

# TRIO VORONEZH

## About the Trio

**Trio Voronezh** is a musical ensemble that produces incredibly exciting sounds and compelling arrangements of classics across a variety of musical styles, all played upon Russian folk instruments. Trio Voronezh's astonishing virtuosity and delightful artistic innovation give the trio the ability to alter the way audiences experience classical, folk and contemporary repertoire. The diverse repertoire of the Trio includes the works of Vivaldi, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Stravinsky, Shostakovich, and Rachmaninov, as well as Russian folk songs, Argentine tangos, gypsy dance music, bluegrass and popular songs by Gershwin. The ever-expanding concert material is arranged by the members of the Trio, and performed with extraordinary virtuosity and musical lyricism entirely from memory.

The musicians of Trio Voronezh have been playing and performing since they were young children, around the age of six. They continued their classical training and pursued further study at the Conservatory in Voronezh, Russia.



**Vladimir Volokhin** went on to win the title of National Champion in the All-Russia Domra Competition in 1986.

**Valerie Petrukhin** has performed with many famous Russian folk orchestras and ensembles and currently is being an honored member of the Sierra Nevada Balalaika Society.

**Sergei Teleshev** won many regional and international accordion competitions and recently became the US V-Accordion Champion by winning 2013 US Roland V-accordion festival.

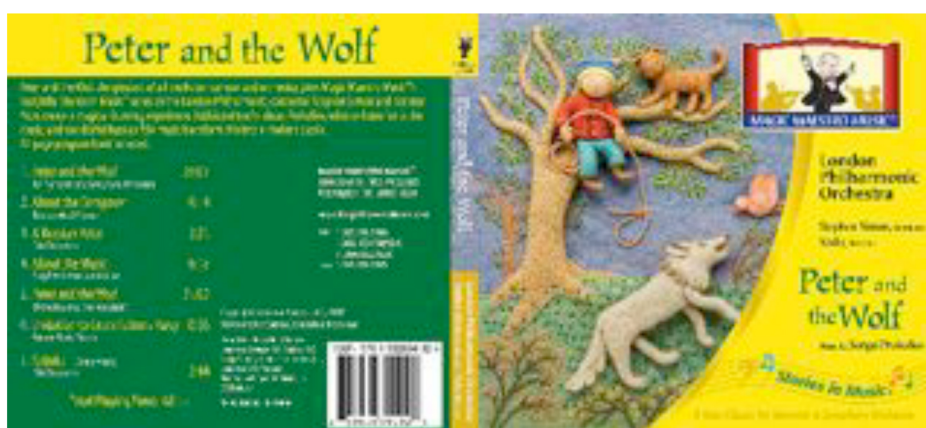
**Vladimir Volokhin, Valerie Petrukhin and**

**Sergei Teleshev** formed the Trio in 1993. The folk trio named themselves after the working-class city from which they studied and perfected their craft, a city of over a million people, and approximately 350 miles south of Moscow. In 1995, Trio Voronezh sprang onto the international stage after they were discovered playing classical favorites and folk tunes in a Frankfurt, Germany subway station

**Trio Voronezh** made its U.S. debut at the 1996 Oregon Bach Festival. Earning critical praise and held in high regard by the crowds, they were the sleeper-hit of the summer. The musicians were immediately invited to return. They followed with concert appearances in Europe, a music video filmed in the USA and performances in the 1997 and 1999 Oregon Bach Festivals. The first U.S. tour of the group, in the fall of 1998, began by bringing down the house at NPR's "A Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor. The Trio went on to perform at Houston's Society for the Performing Arts; the cities of Ann Arbor, Chicago, Portland, and St. Louis; and the Universities of Arizona, Georgia, Illinois, Nebraska, and Los Angeles; as well as Amherst, Dartmouth, New York's Rockefeller University, and Stanford. Topping it off, the Trio Voronezh was signed by the prestigious EMI Angel label, and went into the studio to record their first CD, self-titled, "Trio Voronezh."

The trio made its orchestral debut with the Phoenix Symphony Orchestra in a highly successful collaboration with Doc Severinsen. Since then the Trio has performed with major symphony orchestras throughout the U.S., Canada and Russia.

In addition to five Albums released in the following years, the Trio was featured on a 2007 release of "**Peter and the Wolf**", along with the **London Symphony**. It was selected by Dr. Toy, Stevanne Auerbach, as one of 2007's "10 Best." Stevanne Auerbach is one of the nation's and world's leading experts on play, toys, and children's product. The recording was also selected by National Parenting Publication Awards "NAPPA Gold Award."



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### Instruments

The instruments that comprise the group are: the **Domra**, the **Balalaika**, and the **Bayan**, or chromatic button accordion. The instruments are common to Russia, but are infrequently heard or seen in this country.



The Russian **Domra**, played by **Vladimir Volokhin**, is a lute-looking/ mandolin-sounding instrument dating back to the 1400's. It is of Mongolian heritage, and is the forerunner of the balalaika. Like the balalaika, it is a three-stringed instrument played with a pick . . . but, the body of the instrument is round, rather than triangular.

The national instrument of Russia, the **Balalaika-Doublebass** is played by **Valerie Petrukhin**. It is large and wedge-shaped, and is generally in the tonal range of the double bass violin. The instrument is supported by a leg that protrudes from the low corner of the body, and is played standing up.



The **Bayan**, played by **Sergei Teleshev**, is a Russian folk instrument that is studied seriously in institutes of higher music education. Unlike the piano accordion, the right hand of the Bayan consists of buttons arranged chromatically. The instrument is free-bass: the buttons of the left-hand can be coupled to form chords, as in typical Stradella accordions, or switched to play only notes. The instrument's registers can be changed throughout a performance via chin stops . . . allowing the musician to switch reeds while both hands are free to continue playing.

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### Selected Press

A common thread throughout reviews of their performances has been the astonishment of listeners at the amount of sound and music that the Trio produces. It is evident that audiences are overcome by the virtuosity with which each musician plays his instrument, the passion and sensitivity to the demands of the varied pieces within the repertoire, as well as, the interplay within the ensemble. With such lusty performances as the Trio is known for, audiences respond in kind with boisterous and exuberant applause.

Hesston-Bethel Performing Arts chair, Matthew Schloneger notes, "Since their 1996 U.S. debut, Trio Voronezh has created a sensation wherever they have performed. They are able to produce an astonishing sound using three simple Russian folk instruments, and their eclectic repertoire will be sure to please music lovers of all types."

"As seasoned, battle-hardened players, they had a tight grip on their ensemble. Dynamics were highly contrasted and coordinated, and tempi changes effortless. They injected a sense of fun into their music . . . Vladimir Volokhin cradled his mandolin-like domra like a baby, making sometimes deliberately coy facial expressions to enhance his theatrics. Valerie Petrukhin stood in the middle with an enormous three-stringed triangular balalaika that served as the bass, and Sergei Teleshev performed with a bayan, a push-button accordion. Tight ensemble and theatrics aside, it was clear from the first note that these musicians have abilities that are easily at the top of their league."

**Nikki Buechler – *San Francisco Classical Voice***

"Wednesday's concert featured the vastly talented Trio Voronezh ... Valerie Petrukhin, Vladimir Volokhin and Sergei Teleshev have mastered their instruments to astonishing degrees. Volochin is a Paganini of the domra, Teleshev handles the bayan with dazzling fingers, and Petrukhin puts his whole body into each strum of the double-bass balalaika.... Their technique is flawless in any style, and their sense of rhythm sophisticated and nuanced."

**— *Portland Oregonian***

"As the show came to a conclusion after another wonderful music set and the audience arose with a thunderous clapping with people in the crowd shouting, "Encore, encore!" Pleased with the audience response, the Trio obliged them with another song, to which the audience again rose to their feet and shouted for more."

***Patricia L. Stepean BC***

"Trio Voronezh's virtuosity was astonishing. They played everything from memory, including the complex 'Burlesque' allegro con brio from the Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.1 and a wild medley of Gershwin songs that incorporated devilish variations on 'I Got Rhythm.' Their 'Air on a G-String' from BWV 1068 was a passionate performance of that ravishing Bach melody. They captured that Argentine tango mystery of three of Astor Piazzolla's pieces, including his famous 'Oblivion.' They charmed the audience with their demeanor, Volokhin with his mime's expressions, all with their close attention to one another, their double bows following each piece. They played two encores and got three standing ovations, heartfelt ones, not the obligatory kind. I was standing and applauding with the rest of the audience."

**- Doug Ramsay on *Jazz and Other Matters* . . .**

"The delighted audience gave a standing ovation not just once, but twice. The Trio Voronezh bowed politely at each round of applause and performed as energetically at the end as at the beginning of the show."

**— *La Junta Tribune-Democrat***

"Clear and purposeful dynamics, and never faltered for an instant. Their playing shows a clear sense of 'we've done this a million times but we still love it.'"

**- San Francisco Classical Voice**

"The audience's fascination, affection, and appreciation for these three and their performance was obvious as they showered their applause upon them with a standing ovation followed by two encores, each followed by another standing "O". It was a show and performance that will long be remembered by the nearly capacity audience at the Performing Arts Center. If you weren't able to be there, I hope you have caught at least a glimpse of what you missed."

**- Charlie Huff (DMCCA)**

"No matter what compositional territory they entered, they always sailed through it with a native's stylistic sympathies."

**— *Arizona Daily Star***

"It was an unlikely combination for a Vivaldi concerto movement, but it worked. Each musician displayed musical prowess and virtuosity, making this Baroque staple seem Russian somehow. Dances by Tchaikovsky (from 'The Nutcracker'), Shostakovich (from 'Bolt') and Khachaturian ('Sabre Dance') were more in character, the trio capturing their energy and humor and projecting their Russian spirit."

**— Michael Huebner, *Birmingham News***



## TRIO VORONEZH Selected Repertoire

Concerto in D-minor	A. Vivaldi – J. Bach
“Trepak” and “Russian Dance” from Nutcracker	P. Tchaikovsky
Polka from the ballet “Bolt”	D. Shostakovich
“Burlesque”	D. Shostakovich
“Undertango” “Oblivion” “Michelangelo 70” “Libertango”	A. Piazzolla
Polka “Pizzicato”	J. Strauss
“Sabre Dance”	A. Khachaturian
“New York Tango”	R. Galliano
“Tchastushka”	A. Zigankov
“Russian Waltz”	U. Romanov
“Argentine Dance”	Traditional
“Voronezh Cowboy”	V. Chernikov
“Piece in Bluegrass Style”	D. Kramer
“I’ve Got Rhythm”	G. Gershwin
“Besame Mucho”	C. Velasques

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## Sample of the Orchestra Program

Glinka (orchestra)	Overture to "Russlan and Ludmila"
Tchaikovsky (orchestra)	Symphony No. 6 in B minor
Vivaldi (trio-orchestra)	Concerto for Two Mandolins in G-Major
Bach (trio-orchestra)	"Bardinerie"
Shostakovich (trio solo)	Polka from the ballet "Bolt"
Tchaikovsky (trio-orchestra)	Russian Dance from "The Nutcracker"
Piazzolla (trio solo)	"Libertango"
Sarasate (trio-orchestra)	Carmen Fantasy Mvt. IV
Tchaikovsky (orchestra)	Symphony No. 4 in F minor, Op. 36

### INTERMISSION

Khachaturian (orchestra)	Mazurka from Masquerade Suite
Holcombe (orchestra)	Lara's Theme from Dr. Zhivago
Zigankov (trio solo)	"Tchastushka "
Prokofiev (trio-orchestra)	March "The Love for Three Oranges"
Khachaturian (trio-orchestra)	"Sabre Dance" from "Gayane"
Srtrauss (trio solo)	"Polka Pizzicato"
Galliano (trio-orchestra)	Opale Concerto "New York Tango"
Chernikov (trio solo)	"Voronezh Cowboy"
Gershwin (trio-orchestra)	"Summertime" - "I've Got Rhythm"
Traditional (trio-orchestra)	"Kalinka"

TRIO VORONEZH  
Selected Tour Dates

<u>CITY</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
Saint Charles, MO	Crescendo Concert Series
Victoria, Canada	“Coupe Mondiale 2013” the world’s Accordion competition
Moscow, Russia	Russia Today RT TV Studio
Heston, KS	Yost Center
Frankfurt, Germany	Hessischer Rundfunk
Grass Valley, CA	Amaral Festival Family Center
Albuquerque, NM	Emmanuel Presbyterian Church
Eugene, OR	Hult Center
Yakima, WA	Season Performance Hall
Berea, KY	Phelps Stocks Auditorium
Stillwater, MN	Church of St. Michael
Los Angeles, CA	Ford Amphitheater
Reno, NV	Pioneer Center for the Performing Arts
Sandpoint, ID	Panida Theater
Tallahassee, FL	Ruby Dimond Auditorium
Hampton, VA	Hampton Arts Commission
Phoenix, AZ	Symphony Hall
Winston-Salem, NC	The Stevens Center
Detroit, MI	Detroit Institute of Arts
Pawling, NY	Trinity Pawling School
Birmingham, AL	Stamford University