



Andrews Osborne
ACADEMY

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To Whom It May Concern,

This letter is in reference to the Russian Duo. Our Residency with the Russian Duo was a success. We are very thankful to the Ohio Arts Council for funding our twelve-day program. We hosted Oleg and Terry during the pandemic and though they had many challenges to overcome, they made creative accommodations to ensure the safety and enjoyment of our students from pre-k through 12th grade.

In the lower school classes students were engaged and participating in the hands-on lessons and dancing. They accompanied each other with Russian instruments, such as the balalaika and lots of bells, while learning about counting beats, form/structure, and patterns. Students were smiling and doing their best to follow along to the best of their abilities. Our first graders performed the "Sasha" via recording and live for about 100-150 community members who attended our community cultural evening drive through performance.

In upper and middle school students were engaged in learning a new style of dance through an introduction to Russian folk music through the balalaika, a traditional Russian 3-stringed instrument. Students were captivated by exuberant music, energized by dynamic rhythms, and moved by beautiful melodies. They will learn how the balalaika came onto the concert stage from humble peasant origins in Old Russia. As students gain confidence with Russian rhythms and dance. In the World History class, students actively participated in class discussions while asking questions of cultural relevance. The World History class walked away with a stronger understanding of Russian culture through the arts of music, dance, costumes and how that ties together with Russia.

Our middle and upper school dance and choirs performed the "Kayta", "Kotobushka" and the "Troika" which we recorded and shared over zoom school wide during our International Week. To learn more about our residency with the Russian Duo go to <https://www.andrewsosborne.org/arts>

Jessie Barbarich

Visual and Performing Arts Department Chair