



## Residency/Outreach

We are passionate about teaching children to collaborate - in addition to integrating our music and movement workshops with history, culture, language, and math. Duo Balalaika is on the Ohio Teaching Artist Roster, the OAC "Artists-on-Tour" roster (both fee-support programs) as well as several North Carolina artist rosters. Educational workshops, and residencies are designed with your input and your K-12 students in mind. Study guides available upon request.

### **“Cross-Cultural Collaboration” Performance**

A lively, engaging, virtuoso concert played on balalaika & piano, with singing, too! Discover teamwork in action and experience how performers, conductors, and audiences work together. In this assembly program, the audience became an essential part of the concert using Russian percussion instruments and body percussion. The students became a cohesive ensemble with the Duo, by counting beats, following the conductor, and responding to timbre, tempo, and dynamics.

### **“Troika!” Workshop**

There is nothing more quintessentially Russian than the three-horse-drawn carriage known as the troika. Students learn the folk dance “Troika” with ethnomusicologist Terry, and perform it to balalaika music played by Siberian-born Oleg. Students will understand the era in Russia when troikas were used in a sophisticated postal relay system and contrast it to today's communication systems. A brief power point underscores the imperative of teamwork in the troika, and demonstrates the derivation and symbolism of our dance. While dancing and accompanying each other with Russian percussion instruments and lots of bells, students also learn about counting beats, form/structure, and patterns.

### **Residency Options**

Oleg and Terry create a residency in tandem with your curriculum and interests, aligning to Language Arts, Social Studies, Math and Music standards. We teach Russian folk dances, folk songs, tell or re-enact *Skazki* (folk tales), discuss historical, cultural, and musical significance. We bring Russian percussion instruments to play - *treshyotka*, *lozhky*, *buben*, *korobochka*, *jaleika*. Songs, dances and stories can be included in a culminating theater piece and/or a performance with the Duo.

### **Examples of residency topics:**

Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin - Pushkin, whose grandfather was African, was considered to be the creator of modern Russian literature. Dozens of composers were inspired to use his poetry as lyrics for romances and opera. In this workshop, students learn about Paul Robeson, a renown African-American bass who lived in Russia, championed and identified with Pushkin's life and art.

Chastushki - Chastushki are the traditional Russian form of jamming and joking in rhymed couplets - a democratic form of art where a crowd gathers to encourage the spontaneous creativity of the participants. We re-enact the process, creating our own verses,

improvising dance movements, and performing to balalaika accompaniment (and tuned percussion instruments, if available).

Haul Away! - Comparison of the River System in Russia and Canal System in Upstate New York. Students learn the famous song "Volga Boatmen" (a new translation by the Duo Balalaika), understand the symbolism of the words, the historical context, and study a famous painting of the *burlaki* (Volga boatmen). We compare this phenomenon to how boats were hauled on the Erie Canal, look at paintings of, and sing the "Erie Canal."

Korobushka - the Peddler - With stories about the door-to-door salesman pulling fabric and haberdashery out of his little basket to sell to the villagers, this charming folk song and dance teaches children about the lifestyles of Old Russia and contrasts with early American pioneer life.

Kalinka (The Viburnum Tree) - a beloved Russian folk song helps teach music and mathematics. In learning "Kalinka" students understand measure, form, structure, pattern, and timing. Musical concepts of steady beat, meter, accelerando, fermata, ostinato, and melodic line are enhanced with body percussion.

***Examples of dances:***

- Korobushka – a partner dance about a young peddler selling haberdashery and hoping to win a beautiful girl's kiss.
  - Troika – a dance based on the 3-horses-drawn carriage that transported mail from one relay station to the next in the Russian Empire.
  - Sasha! – A mixer for old and young. Partners teasingly scold each other in Russian, then play a clapping game with each other.
  - Katya – a circle dance about the grief experienced by a young woman whose husband turned out to be a bully.
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- **We can help you write a grant to bring us to your school!**
  - **Block booking requested if outside of Ohio. Lodging must be provided.**
  - **We can bring our own sound system and electric piano.**