

# *Beginning Domra / Youth Domra* */ Jammeister* **Charley Rappaport**



*(Photo Courtesy of Cleveland Plain Dealer)*

**BEGINNING DOMRA / YOUTH DOMRA:** 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.

**NIGHTLY JAMMING:** Jam sessions will begin after the nightly scheduled events, led by one of the BDAA's very own founding member, Charley Rappaport.

**CHARLEY RAPPAPORT:** Was born in Brooklyn, New York and began playing in college concert halls and coffeehouses in the early '60s. Early on he perfected his own style of performance of Gypsy music as leader of a number of groups - most recently *The Great American Gypsies* with Joseph Kovach. Charley has appeared as a soloist in New York's Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Town Hall, in Washington's Kennedy Center and in many other important venues in North America and Europe. He has 5 recordings to his credit, the latest being *Before I Had a Red Tomato* on Caravan Recordings.

In 1978 he co-founded *The Balalaika and Domra Association of America*, an international organization to preserve and proliferate Russian folk music and instruments. In 1975 he founded the *Houston Balalaika Society*, in 1981 he founded the *Atlanta Balalaika Society* and in 1994 he co-founded the *Atlanta Mandolin Society*, all still thriving orchestras.

In 2003 he was the subject of the cover story of *Mandolin Magazine*, a national publication. In 2004 he was named a *Master Folk Artist* by the *Pennsylvania Council for the Arts*, and awarded a grant in conjunction with their Master/Apprentice program. In October of 2006 he assumed the posts of Executive and Music Director of the *Pittsburgh Mandolin Society* and he conducts the *Pittsburgh Mandolin Orchestra*. He has been teaching fretted instruments privately both in Pittsburgh and in Albion, PA since 2003.