wednesday evenings in Arlington, VA, and many Saturdays near Bailey's Crossroads. For information, call 703-473-0710 or email [balalaika@balalaika.org](mailto:balalaika@balalaika.org). See our website [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org) and "like" us on Facebook! The WBS is a non-political, nonprofit 501.c.3 cultural and educational corporation.

# Lyon Park Community Center

414 North Fillmore Street  
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***[rent@lyonpark.info](mailto:rent@lyonpark.info)***



**[www.lyonpark.info](http://www.lyonpark.info)**

*Did you enjoy the concert? WBS has CDs for sale for \$21 each (includes shipping). You can order online or print this page and mail it with a check (made out to "WBS"). Send it to:*

**WBS  
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**Tamara Volskaya**, Composer and Performer, Merited Artist of Russia, Professor at the Mussorgsky Ural State Conservatory of Yekaterinburg, Russia, New York

*We want to thank Faith Lutheran Church where we hold our Wednesday evening rehearsals year around, for providing such a pleasant and welcoming environment.*

[www.flcva.org](http://www.flcva.org)



*We also want to thank the Goodwin House in Bailey's Crossroads for hosting our Saturday morning rehearsals during concert seasons.* <https://goodwinliving.org/baileys-crossroads/>

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***You know who you are!***

***And THANK YOU to our devoted audience members. You make all that we do worth doing.***

***We appreciate your support and hope you will keep coming back!***

**Stay in touch at: [www.balalaika.org](http://www.balalaika.org)**

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