



March 16, 2013

The Russian Duo visited our happy Midwestern town during one of our very best snowstorms this winter. Undaunted they performed an engaging school program for our 5th grade students and also a powerful concert in our cultural center. Oleg's charm and command of his unique instrument the balalaika, immediately drew this challenging audience in and soon had them jumping to participate. Terry's experience as an educator was evident as she designed a balanced program for the school children that included history, geography, music education, social acceptance and world issues. Backstage, after accomplishing her school program successfully she was already planning for improvements for the next program. She wanted to include traditional dance and movement, which we both agreed would be an amazing thing to bring for next time. I commend their energy and dedication to school programming.

Later that evening we began to receive our audience at the cultural center for the Duo's public performance. The school program's success had brought in an unusually large audience. We soon began to realize that *The Russian Duo* had also brought a unique group of folks that we had not necessarily entertained before. From out of the corners of our community and all those communities near and far came the fellowship of our Russian and Slavic immigrants. These folks learned of the concert primarily through word of mouth with one group telling another, one mother telling a neighbor, one man calling his brother. The passion with which they shared the experience of *The Russian Duo* was entirely moving. There was singing, there was clapping, there was foot stomping, there were cheers, ovations and begging for more.

It is the proficiency of both Oleg and Terry's musical competence as well as their warmth and charm on stage that engages the audience. Oleg's deep authentic roots in the Siberian culture translate with honesty and richness. Terry's musicianship, her connections to Slavic culture and her outstanding management of the program made the performance an all around success. The Russian Duo experience was a truly unique and outstanding opportunity for our community. We look forward to the next.

Terrilynn Meece, Program Coordinator
Troy-Hayner Cultural Center
Troy, Ohio

The Troy-Hayner Cultural Center is supported by the taxpayers of the Troy City School District and generous donations to the Friends of Hayner. The mission is to preserve and maintain the Hayner mansion as a cultural resource center for the present and as an historical legacy for future generations of the community of Troy, Ohio.