

Balkan Live Music and Dance Party

BULGARIKA

Friday October 28, 2011 8:30-11:30 PM



Nikolay Kolev is a famous Gadulka virtuoso from the village Karavelovo in the Rose Valley of Bulgaria. After graduating from Shiroka Luka High School, he performed with the Sliven Ensemble for three years. In 1984, he founded the orchestra *Sopot*. In the same year, he started the wedding band *Rozova Dolina*, which became one of the most sought-after groups in Thrace. In 1992, he also founded *Balkanski Glasove* --the singing group which took first place at the Varna Festival in 1994 and 1995. Nikolay is also an accomplished composer and arranger of folk songs. His compositions have been performed by such well-known singers as Roumen Rodopski, Savka Sarijeva, Donka Koleva and many others.

Donka Koleva is a vocalist prized for her rich, clear, and melodic voice. A graduate of the Folklore High School in Shiroka Luka, she worked as a soloist with the Sliven Ensemble for three years. She then directed the chorus of the *Sopot Ensemble*, and soloed with the wedding band *Rozova Dolina*. In 1994 Donka started recording with National Radio and Television in Bulgaria. In 1997 her recording of "Javore" was song of the year. Since she moved to the U.S. in 1995, she has performed traditional and arranged songs from Thracian Bulgaria at music camps throughout the U.S.

Ivan Milev is a landmark of contemporary Balkan folk music. Throughout his 40-plus year career as an accordion player in Bulgaria, he established the rules for Balkan folk music. His style fuses classical, jazz, Eastern European, and Middle Eastern music. Milev comes from a clan of famous folk musicians, learning the intricacies of Bulgarian folk music from his father, Atanas Milev, a renowned and innovative folk accordionist. In 1978 Ivan created his own orchestra, which performed at festivals, fairs, in concerts, and on Bulgarian national television. Ivan's exquisite performance and charisma won him many awards and gained him widespread popularity. With his band Ivan has defined the famous wedding music culture in the Balkan region since the 1970's.

Maria Koleva, daughter of Nikolay and Donka, is a wonderful young singer. She is joining Bulgarika for this tour.

Alexander Eppler (gaida) and David Bilides (tupan) Are Guest Musicians Tonight

HOSTED BY THE SEATTLE BALKAN DANCERS

(Please bring party food to share with everyone)

The Russian Community Center On Capitol Hill In Seattle
704 19th Ave E. (Corner of 19th E. & E. Roy)

Suggested Donations for this evening of dancing to live Bulgarian music
\$15 for adults \$8 for students 14-20
\$25 for families of 3 or more Free for children 13 & under

Updated info is also available on our website (www.seattlebalkandancers.org) Email: (danceinfo@seattlebalkandancers.org)

Please join us every Friday night from 8:30-11:00 for Balkan dancing with teaching most nights at 7:30