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February 8, 2019

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to join the Russian Children’s Welfare Society in welcoming everyone to its 54th Annual Petroushka Ball.

My administration strongly believes that every child deserves access to the tools to live a healthy, productive life, and this event offers an important opportunity for New Yorkers to extend a hand to kids in need. Tonight’s Petroushka Ball, one of the most anticipated Russian-American events in our great city, will help raise funding in support of the Russian Children’s Welfare Society’s continued efforts to uplift children and improve their quality of life. Since its founding in 1926, RCWS has provided a fresh start to underserved children across Russia through a range of educational opportunities, medical treatments, orphanage programs, and more. I look forward to all this organization will continue to accomplish in the years ahead, and I applaud all those in attendance this evening for doing their part to set today’s youth on the path to a more hopeful tomorrow.

On behalf of the City of New York, please accept my best wishes a festive ball and continued success.

Sincerely,

Bill de Blasio
Mayor
New York, February 8, 2019

Dear Friends,

It is a great pleasure to welcome you all to the Russian Children’s Welfare Society’s 54th Petroushka Ball.

For over 93 years the RCWS has carried out its selfless mission of helping disadvantaged children through education and social programs. They continue to sponsor medical services and equipment, college scholarships and educational opportunities for children at risk and orphans to improve their prospects in life.

Thousands of children have benefited from RCWS’ work and your contributions. Your support for this noble cause allows the Society to continue changing lives and supporting these children’s hopes and dreams.

The Petroushka Ball has always been a time to commemorate and remember the miracles RCWS helped to achieve. This evening, I ask you to please enjoy this memorable occasion and celebrate.

Sincerely,

Sergei K. Ovsiannikov
Consul General of Russia
Dear Guests,

Welcome! I’m happy to tell you that the Petroushka Ball is 54 years old!

The Russian Children’s Welfare Society is in its 93 year and still carrying out its mission. At a time when the world has become a bit cold and self-absorbed there is ever the need for warmth and caring for the disadvantaged children in Russia. Today, there are thousands of orphaned children with no family to care for them, with limited opportunity to receive needed medical treatment and operations. These children cannot even imagine going to college to prepare for a profession or the career they dream of. And yet, this is precisely where this charity shines.

Since 1926 the RCWS has cared for and given hope to thousands of children thanks to donations from people like you. It all started with 5 ladies of noble birth who worked to help families with children who had escaped the Bolshevik Revolution and then those who escaped Communism. In the years following, the Society supported orphanages with vocational training equipment, beds, building renovations, even new cars in which to transport children to doctor’s visits and other necessary appointments. In 2003 the RCWS established a college scholarship program for orphanage graduates. We have 154 students in colleges and universities at this time and close to 90 of our scholarship recipients have graduated and found employment.

The Society manages many other projects and initiatives that we would take great joy in telling you about. What could be more wonderful than helping children? Our office is open if you have any questions; please feel free to contact us. Your support is so important; I’m thanking you in advanced for any gift you may make.

We wish you an evening of joy and feeling for the Russian culture.

Yours truly,

Beatrice M. Fekula
President of RCWS
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The Blavatnik Family Foundation is proud to support the Russian Children’s Welfare Society and the 54th Annual Petroushka Ball
The *troika* (тройка – triplet or trio) is the traditional Russian carriage drawn by a team of three horses harnessed abreast, most often pulling a sleigh. It has become a symbol of Russia and is widely employed in folklore, movies, paintings and literature.

*Troikas* first appeared in the 17th century and were used mainly for postal services, for transporting passengers across long distances, and later in festivities such as weddings and other religious celebrations. By the mid-19th century, *troika* races had become extremely popular in Russia, especially during winter. The *troika* is best known for its high speeds – up to 50 kilometers per hour/30 miles per hour.

Such high speeds were possible due to the special training of both driver and horses and also to the unique arrangement of the horses. The horse in the middle, called the shaft horse (коренник – *korennik*), trots and acts like a locomotive, while the horses on the sides – tracers (пристяжные – *pristyazhniye*) maintain a brisk gallop. This makes the *troika* the only method of harnessing horses in which different horses use different gaits. This method became popular not only for its significant rate or speed, but also for endurance, good cargo capacity, maneuverability, and safety.

Driving a *troika* required special skills and training from a young age. The profession of *troika* coachman was hereditary and prestigious among peasants.

As the *troika* became widespread, the creation of special signals to regulate *troika* traffic became necessary. Eventually, bells on the harness were introduced and became an integral part of the *troika*. A *troika* was usually accompanied by about 100 bells on the bridle, on the saddle and inside the many harness brushes. The singing of the many bells, some in minor, others in major keys, combined with the sound of hooves running, created a unique melody, pleasing to the ears. But *troikas* were also a joy for the eyes with their richly decorated harnesses and bows adorned with painting and fretwork.

The *troika* – the theme of this year’s Petroushka Ball – is a beloved symbol of Russia and the Russian winter, conveying a sense of beauty, freedom, excitement, and daring.
"Music is enough for a whole lifetime—
but a lifetime is not enough for music."

–SERGEI RACHMANINOFF
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About the Society

This year, the Russian Children’s Welfare Society proudly celebrates the 93rd Anniversary of its founding and the 54th Anniversary of the Petrouchka Ball. In the spring of 1926, the original organizers pledged their commitment to improving the lives of Russian children living outside the Soviet Union.

The direction of the Russian Children’s Welfare Society’s many initiatives had been guided to a great extent by the unending political and social flux of the 20th century. The Bolshevik Revolution of 1917 prompted the migration of large numbers of Russians to Western Europe, Asia, and North and South America. By the early thirties, the Society had ten branches operating throughout the United States and was sending money and material assistance to schools and organizations in locales as diverse as Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Finland, France, Germany, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Harbin, Shanghai, and Istanbul.

RCWS gained recognition from the Presidential War Relief Control Board as an approved charity for work abroad during the Second World War. By 1950, the Society was again sending relief to 14 countries.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, Russia’s infrastructure left an alarming number of children disenfranchised. Given this reality, and, given that Europe and North and South America had become self-sufficient, RCWS shifted its focus to assisting children at risk living in Russia. The Russian Children’s Welfare Society now directs all of its yearly aid to children in Russia by funding an array of projects that include medical programs, college scholarships for orphans, schools and orphanages, and rehabilitation centers for children with special needs.

A SELECTION OF INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RCWS IN 2018 THANKS TO THE KIND SUPPORT OF OUR DONORS:

MEDICAL PROGRAMS

“GIVE BEAUTY BACK TO THE CHILDREN”- PEDIATRIC MAXILLOFACIAL SURGERY FUND

Thousands of Russian children are burdened by unsightly facial deformities as a result of congenital defects, tumors, cleft lips, cleft palates, and other traumas. Only two or three hospitals in all of Russia have specialized surgeons to undertake cases that often require a series of surgeries and highly advanced medical technology. Consequently, treatment is often a luxury few families have access to even when it is a dire necessity for a child’s physical and psychological well-being.

In 2010, RCWS launched “Give Beauty Back to the Children,” in partnership with Professor Vitaly Roginsky, Head of the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery (MCMS) and Lev Ambinder, Head of the Russian Aid Foundation (Rusfond). MCMS is one of the most innovative facilities in Russia providing treatment and rehabilitation for children with facial deformities. Thanks to the joint efforts of Rusfond, MCMS and RCWS, the “Give Beauty Back to the Children” program has forever altered the lives of over 2,000 children suffering from facial deformities. The average cost per surgery is in the range of $2,500-$5,000. Thanks to our mutual donors’ support and the help of advanced medical micro technology, Professor Roginsky and his staff have witnessed many of their patients’ personalities flourish with hope and happiness as they gain the ability to do what is second nature to most – to smile.

Russian Children’s Clinical Hospital / Charitable foundation to assists sick and abandoned children “Deti.Msk.Ru”, Moscow

In 2018, RCWS provided assistance to the Russian Children’s Clinical Hospital (RCCH) via equipment and enhanced medical technologies. RCWS sponsored a new surgical drill (the Acculan 3Ti and supplies totaling $12,708) that was urgently needed to treat epilepsy and other medical conditions for over 150 children annually from different regions of Russia.

EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND PROGRAMS

During the sixteen years since the inception of the RCWS scholarship program, the number of participants has grown from 3 in the 2003-2004 academic year to over 150 in 2018-2019. Currently, RCWS is supporting 154 students in the Pskov, Yaroslavl and Moscow regions. To date, the scholarship program has been enormously successful in providing a support structure for students as they transition from living in an orphanage to attending a university on their own. For an annual cost of approximately $2,000 per student, the Society is helping orphans successfully complete an academic degree or vocational training in order to steer them in the direction of a promising future. RCWS requires academic transcripts from each scholarship recipient, as well as reports on the use of the stipend to assure accountability. About 90 of our scholarship recipients have thus far completed their schooling and found employment. This is an outstanding achievement of which we are very proud.

We would like to share several stories. Among our new scholarship recipients is Yuri A. who is a 16-year-old social orphan, and now a 1st-year student at the Donovsky Railway Technical School, majoring in diesel locomotive driving. Yuri’s mom was deprived of parental rights due to alcoholism and his father is currently in jail. While living at the orphanage, Yuri started taking music classes and playing the drums in the school orchestra. He also engaged in football, basketball, and volleyball and received numerous awards in sport competitions. Yuri wrote in his letter to RCWS: “My Dad, who worked as a taxi driver, got into an accident that killed a person and he ended up in prison. After this tragic accident my mother began to drink. I had to take care of my younger siblings – a sister and a brother. After my mom lost her parental rights, we ended up
This note is from Svetlana E., who graduated last summer from the Technical School my life will change for the better. I will start working and earn some money, I want to help my younger brother Misha and sister Yulia, who are still living at the orphanage.”

This note is from Svetlana E., who graduated last summer from the Pskov State University, with a degree in Technology and Design: “My final year at college has ended. Your support really helped me tremendously. It is sad that by graduating college, I will no longer be a part of the RCWS Scholarship program. These three-and-a-half years as an RCWS scholarship recipient flew by so fast! RCWS support was invaluable to me and incredibly important for my future. Thanks to the RCWS scholarship program I was able to meet such wonderful people. This final year was very challenging academically for me. In addition, I had to say goodbye to university life, pass the state exam, and present my graduate paper. Now I am ready for the next chapter of my life. I have already found and accepted a job offer – I will be working as a teacher. I would like to thank the RCWS and all the donors for your support! I would not be able to graduate and receive a college diploma without your help. What you do for us is so important for young people like myself! It makes me happy that there are people across the world who care and are ready to help. Thank you for supporting me! Wishing RCWS and the donors all the best!”

Last summer Alexander S., RCWS scholarship recipient, graduated from the Pskov Agrotechnical College with an Electrician & Technician diploma. Alexander grew up at the Krasnogorodsky Orphanage. In his thank-you note to RCWS, Alexander wrote: “There were many ups and downs during my studies, but I was able to solve problems and overcome all the difficulties, thanks to the support of RCWS. I am immensely grateful for your help!”

RCWS has been expanding the scholarship program, adding new partners and increasing the number of participants. Currently, RCWS provides scholarships to 15 young musicians affiliated with the Spivakov Foundation, established by renowned concert violinist Vladimir Spivakov, to help disadvantaged children in Russia develop their musical and artistic talent.

**SCHOOLS**

**St. Alexis School & Orphanage, Yaroslavl region**

Established in 1993, the St. Alexis School & Orphanage serves orphaned children, enrolling 285 students. Education is provided free of charge, and the school is consistently ranked as one of the top schools in Russia. Over 100 children have graduated from the St. Alexis School, and 80% of them are continuing their education at top universities and colleges in Russia. To increase the enrollment of students, in 2018 RCWS sponsored new furniture to equip Physics, Chemistry and Biology classrooms at the St. Alexis School (49 cabinets and desks totaling $15,085).

**II Donskoi Cadet Corps named after Tsar Nicholas II, Rostov-on-Don**

The II Donskoi Cadet Corps named after Tsar Nicholas II was established in 1995 and is one of the first cadets schools revived in Russia. In addition to providing a high-quality secondary education, the Cadet Corps objective is to raise intelligent, responsible, culturally educated, moral and respectful young people. A total of 286 students currently attend the cadet school, which is based in Rostov-on-Don in southern Russia.

In 2018, thanks to a direct donation, RCWS was able to sponsor 21 new computers to upgrade the IT class equipment for the young cadets enrolled at the school.

Additionally, in summer 2018, thanks to the direct contribution, RCWS was able to cover a pilgrimage trip to Yekaterinburg for a group of young cadets from the II Donskoi Cadet Corps. The long-awaited trip to Yekaterinburg took place in July 2018, commemorating 100th anniversary of the execution of Tsar Nicholas II and his family in the basement of the Ipatiev House. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from Russia and all over the world visited Yekaterinburg in 2018 to remember the last Russian royal family. Among the tragic sights the students visited was Ganina Yama near the village of Koptyaki where the imperial family was buried in mass graves in 1918.

**St. Nicholas School, Kislovodsk, Northern Caucasus**

Established in 1992, the St. Nicholas School provides a well-rounded education, enrolling 250 students. Over 90% of graduating students are accepted into leading universities in Russia. Besides regular school subjects the students study Latin, Greek, and Church Slavonic. Extracurricular activities include choir singing, art studio, children’s theater, and various sports activities. St. Nicholas School occasionally rewards its students with trips beyond the classroom walls to enrich their academic experience and to offer them a chance to broaden their horizons. In 2018, RCWS provided funding to cover the extra-curricular educational trips, compensation for 27 teachers, building renovation and books for the library, totaling $14,092.

**Educational Center “Big Change” (Bolshaya Peremena), Moscow**

Established in 2002, “Big Change” helps orphans and disenfranchised children to transition into adulthood, enrolling 80 students. Teachers prepare a tailor-made education for each student, including communi-
culation skills training, speech therapy for youngsters with learning dis-
abilities, and tutoring (Math, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Comput-
er Science, History, Biology, Geography). In 2018, RCWS provided funds towards these educational programs, professional tutoring and extracurricular activities for 70 students totaling $16,000.

**Tutaev School/Righteous St. John of Kronstadt Orthodox School, Tutaev, Yaroslavl region**

Established in 1991, the Tutaev School provides primary and secondary education, currently enrolling 110 children. The school offers students from disenfranchised backgrounds to participate in community projects, extracurricular activities, and anti-drug campaigns. Additionally, the school assists students in cultivating their creative talents by offering art and sculpture classes, music and theater classes, a journalism club, and other activities. In 2018, RCWS provided funds for extracurricular activities, new computers, books, art supplies, sports equipment, and security cameras, totaling $15,000.

**ORPHANAGES**

Our goal is to enable orphanages to meet basic needs, and to promote comprehensive programs that help orphans grow to be healthy and independent adults.

**Orphanage for children with special needs in Shatura, Moscow region**

The Orphanage of Shatura provides 1st to 9th grade education to 182 students with special needs. Living conditions at the school had not been improved since its establishment in the 1960s. In 2017, RCWS sponsored the installation of 27 new windows in the classrooms and children’s bedrooms in the orphanage. In 2018, RCWS sponsored the replacement of 36 remaining old windows with new, insulated windows, totaling $11,919. We are thrilled that during this cold winter the small residents at the Orphanage in Shatura are living and studying in a much warmer and healthier environment because of the new windows.

**Krasnogorodsky Orphanage, Pskov Region, Russia**

The Krasnogorodsky Orphanage, established in 1988, currently houses 103 children between the ages of 6 and 20 with various health issues. The city center of Pskov is located almost 160 kilometers from the orphanage. In the past RCWS sponsored a new car for the orphanage to drive the children to the city hospital for treatment, check-ups and prophylactic procedures.

In 2018, RCWS provided funds ($7,062) to establish the Vocational Training Center to provide professional job training to the students, improve carpentry and plaster-painting workshops by acquiring vocational training equipment and supplies to motivate students. This Center helps to prepare students to live independently and teaches them carpentry and painting/plastering skills.

**Potma Orphanage for children with special needs, Mordovia**

In 2018 RCWS received a request for help from the Potma Orphanage for children with severe disabilities. Lost in the woods of Mordovia, the Orphanage needed to upgrade their territory and roads near the facility to allow kids to go outdoors in their wheel-chairs. This renovation was completed in the fall of 2018 and included the construction of pedestrian roads, a parking area, the greening of the territory, and upgrading the recreational areas.

We are happy to report that thanks to the RCWS and our donors’ support ($10,000 in direct donations) the territory outside the Potma Orphanage has become much more accessible for the children who can now enjoy the fresh air, moving and playing outside.

**REHABILITATION CENTERS**

**Rehabilitation Center “Inspiration”, Moscow region, Russia**

Rehabilitation Center “Inspiration” was founded in 1999 and provides services to children between the ages of 6 months and 18 years with various physical and mental disabilities who are either orphans or come from low-income families. The main goal of the Center is to help children to integrate into society through rehabilitation. There are several long-term, permanent programs provided by the Center such as a Theater Studio, a hippo therapy program, and a hairdresser vocational training studio. There are also classes offered at the Center - school preparatory classes in mathematics, art studio, English class, speech therapy, and music studio. Hundreds of children have benefited from participating in activities offered at the center and 40 children currently reside on the grounds. In 2018, RCWS provided funds towards food, heating, renovation, educational equipment, art supplies, and rehabilitation programs, totaling $15,000.

**Rehabilitation Center “Krug”, Moscow**

Established in 1989, Krug Rehabilitation Center provides educational and rehabilitation programs to children with learning and physical disabilities, currently enrolling 90-100 students. The Center's programs are designed to help the participants gradually integrate into society while understanding how to best manage their disabilities. The Center also provides part-time employment for children with learning disabilities to help them obtain the workplace training necessary to find a job in the future. In conjunction with their socio-cultural courses, students are offered a stimulating opportunity to experience a new environment outside of their classroom. A vital aspect to children's development, particularly those with autism spectrum disorders, is travel. When children are introduced to new environments and are culturally stimulated, they become noticeably engaged and joyful. In 2018, RCWS covered summer rehabilitation program and travel expenses for 40 children with autism spectrum disorders and their parents, totaling $5,689.

**Rehabilitation Center “Predolenie L” Moscow**

Established in 1992, the Rehabilitation Center “Predolenie L” in Moscow provides training, education, and physical therapy for disabled children from orphanages and low income families. The goal of the Center is to prepare children to be fully active members of society. The Center prides itself on its unique equine therapy program for children with disabilities. While riding horses, children feel a unique spirit of freedom and relaxation: no need to sit in a wheelchair, hold onto crutches or grasp someone’s hand.
Currently 26 children with special needs are taking the equine-assisted therapy classes at the Center. Each child participating in the program receives 20 free lessons (1-2 times a week) over the course of 8 months. The goal of the equine therapy program is to help children improve their balance, tone their muscles, enhance blood circulation, boost their metabolism, and alleviate depression.

Here is a story about one of the children enrolled at the Center’s equine therapy program. Bogdan, 10 years old, is unable to move and is being fed through a tube. His grandmother was happy to report that after the course of horse therapy at the Preodolenie L Center Bogdan’s back and neck muscles became stronger and he no longer suffers from the digestive tract spasms. During a recent equine therapy class Bogdan was sitting straight on his horse and enjoying the ride.

RCWS has been supporting the Center’s efforts since 2000. In 2018, RCWS provided $17,630 to cover the upkeep and food for horses, riding equipment and other key expenses to run the equine therapy program for the next 8 months.

Rehabilitation Center “Nelishnie Deti”, Moscow
Established in 2007, “Nelishnie Deti” provides mental and trauma services, workshops and counselling to children and families in crisis. In the past, the services were offered to survivors of the 2004 Beslan tragedy, the 2002 Moscow theater hostage crisis and the 2018 Kemerovo fire, among others. In 2018, RCWS provided $10,000 towards psychologist consultations and trips, art supplies, educational materials, and a summer rehabilitation camp for children and families in crisis.

YELKA – ANNUAL NEW YEAR AND CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION
It has been 19 years since RCWS organized our first Yelka, a modest Russian Christmas and New Year Party in Moscow for disadvantaged children. Today, over 1,000 children annually participate in RCWS’s Yelka festivities and are treated to a Christmas show and presents. This past December, over 1,000 children traveled great distances to participate in the 19th annual Yelka event at the Cathedral of Christ the Savior’s concert hall in Moscow, to see the holiday show “Master of Winter Forest,” and to receive a gift.

The selection process for Yelka participants is highly competitive as they are selected based on academic merit. They spend months diligently studying and striving to be the best in hopes of being awarded a trip to Moscow, a trip that is oftentimes the highlight of their year.

Additionally, RCWS personnel and volunteers, together with “Ded Moroz” (Russian Santa Claus), visited the Orphanage in Shatura and over 100 little patients at the Moscow Center for Maxillofacial Surgery and the Institute of Rheumatology in Moscow to distribute gifts and bring some magic to their holiday.

Please visit our web site www.rcws.org for more information about the RCWS on-going projects.

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Learn more at OrderOfCultureAndPeace.com and PeaceAndCultureGala.com.
St. John of Kronstadt Home for the Elderly

Was founded in Los Angeles over 35 years ago. It is a non-profit organization under the auspices of the Fund of St. John of Kronstadt, which elects the Board of Directors. The Home operates as the Assisted Living community and are subject to California state laws and are governed by Social Security Administration.

The St. John Kronstadt Home provides elderly people with home-like living environment: a separate room, Russian food four times a day, room cleaning and laundry services. If necessary, the personnel of the Home are helping the residents with dressing, bathing, and taking medications.

Primary care physician, various medical specialists including a hygienist and a dentist, are regularly invited to the Home. Assistance with doctor visits is also provided. Special care and attention are given to those who underwent a surgery, or had an illness.

The St. John of Kronstadt Home signifies the special style, traditions, generational continuity, professionalism, comfort, and coziness! It ensures dignified, wise aging filled with warmth, care, and love. The service personnel shares this approach and attitude towards their duties at the Home.

No qualified person in need of such accommodations regardless of his or her financial situation is turned away from the Home. So your financial as well as other kinds of support is essential for the Home to provide such vital services for the aged and often lonely people. After all, none of us is getting younger and it is likely that at a certain point, we’ll be looking for such a place for our loved ones or even for ourselves.

For any questions please contact Liana Vertelkina at 323-466-6467 or info@StJKHome.org
655 N. Serrano Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90004
www.StJKHome.org
Praised for her vocal beauty, seamless technique, and abundant musicality, Nadine Sierra is being hailed as one of the most promising, young talents in opera today.

For the 2018-19 season, Sierra will return both to the Staatsoper Berlin singing Nannetta in Falstaff and to the Metropolitan Opera as Gilda in Rigoletto. She will also make her house and role debut as Manon at the Opéra national de Bordeaux and perform again as Gilda in a new production at the Staatsoper Berlin under the baton of Daniel Barenboim. In concert, she will perform and record Maria in Bernstein's West Side Story with Antonio Pappano at the Accademia Nazionale di Santa Cecilia, appear in Dallas, Prague, Paris, Bordeaux, Baden-Baden and return to Venice for La Fenice’s televised Capodanno celebration.

Ms. Sierra’s 2017-18 season included appearances at the Opéra national de Paris, the Metropolitan Opera, La Fenice, Chorégies d’Orange, and Staatsoper Berlin. She was named the Richard Tucker Award Winner in 2017 and had the honor of receiving the 2018 Beverly Sills Artist Award from the Metropolitan Opera. Sierra also had the pleasure of releasing her debut album, ‘There’s a Place for Us,’ with the Deutsche Grammophon and Universal Music on August 24th, 2018.

Ms. Sierra fell in love with opera at a young age, after watching a VHS of La bohème, and began voice lessons at the age of six in her home state of Florida. Although she made her professional debut as a teenager with the Palm Beach Opera, she decided to continue studying, and received her bachelor’s degree from Mannes College the New School for Music. Following graduation, she went on to participate in the Adler Fellowship Program at the San Francisco Opera, forming a lasting relationship with the company. Follow Nadine Sierra on Instagram: @nadine.sierra.

FRANCESCO DEMURO, Tenor


Most recently, he debuted as Fo restedo in Attila at Festival Verdi in Parma and he appeared at Matsumoto Festival in Gianni Schicchi, Opéra National de Paris (Simon Boccanegra), Teatro di San Carlo in Naples in La Traviata, as well as singing Les Pêcheurs de Perles and Falstaff at Berlin Staatsoper. In the recent seasons he made his debut as Faust at Teatro Comunale di Modena and Teatro Municipale di Piacenza, and sang I Puritani in Savolliina in tournée with Teatro Real, and Lucia di Lammermoor at La Fenice.

Francesco Demuro is a frequent guest on the most important opera houses worldwide, having appeared with the Royal Opera House (Gianni Schicchi, La Traviata), the Metropolitan Opera (La Bohème, La Traviata), Opéra National de Paris (La Traviata, Rigoletto, Der Rosenkavalier, Falstaff),
Teatro alla Scala (Rigoletto, L’Elisir d’Amore, Falstaff), San Francisco Opera (Così Fan Tutte, Falstaff, Rigoletto), Seattle Opera (La Bohème, Rigoletto), Vienna State Opera (La Traviata, La Bohème, L’Elisir d’Amore), Teatro Real in Madrid (La Traviata, Rigoletto), La Fenice and Gran Teatre del Liceu (La Traviata), Teatro di San Carlo and Teatro Comunale in Bologna (La Bohème), Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and Opéra de Monte-Carlo (Maria Stuarda).

He also performed at Teatro Regio di Torino, Frankfurt Opera, Bavarian State Opera, Teatro Filarmonico di Verona and Arena di Verona, Hamburg State Opera, Dresden Semperoper, Tokyo Suntory Hall, Palau de les Arts Reina Sofia in Valencia.

He appeared with Berlin Staatskapelle, Orchestra del Teatro alla Scala, NDR Leipzig, Hungarian National Philharmonic, Houston Symphony, in a repertoire including, among others, Verdi Requiem, Mozart Requiem, Petite Messe Solennelle.

BRYAN WAGORN
Piano
Canadian pianist Bryan Wagorn currently serves as Assistant Conductor at the Metropolitan Opera. He has performed in recital with the world’s leading singers and instrumentalists in North America, Europe, and Asia.

THE LESTER LANIN ORCHESTRA
Music Director Spencer Bruno
The world-renowned Lester Lanin Orchestra is an acknowledged leader and innovator of playing danceable, finger-snappering rhythms for the haut monde of society, and has played at the Petroushka Ball for most, if not all, of its more than two decade existence. The orchestra’s continued success may be attributed to its ability to adapt to the changing requirements of varying occasions, be it a wedding reception playing Top-40 music, a debutante party, charity ball, or a Presidential Inaugural Ball. Mr. Spencer Bruno, the orchestra’s Music Director and principal arranger, is known throughout the United States and Europe as the driving force behind the orchestra’s first-rate reputation, notable for attracting the finest and most professional musicians. As a saxophone-clarinetist-flutist, he has recorded and performed with many top, classical and pop performers; most recently the list has included Natalie Kole, Paul Anka and Johnny Mathis, among many others.

BARYNYA BALALAIKA ORCHESTRA
Artistic Director Mikhail Smirnov
The “Barynya” Balalaika Orchestra is one of leading balalaika orchestras of the United States. It consists of world-class musicians; conservatory graduates who have performed with such groups the Moiseev Dance Company, Virsky Ukrainian National Dance Company, Don Cossacks of Rostov Don, Andreev State Symphonic Balalaika Orchestra, Moscow State Folk Center “Russian Song”, and the Ensemble of Black Sea Navy Dancers. Musical director - Elina Karokhina. The “Barynya” Balalaika Orchestra plays balalaikas, bayan, domra, guitar, garmoshka (Russian button accordion), balalaika contrabass, sax, violin and drums.
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Contact:
Olga Zatsepina, Ph.D,
President, RACH-C
Chair, Coalition in support of
Russian American History Month
info@rach-c.org
U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce

The U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce (USRCC) is a 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization headquartered in Houston, Texas, with branches in Chicago, IL, and New York, NY, was established in 2009 with the support of the U.S. business community with the goal to promote trade and investment between Russia and the United States.

USRCC’s key initiatives include:

- Business conferences and seminars for U.S. and Russian companies
- Assistance in developing business partners and contacts in Russia and the United States
- Immediate assistance and consultations in business expansion and first time market entry (U.S. and Russian companies)
- Trade missions for U.S.-based companies to Russia and Russian companies to the U.S.
- Participation in key international and regional exhibitions
- International outreach to a number of Russian and the U.S. regions

Some of the industries of expertise include energy, oil and gas, chemicals, agriculture, healthcare, aerospace, services, IT, nanotechnology, finance, metals, logistics and transportation, and infrastructure development, and others.

For membership information please contact:

The U.S.-Russia Chamber of Commerce
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Tatiana and her team offer their support and appreciation to the Russian Children’s Welfare Society and wish the noble charity continued success with their programs, benefitting at-risk children in Russia!
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Courtesy of Clive Christian

3. TWO TICKETS TO THE VAKHTANGOV THEATER PRODUCTION “MASQUERADE” AT NEW YORK CITY CENTER (4 PERFORMANCES ONLY!)
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Courtesy of Cherry Orchard Festival, cherrycorchardfestival.org

4. BOAST POLO FOR HIM AND FOR HER
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Courtesy of Beluga Vodka

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Courtesy of K&D Wines & Spirits, 1343 Madison Ave, New York NY 10128. Tel 212-289-1818 www.kdwine.com

19. GUERLAIN LUXURY BEAUTY SET
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Raffle Prizes & Auction

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Courtesy of Maria Loginova

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22. AMBER JEWELRY BY VALERIO 888

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Courtesy of Michael Rangini, BLEUSTORM VODKA, www.bleustorm.com

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Value: $1,900-$2,400
Courtesy of New York Dermatology Group (NYDG) Integral Health & Wellness, 119 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, NYC. Tel 212-3523333. www.nydgdwellness.com

LUXURIOUS EVENING REVERSIBLE BLAZER
Luxurious evening reversible blazer made from black jacquard silk on one side and gorgeous black velvet on the other. This dramatic garment has beautifully hand embroidered & beaded french lace trimmed wide round collar that can be worn gathered for a more closed look or open over shoulders. The mid thigh length blazer is designed to be worn as a statement piece on top of your evening gown or suit.
Value: $750.
Courtesy of Design Gallery, 822 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11223. Tel: 917-541-3893, 917-536-1101. www.SovaCity.com

A FULL BODY CRYOTHERAPY AND LED BED TREATMENT
Value: $340
Courtesy of NYDG Integral Health & Wellness, 119 Fifth Avenue, 2nd Floor, NYC. Tel 212-3523333. www.nydgdwellness.com

LADY’S HAT BY NATALYA BYTHEWOOD
Handcrafted art. Inspired by fashion classics and made under the golden rules of couture. Estimated value: $450
Courtesy of Natalya Bythewood, www.natalyabythewood.com

28. GEORGIAN GIFT BASKET
Courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. Sarandinaki Kadaria

29. BELUGA NOBLE RUSSIAN VODKA GOLD LINE 750 ML PRESENTED IN A STYLISH LEATHER CASE
Value: $100
Courtesy of Beluga Vodka

30. RUSSIAN TROIKA BROOCH
Courtesy of Beatrice Fekula

31. BASKET WITH DIFFERENT KINDS OF SWEETS
This set includes chocolate creamy caramels, two dark chocolate bourbon caramels, almond tea cookies, dark chocolate ganache truffles and popcorn.
Estimate value: $50
Courtesy of Alexandra Muratov and Marat Muratov

32. SIX MONTH SUPPLY OF NUTRAFOL FOR WOMEN
Win a 6 month supply of Nutrafol, a dermatologist recommended nutraceutical oral supplement for better hair health sold in over 1,500 dermatology practices. The prize includes a Consultation with a Hair Health Physician Expert. 100% drug-free. Happy Hair. Happy You.
Value: $800
Courtesy of NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS INC, www.nutrafol.com

List in progress
Special Thanks

Aeroflot-Russian Airlines
Alchemy Events
Kamilla Khanbalinova and AMOREPACIFIC
Blavatnik Family Foundation
Irina Troshin and CLIVE CHRISTIAN counter at Saks Fifth Ave New York
Mr. Peter Gelb and the Metropolitan Opera
Elke Geacintov
Gourmanoff and NetCost Market
FRED ASTAIRE MIDTOWN DANCE STUDIO
Palais des Thés
Roland Peralta and NUTRACEUTICAL WELLNESS
Steinway & Sons
Michael Rangini and BleuStorm Vodka
NEW YORK DERMATOLOGY GROUP
Russian Samovar Restaurant
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Veronika Arkhangel
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Anna Sergeeva
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Olga Timoshenkova
Yana Worthman

Cover design by Dimitry Schidlovsky
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- Hello! - Привет! (PRIVET!)
- Welcome! - Добро пожаловать! (DOBRO POZHALOVAT!)
- Bon appetit! - Приятного аппетита! (PRIYATNOGO APPETITA!)
- Yummy! - Вкусно! (Vkusno!)
- Very good! - Очень хорошо! (Ochen Khorosho!)
- Cheers! - На здоровье! (Na Zdorovye!)
- I love ...! - Я люблю ...! (Ya LYUBLIYU ...!)

- Tea - Чай (CHAI)
- Caviar - Икра (IKRA)
- Bread - Хлеб (KHLEB)
- Cheese - Сыр (SYR)
- Kielbasa - Колбаса (KOLBASA)
- Meat - мясо (MYASO)
- Ravioli - Пельмени (PELMENI)
- Milk - Молоко (MOLOKO)
- Juice - Сок (SOK)
- Water - Вода (VODA)
- Cookies - пряники (PRIYANIKI)
- Dry bread rings - Сушки (SUHISKI)
- Pancakes - Блины (BLINI)

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