


KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

November 3, 2015

Dear Terry and Oleg,

Thank you so much for your performance at Kent State University this past October 28, 2015. While I had no doubt that people were interested in Russian music, I had no idea how many would turn out for the performance. Nearly every seat in the auditorium was filled with students, faculty and community members, which reflected well on our program and its success. Your contribution was invaluable in this regard and will most certainly help us to attract support for guest artists in the future.

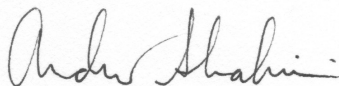
Students I spoke with after the show were most impressed with your audience rapport. The mix of humor, history, and showmanship not only entertained, but also educated them about Russian balalaika music and its significance today. In the future, I hope we can plan for a workshop, particularly for our graduate students, in order to spend more time learning about this tradition. The extra time would allow for deeper discussion and interaction with those of us sincerely interested in learning more.

Thank you also for spending the time after the concert to meet with students and take photographs with them. Our international students, in particular, thought this was especially generous of you. While Americans are used to opportunities to see world music performance, those students who rarely see Russian music in their home countries especially valued your concert and willingness to talk with them.

I will plan for a return visit in the near future, if you are available. I would like to coincide your performance with our course schedule, so that students learning about European traditional music can benefit directly from your presentation for class assignments. So much better than reading about music in a book or just watching YouTube!

Again, thank you for your performance. You were a joy to work with and I look forward to seeing you again soon. If there is anything you need from me to follow-up with administration, etc., please let me know.

Take Care,



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