

Beloz'er'e

Monday July 12, 7:30 to 8:00 pm



Beloz'er'e: The Russian Cultural Center was born in May 2006. The RCC “Russian Soul” and the ensemble “Beloz'er'e” became a new non-profit organization with the mission of preserving and promoting Russian folk culture and art in Minnesota. We are reaching out to broader community, offering performances, presentations, Russian folk dance lessons for kids, workshops on traditional arts and crafts, and participating in exhibitions and community events. Over the years of our existence we reached out in one way or another to 450 thousand people in Twin Cities and beyond.

We have a number of programs, demonstrating unique recreations of rituals and traditions related to important events in the lives of Russian peasants, or offering a glimpse of arts and culture of our ancestors. The upcoming exhibition in September 2010 at the Hennepin Gallery Downtown Minneapolis will be called “Russian Fashion Show”, as we are going to present hand-made recreations of the folk traditional costumes from different areas of Russia. The program that would combine “fashion show” with performances of songs and dances of those areas planned to be premiered in October.

“Beloz'er'e” is the only truly folk Russian ensemble in Minnesota – none of our members is or have been a professional singer or dancer. All our members are participating in research of folk arts and crafts – find the words and music of old songs, choreograph dances, carefully preserving the authentic folk steps, but offering unique

dance designs, re-create ethnically correct costumes from photographs and drawings. Our goal is not just entertainment but education, as few people, including Russians themselves, are familiar with the rich heritage of the Russian folk culture. Finally, we see our ensemble as a healing and supporting group, as the therapeutic effects of movement, music, and creative expression are well known. Though we welcome everybody, the majority of the “Beloz'er’e” members are first generation immigrants, who find the participation in our ensemble sustains them in dealing with the stress and trauma of immigration and adaptation.