



# Russian Duo

Oleg Kruglyakov & Terry Boyarsky

## About Russian Duo

Oleg Kruglyakov and Terry Boyarsky have a compelling story and an instant rapport with audiences. They are known for their joyful, energizing performances. Listeners can expect, moving, exuberant interpretations which sometimes inspire dancing, sometimes evoke tears.

Russian Duo was born out of love of traditional music and classical elegance. Oleg is a balalaika virtuoso from Siberia, trained at the prestigious Urals State Conservatory in Yekaterinburg. Terry is an American concert pianist, Dalcroze Eurhythmics teacher and Ethnomusicologist.

*Robert Spano, Music Director, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra writes, "With music of élan, finesse and passion so virtuosically rendered, this duo's performances are irresistible."*

Oleg and Terry celebrate cross-cultural creativity, exploring the range of possibilities for balalaika, piano, and voice. They present a remarkable genre of compositions written for this formerly pagan three-stringed, triangular instrument. The balalaika was modernized at the end of the 19th century for virtuoso performance and ensemble playing. In addition to classical music and folk songs, Russian Duo performs music by Ukrainian composers, tango, blue grass, Soviet film music, and their own arrangements of ragtime.

Russian Duo is dedicated to educational outreach and believes it is vital to demonstrate the importance of cross-cultural collaboration to the younger generation through arts-integrated music and dance workshops, assemblies and residencies. Russian Duo is on the OAC Artists-on-Tour roster (a fee support program) and both musicians are on the Ohio Teaching Artist Roster.

Russian Duo is the only professional balalaika-piano duo touring in North America. Since their inception in 2007, Oleg and Terry have performed from Canada to Florida, from Minnesota to Texas, and from Massachusetts to Oregon. In 2017, they performed in Kirov, Russia.

It is unusual for conservatory trained musicians to have the freedom and spontaneity of folk musicians, just as it is rare for folk musicians to play with such precision. Experience this exceptional collaboration as Russian Duo brings an appealing blend of folk, classical, World, Soviet, and Ukrainian music to life.

*"Explosive talent ... see these dazzling musicians in action" - The Hartford Advocate*



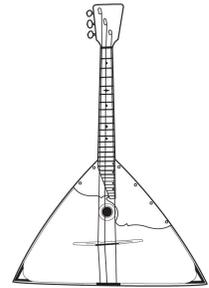
Chamber  
Music  
America

ClassicalJazzContemporary  
WorldEarly MusicClassical  
JazzContemporaryWorldEarly  
MusicClassicalJazzContemp-

# Russian Duo

## Artist Biographies

**Oleg Kruglyakov, balalaika**, was born in Omsk, Siberia, Russia. Many of his early experiences centered around singing together with family members. He has a keen ear for musical styles and a deep respect for cultural tradition. He is fascinated by the history of Russian people and well-versed in the etymology of the Russian language.



Oleg began playing the balalaika at age 7 and was later educated at the renowned Yekaterinburg Conservatory, studying conducting and pedagogy. He is a protégé of Yevgeny Grigorovich Blinov, the foremost balalaika virtuoso of the Soviet Union, who performed the world over and added many beautiful pieces of music to the balalaika-piano duo repertoire. While in conservatory Oleg had the opportunity to perform with many types of ensembles, including an ethnic music singing group.

Oleg was balalaika soloist with many Folk Russian groups. From 1989-91 he toured Moscow, St. Petersburg, Siberia and Ukraine with the Urals State Folk Choir. For three years Oleg played with the band "Siberian Mosaic" touring the Irkutsk region. Between 1993 - 1998, he traveled with Urals Folk Ensemble "Prikamie" performing in France, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Malta and Turkmenistan. Oleg appeared with the Russian Folk instrument quartet "Golden Russia." He participated in many International Festivals, among them the 1997 Folklore du Monde Festival de Bray-Dunes.

Oleg moved to the United States in 1998 to become part of "Moscow Nights" touring extensively in Canada, Alaska and 45 states in the Continental United States. He had the honor of performing at the United Nations when he came to the US. In 2007 he formed "Russian Duo" with pianist Terry Boyarsky.

Oleg's experience as a pedagogue includes teaching at the Irkutsk School of Music, Perm College of Music and the Perm Institute of Culture. Since coming to the United States, he has given workshops with "Russian Duo" as part of their mission to share Russian culture and demonstrate the art of collaboration.

In addition to his many talents, Oleg has also participated in theatre productions. He took the role of a cello-playing prisoner in the State Tumen Drama Theatre. He had a cameo appearance performing in Chekhov's "Three Sisters" with the Chagrin Falls Performing Arts Academy, coaching the cast in Russian folk songs and choreography.

Oleg has been commissioned to create arrangements and compose music for Kulture Kids theater productions as well as Kevin Kammeraad/Cooperfly Puppets' new album and video. In March 2016 he was invited to perform at Otterbein University "Guitar and its Fretted Friends" Festival. He was invited to perform in Yekaterinburg for the International Day of the Balalaika in 2016 and 2017. He had a spotlight role in the Akron Symphony Orchestra's educational concerts and occasionally serves on the jury for Russian folk instruments competitions. He is featured in the 5th edition of "World Music - A Global Journey" (Miller & Shahriari).

Oleg has four albums to his credit: one with his ensemble in Russia, one with "Moscow Nights," and two with "Russian Duo." In 2023 he received the **Ohio Arts Council Heritage Fellowship** award. He is a skilled audio and video editor and is available for balalaika lessons in person and on Skype.

For more information: <http://www.russianduo.com/oleg.html>

# Russian Duo



**Terry Boyarsky, pianist,** is a movement specialist, singer and ethnomusicologist who believes that every person is musical. Her search for musical collaboration led her into chamber music, choral singing, folk dance, coaching, accompanying dance and creating ceremony. She has collaborated with singers and dancers across the four continents.

Terry holds a BA in psychology from Reed College, a BM in Eurhythmics from Cleveland Institute of Music, and an MA in Ethnomusicology from Kent State University. Her piano teachers include Fred Rothchild, Rebecca Penneys, Jeaneane Dowis, James Tannenbaum, and coaching with Vitya Vronsky Babin. She has training from the Dalcroze School in New York City, two levels of Orff Schulwerk, and was one of sixteen Ohio artists selected to participate in the Kennedy Center for the Arts Seminars “Artists as Educators” Ohio State-Based Collaborative Initiatives from 2004 - 2007

In 2022 Terry received 12 hours of expert-led training from Lifetime Arts, the national leader in creative aging program development, as part of the Ohio Arts Council's *Ohio Intensive Creative Aging Training Initiative* to offer skills-based, sequential, and experiential arts activities for older adults. She is also certified by the National Center for Creative Aging.

Terry has taught and created events for institutions such as the Dalcroze Society of America, American Orff-Schulwerk Society, Society for Ethnomusicology, Cleveland Institute of Music, Los Hippocampitos (Carrizal, Venezuela), University of Hawaii, Rowe Center (Massachusetts), Kasetsat University (Bangkok, Thailand), Bard College Conservatory of Music, and Atlanta Symphony Orchestra.

Terry worked with the Center for Arts-Inspired Learning for nearly two decades. Currently, she is on the [Ohio Teaching Artist Roster](#) and is a mentor for artists. She has published articles in the Orff Echo, American Dalcroze Journal, Seminars in Neurology, and Teaching Artist Journal. She presents workshops on arts integration and Dalcroze Eurhythmics nationally. She has taught children, disadvantaged youth, amateur adults, learning disabled, refugees, educators, and conservatory students around the world. For almost two decades she sang with the Cleveland Orchestra Blossom Festival Chorus and still sings with Choral Arts Cleveland. Her solo piano program “Classical Expressions of the Folk Tradition” has been received with great acclaim.

Terry has taught at the Rebecca Penneys Piano Festival in Tampa, Florida since 2019. Currently she teaches a course in Russian Song for Case Western Reserve University - a theoretical and practical ethnomusicological journey. She has been performing with Siberian balalaika virtuoso Oleg Kruglyakov as “Russian Duo” since 2007.

For more information: [terryboyarsky.wordpress.com](http://terryboyarsky.wordpress.com)