

MFS 515

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STEREO

MONITOR PRESENTS

**VIRTUOSI**

OF THE

**ACCORDION**

**BALALAIKA**

**& DOMRA**

WITH ORCHESTRAS  
OF FOLK INSTRUMENTS



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MUSIC OF THE WORLD

MONITOR PRESENTS

monitor

MFS 515

# Virtuosi of the ACCORDION, BALALAICA, DOMRA & ZHALEIKA

## The PIATNITSKY and ANDREYEV ORCHESTRAS of FOLK INSTRUMENTS

### INTRODUCTION

THE piquant and highly rhythmic quality of the Russian folk instrument orchestra is as unique as it is ingratiating. Although in its usually constituted form the Russian folk instrument orchestra may contain anything from birch-bark whistles to wooden spoons, the presence of three instruments produce this fundamental and recognizable quality: the Bayan (or Accordion), the Balalaika, and the Domra. Russian folk dancers and folk choruses require this trio in instrumental accompaniment as surely as the *Song of the Volga Boatmen* requires a bass voice!

This recording pays tribute to these instruments and to the remarkable virtuosi who play them with such incredible agility. Also included are two short pieces highlighting the *Zhaleika*, another Russian folk instrument described below.

For more recordings featuring these and other Russian folk instruments, Monitor refers you to the albums pictured at the bottom of these notes.

### THE BAYAN (ACCORDION)

"Snow Flurries" from Suite for Folk Instruments  
by Y. Zaritski

Vladimir Boyashev, Bayan; Andreyev Orchestra  
of Folk Instruments  
conducted by A. Mikhailov

Concert Variations for Bayan and Orchestra  
of Folk Instruments

by Y. Vorontsov

Ivan Rudenko, Bayan; The Voronezh Chorus Folk Instrument  
Orchestra conducted by P. Shmatko

THE Bayan resembles the accordion with the difference that it has a system of push-buttons instead of keys.

Generally, the Bayan is used as a solo instrument: each Bayan has its own individual tuning and it is nearly impossible to obtain the same harmonic response from any two such instruments.

In 1949, however G. Tyshkevich created a new two-rowed chromatic Bayan with 27 vents at the right keyboard and the same number of push-buttons at the left. The technical construction of this Bayan allows it to be put in perfect tune by the use of a tuning-fork.

In this way the Bayan can be played with either piano accompaniment or even join a symphony orchestra. Bright, vast horizons were opened for Bayan players as well as for composers by the creation of this improved model.

### Side One

1. "Snow Flurries" from Suite for Folk Instruments  
Accordion (Bayan)
2. "Domra" from Suite for Folk Instruments
3. Variations for Balalaika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments
4. On An Outing (Musical Tableau)

### Side Two

1. Concert Variations For Accordion (Bayan) and Orchestra of Folk Instruments
2. Concert Variations on a Siberian Humorous Song "Vatalinka" for Balalaika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments
3. Variations for Zhaleika and Orchestra on the Russian Folk Theme "Kak U Dobrovo Molodtsa"
4. "Dance Melody" for Zhaleika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments
5. On Vacation (Dance)

### THE BALALAICA

Concert Variations on a Siberian Humorous Song "Vatalinka" for Balalaika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
by A. Novikov

Eugene Aksentiev, Balalaika; Moscow Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments, conducted by I. Gulyaev;  
Artistic Director: Nikolai Rechmenski

Variations for Balalaika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
by F. Odinets

Boris Feoktistov, Balalaika; Moscow Radio Orchestra of Folk Instruments conducted by G. Stolyarov

OF all the string-pizzicato instruments the Balalaika is the most popular Russian folk instrument. It is three-stringed and bears a resemblance to the Domra.

The outer appearance of the Balalaika, as it was known in the 18th century, changed gradually and the very well known traditional Balalaika, created and improved by V. V. Andreyev, consists of a long neck and a three-cornered body, slightly rounded off at the bottom.

The flat sounding board and the neck are on different levels at obtuse angles. There are 19 frets on the flat surface of the neck.

The Balalaika is played with four fingers; the thumb is used for the pizzicato only and the rest of the fingers, with the exception of the little finger, for the melody.

The Balalaika is an indispensable part of every Russian folk instrument orchestra.

### THE DOMRA

"Domra" from Suite for Folk Instruments  
by Y. Zaritski

Emmanuel Sheikman, Domra; Andreyev Orchestra of Folk Instruments conducted by A. Mikhailov

THE existence of the Domra can be traced as far back as the 16th century. It is a descendant of the Oriental musical in-

strument, the *Tunbur*, a kind of lute with a very long neck, but the appearance of the Domra changed with time.

At first the Domra had only two strings; the present Domra is three-stringed, its body is round, slightly protruding at the bottom, and flat at the top. The moderately long neck is divided by frets; the strings are stretched on top of the frets. The sound comes from an opening in the middle of the flat side.

The Domra is played with a plectrum; only the pizzicato is played with the thumb.

Domras come in four different sizes. The smallest has the highest tone, the largest, the lowest. They are mostly played in folk instrument orchestras together with other string instruments.

### THE ZHALEIKA

Variations for Zhaleika and Orchestra  
On the Russian Folk Theme "Kak U Dobrovo Molodtsa"  
by V. Khvatov

"Dance Melody" for Zhaleika and Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
by A. Voevodin

Vladimir Voronkov, Zhaleika; Piatnitsky Orchestra of Folk Instruments conducted by V. Khvatov

THE Zhaleika is a small reed instrument played primarily in Russian, Byelorussian and Lithuanian folk instrument orchestras. It is usually made of wood or bone and may have anywhere from three to seven holes.

With its strong, sharp, piercing tone, the Zhaleika can be heard well above the other timbres of the orchestra.

### PIATNITSKY AND ANDREYEV ORCHESTRAS

On Vacation (Dance)

by A. Shirokov

Piatnitsky Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
conducted by V. Khvatov

On An Outing (Musical Tableau)

by A. Vladimirtsov

Andreyev Orchestra of Folk Instruments  
conducted by A. Alexandrov

For complete catalog write:

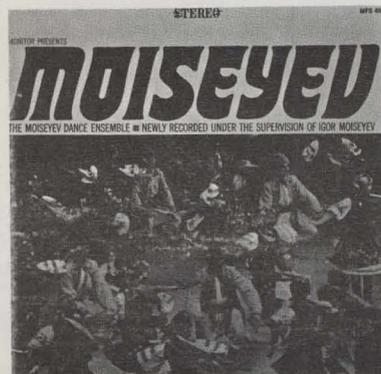
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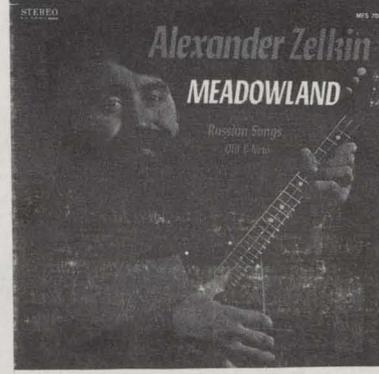
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