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The “Spirit of St. Petersburg” Duo Coming to St. Petersburg, Florida



Svetlana Nikonova and Vladimir Zakharevich

Two outstanding performers of Russian folk music are coming to St. Petersburg, Florida from St. Petersburg, Russia. Svetlana Nikonova is an accomplished domra player and her husband Vladimir Zaharevich is an outstanding bayanist. Together they form the dynamic duo, “The Spirit of St. Petersburg.”

They will be performing in concert at the St. Petersburg Nights Restaurant on St. Pete Beach (6800 Sunset Way) on Thursday evening, November 5 at 7:00 pm. Also on the program will be the Russian Dancers of the Academy of Ballet Arts. These dancers are well known in the area for their lively and artistic performances of Russian folk dances.

Svetlana, a native of St. Petersburg, Russia, began her musical journey at age six when she began taking domra and piano lessons. She attended a prestigious music school in St. Petersburg, and then went on to the St. Petersburg Conservatory where she continued to excel as a player and soloist on the domra. She also studied conducting and arranging of music for orchestra. While at the Conservatory she met her future husband, bayanist Vladimir Zakharevich.

Soon after graduation she was invited to join the prestigious St. Petersburg Andreyev Balalaika Orchestra, one of the top orchestras for folk instruments in all of Russia. She spent the next seven years as a domrist and arranger for the orchestra.

Svetlana and Vladimir will also be performing at the SPIFFS Folk Fair on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You don't want to miss these outstanding performers. For more information, call (727) 867-9148.

SPIFFS 35TH ANNUAL FOLK FAIR

November 5-8, 2009

Albert Whitted Park in St. Petersburg

For many years the Folk Fair was in March. This time the event will be in Albert Whitted Park in downtown St. Petersburg on November 5th and 6th for the students, and Saturday, November 7 (10am – 10pm) and Sunday, November 8 (11am – 7pm) for the general public.

You can experience Oktoberfest, an Asian extravaganza, dances and foods from the islands of Polynesia, a Caribbean Festival, and much more, all in one location. Our special entertainers this year include "Flute on Fire" Jose Valentino on Saturday evening, and American gospel performers, God's Chosen and BJ Thomas on Sunday. *Also, a dynamic duo playing Russian folk instruments known as the "Spirit of St. Petersburg" (the Russian one) will perform**, as will colorful dancers from many ethnic traditions. For a complete schedule of performances, check the SPIFFS website at www.spiffs.org.

*For more on the Russian entertainers, see page 1.

The Parade of Nations and the Opening Ceremonies are one of the high points of the festivals on Saturday at 3pm. Mayor Baker will be there and Miss St. Petersburg will again sing the National Anthem. If you have enjoyed the Folk Fair in the past, maybe it is time to come again this year, to its new time and new location in Albert Whitted Park.

OLD RUSSIAN NEW YEAR'S GALA

January 16, 2010

Hilton Bayfront in St. Petersburg

Invitations will be going out this week! Plan for this great event!

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