

MINNESOTA – LAND OF 10,000 LAKES

2010 Convention

by Tom Korba & Anne DelVecchio



BDAA CONVENTION
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA
JULY 11 - 17, 2010

We are now very close to the convention as you read this.

Around these parts we use the “Old Farmers Almanac” (www.almanac.com) to predict weather. This July should be slightly cooler than normal, with below-normal rainfall in the east and near-normal rainfall in the west. The hottest periods will occur in mid-July and early August. So, hopefully, the convention does not fall into the mid July area, but we shall have to wait and see.

1. Book your hotel room:

Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis South. 7800 Normandale Blvd., Minneapolis, Minnesota 55439
Phone: (952)-835-7800. Located just 10 minutes from Minneapolis/St. Paul International Airport (MSP) and the Mall of America, Sheraton Bloomington Hotel, Minneapolis South is ideally situated for business or a weekend getaway. The hotel is steps from the area’s business centers and popular attractions, and complimentary parking is available for you and all of your guests. The 564 guest rooms and suites give you everything you need for a great stay, from the celebrated “ahhhhh” of the Sheraton Sweet Sleeper(SM) Bed to wired and wireless High Speed Internet Access. Lather up with a refreshing new Shine for Sheraton™ bath amenities or simply relax while watching the new LG flat-panel TVs. While you’re here, mingle in the lobby at the new Link@Sheraton experienced with Microsoft, and stay connected with what matters thanks to the free High Speed Internet Access, PC workstations, and more.

To reserve your room for the convention, go online at <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/balalailkadmra> or call the central reservation line toll free at (866)-837-4278. Make sure you mention BDAA

2. Make your flight reservations:

By air, go to <http://www.mspairport.com/>

By car, go to <http://www.mapquest.com/maps?city=Minneapolis&state=mn&address=7800+Normandale+Blvd>

By bus, go to <http://www.greyhound.com/home/>

By train, go to <http://www.amtrak.com/servlet/ContentServer?pagename=Amtrak/HomePage>

Now for the cost conscious people out there, you might want to consider Lutran Airlines at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-W-OLT6nw&feature=related>.

Walking is not encouraged for those traveling far.

The Sheraton shuttle service from the airport to the hotel will be:

Sunday, July 11 and Sunday, July 18: Leave the hotel at the bottom of each hour and pick up at the airport at the top of the hour. First pick up at the airport is 7:00 am and the last drop off at the airport will be at 10:00 pm.

There will be further information about Mall Of America Shuttle service from Monday through Friday with multiple times to choose from will be posted at the registration table and also be included in your welcome packet.

3. Register for the convention:

Registration forms are available on line to print, fill out and send with your check made out to the BDAA care of Sandy Kasura, 87 Western Highway, West Nyack, NY 10994. <http://www.bdaa2010.com/registration.html> - there are forms available for attending 7 or 3 days. Or look back at your March newsletter for registration forms that were inserted.

4. Orchestra Music:

When filling out your registration this year, you'll see a choice of printing your music from the website, or to receive it by mail. For online music, an access code will be emailed to you after we receive your registration. For music by mail – Music has already been sent to those who registered by May 15. For those registering between May 16 to June 15, the music will be mailed on June 15. That is it. It is that simple. Then you can sit back, relax and dream about your Minneapolis trip and also, practice your music ahead of time if you want. A 3-ring binder for your music will be provided as part of the convention registration.

5. What to bring

Instrument

Orchestra music

Music stand

Extra picks and strings

Tuner if you have one

Costume

Russian percussion/wind instruments for class/parties

Comfortable shoes

A good item or two for the auction

Dance clothes, boots or shoes for advanced dance

Optional items:

Plaid shirt

Suspenders (Not necessarily matching, like Red Green)



Tuque or rabbit fur lined Elmer Fudd hat.

Hiking boots

Fishing tackle

Extra fishing line (bait shops are locally available-don't bring fresh)

Life jackets; they are required on all 10,000 lakes, but we doubt you'll get to all of them

Bug spray/cologne

6. What to do and where to go (Hell if you complain too much)

There are a multitude of places to go while visiting our fair city. Here is a brief list of hot spots. More will be included in your welcome packet or go Explore Minnesota at: <http://www.exploreminnesota.com> to see more. Don't forget about the convention though, that is why you are coming here we hope. Make sure you sign up for the day-off trifecta of St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral tour, Lunch at Kramarczuk's Deli and a visit to The Museum of Russian Art. If you did not get a chance to sign up in your registration, there will be some open slots available to sign up at the registration table. Estimated cost for this which includes bus ride, will be approximately \$ 30.00 plus \$10.00 to \$15.00 Lunch. Sign up early, space is limited.

Here is a short list of our personal favorites:

The Mall Of America: www.mallofamerica.com/

Minnesota Zoo: www.mnzoo.org

Walker Art Center and Sculpture Garden: www.walkerart.org/

Minnesota Science Museum: www.smm.org

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts: www.artsmia.org

The Minnesota History Center: www.mnhs.org/historycenter/

The Museum Of Russian Art: www.tmora.org/

The Guthrie Theater: www.guthrietheater.org

The Mill City Museum: www.millcitymuseum.org

The Waterpark of America: www.waterparkofamerica.com/

Valley Fair Amusement Park: www.valleyfair.com

Ukrainian Gift Shop: <http://www.ukrainiangiftshop.com/index.htm>

Kramarczuk's Deli: <http://www.kramarczuk.com/>

Target Field (New one for the Twins): <http://mlb.mlb.com/min/ballpark/index.jsp>

Homestead Pickin Parlor: <http://www.homesteadpickinparlor.com/>

Fitzgerald Theater: (Home of "A Prairie Home Companion") <http://fitzgeraldtheater.publicradio.org/>

Downtown Minneapolis: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/visitors/>

Hell: Well, you should know what to do here.

7. Workshops:

So far you have been updated on Guest Artists and Nightly entertainment, now for the workshops we have for you this year.

Beginning Balalaika/Youth Balalaika: (Judy Sherman)

This class will focus on the very basic techniques of balalaika playing: correct playing position, correct usage of the pick and finger. Positioning of the left hand on the fret board, and some basics of music reading. This class will apply to all prima and alto balalaika players. We'll also learn some simple songs.

Beginning Domra/Youth Domra: (Charley Rappaport)

This class will focus on the very basic techniques of domra playing: correct playing position, correct usage of the pick or plectrum. Positioning of the left hand on the fret board, and some basics of music reading. This class will apply to prima, alto and bass domra players. We'll also learn some simple songs.

Advanced Balalaika Technique: (*Andrei Saveliev*)

In this class, we will be developing and polishing traditional methods of balalaika technique such as strumming and double pizz., paying attention to proper hand and fingers positions. One more time I want to dedicate some time to the importance of developing good tremolo skills on balalaika. We also will go over some left hand problems some balalaika players might have and how to correct those problems. I also want to mention that other balalaika players (alto, secunda, bass and contra bass) are also welcome to attend the workshop so I can give them some basic info on proper technique as well. I'll prepare parts for everybody so we can play some songs as an ensemble.

Advanced Domra Technique: (*Angelina Galashenkova-Reed*)**Pysanky:** (*Kathleen Nepsha Eich*)

Come and learn the beautiful art of decorated Pysanky Easter eggs. Drawn for centuries, the decorated egg is created through a wax resist process with alternate dying of colors. The symbolism on the egg has special meaning to both the person creating it and the person to whom it is given. Learn about the symbolism, tradition and history of this art while trying your hand at its mastery. In the sessions, you will be provided with your own Kistka (writing tool), bees' wax and egg. Depending on your level of skill and complication of pattern, you may possibly complete an egg within the sessions. All dyes, instruction materials and necessary equipment to complete an egg during the sessions will be provided in the class

Chorus: (*Sara Ann Pogorely*)

Join Sara Ann Pogorely for a musical journey with the Russian Choral Masters and Russian Folk Music. The 2010 BDAA Choral Workshop will focus on the Liturgical music of the early 20th century, as well as collaborate with the BDAA Orchestra for a rendition of "The Ride of the Cossaks". Come with pencils and voices ready!

Russian Folk Percussion and Winds: (*Göran Rygert*)

In three workshops you will become acquainted with Russian percussion instruments such as Buben (tambourine), Lozhki (spoons), Treshchotka (rattle), Krugovaya (ratchet rattle), Rubel (a ribbed board), Ladoshka and Khlopushka (clappers), Woodsticks, Sleighbells and Rogaz (can't be described - you have to come and see it!). We will also play on Russian wind instruments such as Svirel, Zhaleyka, Rozhok, Dvadyensivka, Ocarina and more. Together with a bayanist we will work on and maybe perform a well-known Russian melody that will include easy parts for different wind and percussion instruments. If you own any Russian percussion or wind instrument, please bring it to the workshop! You do not need to read music to attend. Everyone is welcome! But if you read music, please bring your music stand.

Recreational Folk Dancing: (*Jan Rygert & Liz Nunan*)

This class will be covering and teaching simple folk dances from Russia, Greece, Serbia, and a few other East European countries. The dances are ones that go with a collection of tunes frequently played at the evening parties. We will also throw in some fun dances - a little bit Latin! Recreational Folk Dancing will be a casual, fun class teaching easy, folk dances from Serbia, Croatia, Russia, Ukraine, Greece, Romania and other eastern European locales. Most of these dances will be played at the evening parties so that you can participate. The dances will include easy line and circles dances, so novelty and interesting dances and some surprises. Bring your comfy dancing shoes, a small hankie and a large loose belt for line dancing. No experience required except you two feet. Please come and join us to learn these dances, stay fit at the same time and wear off all that beer you will be drinking and lose weight!

Bayan/Accordion: (*Nina Tritenichenko*)

All levels of musicians are welcome! We will work on improving technique and accuracy of performing. In each class we will learn how to play as an accordion ensemble; hear each other perform, play in musical phrases, and perform a range of dynamic contrasts and tempo changes. Instructor's website: www.barvinok-us.com

Meaning and Demonstration of Russian Costume: *(Elena Kallevig)*

The costume of peasants of not only every region, but also every village of Russia had specific features that identified the origin and the social status of the wearer. Elena Kallevig will talk about the history and meaning of Russian costumes, illustrating her presentation with the examples of the unique hand-made costumes from the RCC “Russian Soul” collection and personal collections of the RCC members.

Russian Ritual Dolls And Their Meaning: *(Elena Kallevig)*

Dolls were an important part of the everyday life of Russian peasants and were lifetime companions to women, and, in certain cases, to men. They were part of ceremonies, life transition events, seasonal festivals, and were seen as protectors, helpers, and healers. The art of making dolls is being revived in Russia now. Elena Kallevig will describe the main categories of the dolls, the meaning and philosophy behind this ancient art, and demonstrate examples of the Russian Ritual dolls.

Audio Production/Sound Equipment: *(Dick Rees)*

This class will present an overview of sound system application from input to output with emphasis on real-world conditions. This will include techniques for musicians as well as those tasked with mixing. Questions from participants are encouraged.

Children’s Instrument: *(See [beginning balalaika or beginning domra class description](#)).*

Children’s Russian Folk Arts & Crafts: *(Elena Kallevig)*

Teachers of the after-school program “Istok” from the Russian Cultural Center “Russian Soul” will offer classes to children on ancient Slavic arts, crafts, & games. It is a chance to learn former pre-Christian ritual games “Rucheek” (Spring) and “Karavay” (Loaf of bread) – now well-known and loved Russian kids’ pastimes; make one’s own *Kalechina-malechina* and find out what you can do with it; discover pre-Cyrillic Slavic Alphabet and make a necklace-amulet with a Slavic rune; and study the secrets of ritual doll-making. Activities will be tailored to the age level of the majority of the attendees. We suggest that children under 5 are accompanied with an older sibling or an adult.

Children’s Folk Dance: *(Lora Ciganko Balach)*

A selection of Slavic ethnic dances will be learned during this workshop. All participants are invited to perform these dances during the July 17 performance with members of the Carpathy Children's Folk Dance Ensemble. Please wear comfortable exercise clothing and tennis shoes during the workshop.

Rhythmic Accompaniment: *(Judy Sherman) Inaugural class this year*

Alto and Prima Balalaika players: Electrify the world of rhythmic accompaniment beyond traditional offbeats. Expand your repertoire of pick and non-pick right-hand styles and left-hand chord positions. Discuss remedies for finger pain. Learn to play while standing! Learn to grimace and make the audience think your parts are incredibly difficult! Although this class's focus will be on experienced players, it will not emphasize written music. There will be guest instructors who will take what you know and turn you into a pro.

Zakuski: *(Sandy Kasura)*

As always, Sandy, along with her elite team will be preparing delectables for our legendary “Steve Wolownik Memorial Zakuski Night”. Zakuski will be prepared on Thursday and if interested in helping Sandy and crew, see Sandy during the week.

Jammmeister: *(Charley Rappaport)*

Jam sessions will begin after the nightly scheduled events, led by one of the BDAA’s very own founding member, Charley Rappaport.

8. Tall Tale Night



You may be wondering what this “Tall Tale Night” is all about. Well, this convention we decided to take a cue from the Reno convention when they had Cossack Poetry Night. Well, this time, it is Tall Tale Night. Participants are encouraged to compose and recite a tall tale of their own. But there is a hitch. It must be done Minnesota Style so that is why there have been tidbits of phrases in past newsletters. You will be provided a full Minnesota Dictionary soon on the website and also in your welcome packet.



Contestants will be judge on costume, use of the Minnesota Dictionary and originality. You can re-write a story about Paul Bunyan, Fishing (Big around here), camping, and even your first time.....Eating Lutefisk we mean. Take a story and replace words from the dictionary or make one up from scratch. Songs are acceptable too. The sky is the limit. For costume, we suggest, a plaid, flannel long-sleeved shirt with the sleeves rolled up, with a pair of suspenders, blue jeans rolled up at the bottom with wool socks over them with work boots. Then the ultimate is the hat. Can be those rabbit fur-lined hats (Elmer Fudd style hats) or the basic tuque, (French for knit hat). Thick Beards are optional. So, don't miss this once in a lifetime event on Tuesday night following the Lipa Slovak dancers performance. Prizes will be for best-dressed, best original story and best use of the dictionary.

10. More terms:

Up to now, you have been given in each Newsletter, a few Minnesota terms or sayings. For this newsletter, we decided to give you the Minnesota 10 Commandments.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS MINNESOTA STYLE

(You may need to know this)

What else would you expect from a true Minnesotan than our own rendition of the Ten Commandments. These are all good things to know around these parts.

- 1). Der's only one God, ya know.
- 2). Don't make that fish on your mantle an idol.

- 3). Cussing ain't Minnesota nice.
- 4). Go to church even when you're up nort.
- 5). Honor your folks.
- 6). Don't kill. Catch and release.
- 7). There is only one Lena for every Ole. No cheatin'.
- 8). If it ain't your lutefisk, don't take it.
- 9). Don't be braggin' about how much snow ya shoveled.
- 10). Keep your mind off your neighbor's hotdish.

Oh, what the heck, here are some more words to get to know.

AHHUNNERD: (10 x 10)

Example: "The odds are *ahhunnerd* to one da Vikin's will win da Super Bowl."

BEDDER: (The superlative of Good or order)

Examples: "This new TV is much *bedder* than dat old one." Or "I think you'd *bedder* be nicer to him."

DERE: (There)

Example: "Well, *dere's* dis situation goin' on."

DESE: (These)

Example: "Look, look at all *dese* fish I caught."

FILLUM: (What Kodak makes)

Example: "I need to get some *fillum* for dis camera."

HAWT DEESH: (Hot Dish). It's a casserole where one isn't sure of the ingredients. But, they just know it's hot (temperature)."

Example: "After da funeral, everyone brought a *hawt deesh* over to da house."

JEET: (Did you eat?)

Example: "*Jeet* before going to school?"

KOR-DEEN: (A musical instrument)

Example: "Da person who plays the *kor-deen* is the most important one in da polka band."

WENT: (Broke down)

Example: "That second hand snowmobile just up and *went* on me this weekend."

WINNER: (Cold months with snow. Usually October through May)

Example: "This *winner* is gonna be expense cuz fuel oil is so high."

11. Local Vendors:

We are working with area vendors to possibly be displaying and selling items during the convention near our workshop and practice rooms.

11. Gala Banquet and Auction:

The gala banquet will be held at the Sheraton Hotel Friday evening July, 16 beginning with cocktail hour with banquet following. The cocktail entertainment will be Barynya and our banquet entertainment will be the Dolina Polish Folk Dancers and the Chabry, Teen Polish Folk Dance Group. Live music will be by the Dolina Kapela band. The BDAA Scholarship auction will begin after dinner. Don't forget to bring along an item or two for the auction. Don't forget your checkbook too. Remember, all proceeds go to a worthy cause.

12. Concert/tickets:

The **Festival of Russian Music** concert will be held on Saturday, July 17, 2010, 7:00 pm at the beautiful Ted Mann Concert Hall on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota campus. Advance tickets and information can be found by emailing alto.balalaika@yahoo.com (Kathy Jurichko) or by calling 651-329-5477. Tickets will be \$15. We are working with local vendors to possibly display/sell in the lobby pre-concert through intermission.

13. Evening Entertainment:

SUNDAY: (WELCOME PARTY). Join us at the Sheraton as soon as you get in for refreshments, catching up, talk about your best fishing spots, and registration starting at 2 pm. MN translators will be on hand! Reception starts at 5:30 with entertainment provided by our very own St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral Choir. Of course, jamming will go well into the evening!

MONDAY: We will begin the evening with a short performance at 7:30 pm by **Beloz'er- Russian Folk Ensemble**; followed by a Mini-concert by our guest artists and then jamming at 9:30 pm

TUESDAY: This evening will start with a short performance at 7:30 pm by **Lipa Slovak Folk Dancers**. Then we will go into **TALL TALE NIGHT**. Following Tall Tale Night will be jamming at 9:30 pm. (See above for information on Tall Tale Night).

WEDNESDAY: Day-off expedition to St. Mary's Orthodox Cathedral, Kramarczuk's Ukrainian Deli, The Museum of Russian Art, and followed by **Gypsy Night at 8:00 pm** and then jamming at 9:30 pm.

THURSDAY: This night will start of with a performance by the **Cheremosh Ukrainian Dance Ensemble** at 7:30 pm followed by open mike/Zakuski and then jamming at 9:30 pm

14. Questions:

If you have questions that still go unanswered, please see coordinator@BDAA2010.com , call Anne Del Vecchio at 651-329-8568, or call Tom Korba at 612-760-2143.

15. Finally the end:

Bet you are glad you got to the end of this novel. So, in closing, if by the end of the week, you just don't feel that this has been the best dang BDAA convention ever and feel the need to throw vegetables at your convention coordinators, please remember this important thing:

Take the vegetables out of the can first. It will really hurt otherwise.

Thank you for your support, and keep your stick on the ice.