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HOMEGROWN 2014 *The Music of America*

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HOMEGROWN IN WHITTALL PAVILION
A new small concert series in Whittall Pavilion

GERDAN



KALEIDOSCOPE
OF
WORLD MUSIC

Traditional Ukrainian Music

ANDREI PIDKIVKA
Panflute (Nai), Sopilka (Folk Flute)

SOLOMIA GOROKHIVSKA
Violin, Vocals

KALIN KIRILOV
Accordion

Thursday
May 22, 2014
12 NOON – 1 PM
Whittall Pavilion

Ground Floor, Thomas Jefferson Building
Library of Congress
10 First Street, SE,
Washington, DC

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TO THE PUBLIC

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GERDAN-KALEIDOSCOPE OF WORLD MUSIC

Gerdan is the name of a professional musical trio of Dr. Andrei Pidkivka, world flutist, Dr. Solomia Gorokhivska, violinist and vocalist, and Dr. Kalin Kirilov, accordionist. The trio is named after Gerdan, a multi-colored, intricately woven beaded necklace from Carpathian Mountains in Ukraine. Like this dazzling and exquisite necklace, the trio brings alive rich arrangements that reflect their passion for tradition Eastern European folk melodies and rhythms. With Dr. Pidkivka's rare collection of over 200 archaic to modern flutes, each arrangement is infused with exotic tonal and rhythmic colorations that soulfully capture the listener's imagination. Inspired by their native roots and heritage, they create and perform their own special blend of world music that brings together the old with the new, in a style that is fresh, lively, and beautiful.

Inspired by the Troisti Muzyky Tradition

The creation of the trio, Gerdan, was inspired by traditional folk music of the Troisti Muzyky (translated as trio musicians) from the Carpathian Mountains of Western Ukraine. Ethnomusicologists trace the appearance of Troisti Muzyky to the 16th century. The early trio ensembles consisted of violin or wooden flute playing solo part, the hammer dulcimer - cimbalom playing harmonic accompaniment, and the percussive *buben* - a bass drum with a brass cymbal on top. The Troisti Muzyky traditionally played at social occasions in the villages. This popular trio was sometimes augmented into a quartet with the *basolia*, a cello/bass.

In the Carpathian Mountains, the instruments and styles of music often differed from village to village. The traditional Carpathian mountain dances such as *kolomyjka*, *arkan* and *hutsulka* were played in a variety of tempi and arrangements. The Troisti Muzyky traveled to all these villages, and knew to play the unique form of dance known in each particular location. The Hutsuls of the eastern Carpathian chain have a well-known legend about the Troisti Muzyky ensemble.

"Three musicians - a flutist, a violinist, and a cymbalist - fell in love with a lovely maiden. She was fair and kind, and had a charming smile with dark eyes. She liked them all but had to choose one for a husband. She suggested they must have a musical contest. She said that she would marry the player whose music will be judged as the best by the villagers. Each musician played his favorite melody equally well. The villagers could not choose one above the other. So the maiden asked them to compete again, but this time, play her favorite melody. They each played beautifully. She could not decide between them. There was only one thing left for them to do: they must play the melody at the same time. When they did, everyone was amazed that the competition of three had made a great performance. They made enchanting music. The people decided it would be a sin to separate them. So for ever after, as the people desire, the musicians continue to play together."

In the early 20th century a heavy cimbalom was often substituted with an accordion in Troisti Muzyky. This way the trio was able to be more mobile and could play at the most distant locations in the mountains. The repertoire of Troisti Muzyky included wedding dances and songs as well as music for different season celebrations. The musicians of the trio were greatly respected among the people because their music was the only source of entertainment at that time. Finally, the relationships between the musicians in Troisti Muzyky were collaborative and collegial. All three played significant roles in the ensemble because each had a particular function in the group.

History of Gerdan

Gerdan was created as a successful collaboration between Dr. Andrei Pidkivka (world flutes), Dr. Solomia Gorokhivska (violin/vocals) and Vladimir Mollov (accordion) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Their premier performance took place in April 2010 in Broward Theatre for the Performing Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

This collaboration was inspired by Dr. Andrei Pidkivka's rare collection of over 200 world flutes. From the archaic to modern, these flutes played by Dr. Pidkivka allow music to be created that is unusually diverse, unique, and rich. In Dr. Pidkivka's twenty-five-year professional career, his performance on world flutes have found their way into modern symphonic compositions, theatrical performances, ballet, and movie scores. He has been critically acclaimed as a preeminent performer, teacher, and maker of a variety of folk flutes of his native Ukraine, whose sounds attracted listeners and educational workshops across the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. The Pan-Flute, the Turkish Ney and the Ukrainian Sopilka were used in symphonic performances of the Lord of The Rings, and the Seattle Times wrote, "Andrei Pidkivka owned the spotlight...Close your eyes and you're in The Shire".

The exclusive variety of world flutes with different exotic sounds is enhanced by lush sonorities of Solomia Gorokhivska's voice and her violin. Solomia shared the same passion for traditional music from her native Ukraine and countries of Eastern Europe. While enrolled as a doctorate student in classical violin performance at Catholic University of America in Washington DC, she found a way of keeping up and developing strong connection with traditional music of her motherland, Ukraine as well as being involved in artistic journey of Gerdan.

The Bulgarian musician, Vladimir Mollov, brought to the group the richness of harmonies and rhythms of the accordion. The accordion in Vladimir's hands sounds like as entire orchestra - providing a thick colorful canvas for the solo sketches of a violin and flutes.

Shortly after group's stage debut, Gerdan recorded the first album: *Gerdan-Kaleidoscope of World Music* featuring traditional instrumental music from Ukraine, Romania, Slovakia, Moldova and several folk songs from Ukraine.

In 2011, Drs. Pidkivka and Gorokhivska relocated Gerdan to Washington DC. As a result, they had to find a new accordionist. Fortunately, they were introduced to another virtuoso Bulgarian accordionist and ethnomusicologist, Kalin Kirilov. Dr. Kalin's experience as an excellent performer and researcher of Eastern European traditional music has been a wonderful asset and complement to the artistry of the trio.

Gerdan performs regularly in the Washington DC Metropolitan area as well as nationally. In addition to playing concerts, Gerdan conducts educational workshops and lectures for the schools, universities, libraries, and community halls. Through music

Gerdan introduces a deep and rich culture of many countries in Eastern Europe to the American audience of different ages, social and cultural backgrounds.

Concert program

In concert, Gerdan demonstrates contrasting musical styles from rural regions of Eastern Europe. Traditional tunes come to life with diverse and fascinating combinations of acoustic folk instruments. Dr. Andrei Pidkivka's ethnic flutes (Slovak Fujara, Romanian Caval and Nai, Ukrainian Sopilka, Tylynka, Dvodentsivka and Occarina, Turkish Nei) together with Dr. Kalin Kirilov's accordion and Dr. Solomia Gorokhivska's virtuoso violin and sensitive vocals create a unique musical experience. These skilled and experienced musicians, dedicated to the sonic nurture of this art, reveal their passion for the modalities and rhythmic colorations that define Eastern European music. In a masterful way musicians of Gerdan research and perform the traditional music of Ukraine, Slovakia, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Moldova, and Bulgaria. They give a new breath to many forgotten and un-forgotten melodies.

Solomia Gorokhivska, DMA.

Biographies:

Ukrainian born violinist **Solomia Gorokhivska** performs for audiences on both sides of the Atlantic. She holds a Doctorate of Musical Arts Degree at the Catholic University of America in Washington DC. Dr. Gorokhivska brings her passionate virtuoso violin, and her expressive singing to the ensemble. She is an International laureate award recipient in classical and folk music performance. Dr. Gorokhivska toured internationally, including Ukraine, Germany, Russia, Poland, Serbia, China and the USA. She earned her Bachelor of Music Degree from Ternopil State College of Music and her Master Degree at Tchaikovsky National Music Academy of Ukraine. In addition, she received her Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees in Cultural Studies from the National University of "Kyiv-Mohyla Academy", Ukraine. From 2006-2010 she was a musicologist, journalist, author, and senior editor for the TV program "Alone With Music" on the National Broadcast Company of Ukraine. Dr. Gorokhivska participates in many classical, jazz, folk, and contemporary music projects around the world, and brings this wealth of experience to collaborate with other professional artists. Solomia Gorokhivska regularly performs with Washington Choral Society Orchestra, Alexandria Symphony, Washington Concert Opera, American Festival Pops Orchestra and others. Currently she serves as a faculty member at the International School of Music in MD and Harmonia School of Music in VA.

Dr. Andrei Pidkivka earned Bachelor and Master degrees from Lviv State College and Music Academy in Ukraine. He holds a Doctorate of Music Arts Degree from Michigan State University, USA. His extensive collection of world flutes, from archaic to modern encompass a wealth of knowledge and great possibilities. In Dr. Pidkivka's twenty five year journey of musical growth his world flutes have found a way into modern symphonic compositions, theatrical performances, ballet, and movie scores. Performances as a soloist and a guest musician include the Columbus Symphony, Phoenix Symphony, Seattle Symphony, Oregon Symphony, Baltimore Symphony, and Pittsburgh Symphony. Andrei Pidkivka has been critically acclaimed as a preeminent performer, teacher, and maker of a variety of folk flutes of his native Ukraine, whose sounds attracted listeners and educational workshops across the United States, Europe, Asia and South America. The Pan-Flute, the Turkish Ney and the Ukrainian Sopilka were used in symphonic performances of the Lord of The Rings, and the Seattle Times wrote, "Andrei Pidkivka owned the spotlight...Close your eyes and you're in The Shire". The Washington Post wrote "Andrei Pidkivka... was most winning playing plaintive melodies on the naj, or pan flute, and the tylynka, a long, slender shepherd's flute with no finger holes". Dr. Pidkivka presented lectures-workshops and performances at: the Kennedy Center for the Arts, Metropolitan Museum of the Art, The Andy Warhol Museum, Severance Hall, the National Folk Alliance Conference, National Flute Association Conventions in the U.S. He was interviewed by the Voices of America Network for broadcast in Ukraine, and the National Public Radio and TV affiliate of the PBS in Cleveland.

Dr. Kalin Kirilov is an Assistant Professor of Music Theory at Towson University. Before coming to Towson University, he taught at the University of Oregon and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Dr. Kirilov received his BA from the Academy of Music and Dance in Plovdiv, Bulgaria, an interdisciplinary MA in Folklore from the University of Oregon, and a PhD in Music Theory from the University of Oregon. His involvement in folk music started at the age of four. In 1982, he joined a folk orchestra at the Dobri Hristov Music School in Vidin, Bulgaria, and later, in 1987, he became a soloist in the Dunav (Danube) ensemble in Vidin. As a high school student, Kirilov became interested in arranging music for folk orchestras, folk choirs, and vocal quartets. Despite the official restrictions on wedding music during the socialist period in Bulgaria, Kirilov performed and mastered the Bulgarian wedding style. Decades later, while a Doctoral student at the University of Oregon, Kirilov toured the United States as a guitar player with the most influential Bulgarian wedding band, Ivo Papazov's wedding orchestra. In the US, Dr. Kirilov performs regularly with a variety of bands including Gerdan and brings to American audience the musical traditions of Russia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Greece, Albania, and the countries of former Yugoslavia.

The American Folklife Center was created by Congress in 1976 and placed at the Library of Congress to "preserve and present American folklife" through programs of research, documentation, archival preservation, reference service, live performance, exhibition, public programs, and training. The Center includes the American Folklife Center Archive of folk culture, which was established in 1928 and is now one of the largest collections of ethnographic material from the United States and around the world. Please Visit our web site <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/>.

