

## **Troika Balalaikas**

The five musicians of Troika Balalaikas draw their inspiration from their life-long passion for Russian folk music and their diverse cultural backgrounds. Performing on authentic Russian folk instruments, the group's repertoire includes Russian, Ukrainian, Gypsy and Jewish folk music.

**Angelina Galashenkova-Reed (domra)** has toured the world as a soloist with the Andreyev Russian Folk Orchestra of St. Petersburg, Russia, performing with them at Carnegie Hall's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A virtuoso of the three-string domra, she is a winner of Russia's prestigious "Cup of the North" competition, and holds the title of "Laureate of International Competitions of Professional Folk Artists." Immigrating to the U.S. in 2001, she has had numerous solo appearances, most notably at Spivey Hall, and is the concertmaster and domra soloist of the Atlanta Balalaika Society Orchestra. Angelina performs in the domra-guitar duo, 9 String Theory.

**David C. Cooper (balalaika, domra, vocals)** has been recognized by Russian virtuosi for his artistry as a balalaika soloist. Pennsylvania-born, Mr. Cooper is an authority on Russian folk instruments (he plays them all). He studied conducting and performance at the Glier Institute of Kiev, Ukraine, and currently is the artistic director and conductor of the Atlanta Balalaika Society Orchestra. Mr. Cooper's diverse talents also make him in demand in jazz, Klezmer and steel drum ensembles.

**Gregory Carageorge (contra-bass balalaika)** has been a professional contra-bass balalaika and string bass player for over thirty years, performing in numerous ethnic music groups such as the Berkeley-based Klezmerim, The Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival, and several very popular touring Greek folk music bands. He was the leader of the house band at New York's Russian Tea Room, and has appeared with numerous folk, bluegrass, and jazz ensembles.

**Irene Perloff McCullough (alto domra)** has performed in Russian folk music ensembles in Boston, Detroit and Atlanta, as well as balalaika-guitar duo, "Russian Romance".

**Kiril Chernoff (alto balalaika)** grew up playing balalaika with the Atlanta Balalaika Society and plays prima balalaika in addition to alto balalaika. He is also a scholarship winner with the Balalaika and Domra Association of America.