

The ensemble was initially formed in Kaluga, Russia in the late 1980's at the Kaluga Music Conservatory and then at the St. Petersburg Academy of Music and Culture. After completing conservatory studies, the group reorganized in the United States, and they have toured throughout the United States since 1996.

The music of Moscow Nights is predominantly authentic, traditional Russian folk music. During their conservatory years, the musicians spent considerable time traveling deep into the Russian countryside, interviewing the eldest members of each village in an effort to preserve and resurrect pre-revolution Russian culture. Their current program incorporates obscure folk instruments such as percussion known as "Treshotki" and birch-bark whistles. Thus, Moscow Nights is able to bring to audiences a unique program of a culture that had almost lost its original identity.

Moscow Nights' concerts offer audiences an entertaining glimpse into Old Russia through music, song, and dance, helping to bridge nearly a century of isolation between our countries. The dazzling, toe-tapping program is broad and varied with something to appeal to everyone – from youngest to oldest and everyone in between.

"The Russians invaded dressed in traditional Russian attire, complete with Cossack hats, and armed with balalaikas, an accordion and a song... they strummed and squeezed their way into the hearts of the audience."

The Jefferson Gazette

The repertoire is centered on masterpieces of Russian folklore and represents the diversity of the culture, ranging from gently humorous songs, to elaborate, lyrical repertoire - outwardly reserved and cool, but brimming with vigor, mischievousness and vibrancy.

The concerts have the air of a spontaneous impromptu performance, one of the hallmarks of folk music, but don't be fooled by the apparent ease. These musicians work hard, researching, rehearsing, and arranging behind the scenes to preserve the rich traditions of a culture that was almost lost. The result is a carefully crafted music which honors the past but which, like life, moves on and develops. The old folk melodies are respected and treated as the raw material for quality musical performances.

Moscow Night's lively program presents an authentic picture of Russian folk traditions and culture. Lilting balalaikas, dynamic bayan accordion, unique treshotki and loshki, humorous dances, and vocals combine for an exhilarating and educational performance for audiences of all ages!