

AMERICAN BALALAICA SYMPHONY

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

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American Balalaika Symphony Performs in Alexandria, VA

ALEXANDRIA, VA – On Saturday, September 13, 2008, at 7:30 p.m., the American Balalaika Symphony (ABS), under the artistic direction of Peter Trofimenko, will present its Fall Concert, the first of the 2008-2009 ABS Concert Season, at the Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall and Arts Center on the Northern Virginia Community College campus, 3001 North Beauregard Street, Alexandria, VA 22311.

“Mozart and His Friends,” features the rich musical period from 1750 to 1850 with music by Mozart friends and students seldom heard on the concert stage today. The program begins with Mozart's Symphony # 1 in E-flat, written when the composer was only eight years old, and follows with music from colonial America, revolutionary France, Poland, and Europe's early romantic era.

As a special feature, several orchestra members will appear in solo roles. Betsy Winslow Trimber on flute and Roger Custer on clarinet will collaborate in a performance of Franz Danzi's Concertante for flute, clarinet, and orchestra. Analiese Trimber will solo in Franz Doppler's atmospheric Hungarian Pastoral Fantasy for flute and orchestra. ABS percussionist Igor Kozlov will be featured in arrangements of works by Marcello and Giuliani for vibraphone and xylophone, respectively, and in what is certainly a first for balalaika symphonies anywhere, the orchestra will accompany Victor Dubenco in a performance of Franz Schubert's beloved Serenade on the panpipes.

Other works include “Mrs. Madison’s Minuet” by A. Reinagle, the Polonaise “Farewell to the Homeland by M. Oginski, and “Aria On the Theme of Alessandro and Benedetto Marcello” by Peter Trofimenko.

Tickets are available at the door on the day of the performance, or may be charged online at www.balalaika.biz or by calling 703-351-1331. Cash and checks only at the door.

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Founded in 2001, the Washington, D.C.-area American Balalaika Symphony is comprised of an internationally diverse mix of professional and amateur musicians from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and performs a range of music from folk to symphonic.

A balalaika orchestra is similar to a traditional symphony orchestra, but uses Russian plucked string instruments, such as the balalaika and domra, rather than Western bowed instruments such as the violin and cello. The orchestra's distinctive sound is rounded out by instruments such as the bayan (Russian button accordion), gusli (an ancient Russian table harp), cimbalom (similar to a hammered dulcimer), and full wind and percussion sections.

Founder, artistic director and conductor Peter Trofimenko was classically trained in Kiev in balalaika performance, conducting, arrangement and composition. He moved to the United States in 1993. By sharing his artistic vision and musical knowledge, Mr. Trofimenko has created a unique orchestral group that embraces the rich traditions of the Russian Music School, while drawing on the best of European and American musical traditions.

For more information, visit the ABS website at: www.balalaika.biz.

Concert Details

Date: Saturday, September 13, 2008

Place: Rachel M. Schlesinger Hall Concert Hall and Arts Center
Northern Virginia Community College, Alexandria Campus
3001 North Beauregard Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22311

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Tickets: General Admission: \$20 in advance/\$25 at the door
Seniors and students: \$15.00
Groups of five or more in advance: \$15.00 each
Cash or checks only at the door;
Tickets may be charged online at www.balalaika.biz,
or by calling 703-351-1331

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