

Festival Orchestra Conductor

David C. Cooper



DAVID C. COOPER: Grew up in a family of musicians and was influenced by the varied musical cultures represented in Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania. He studied numerous instruments in formal and informal settings and graduated from the University of Illinois with degrees in Ethnomusicology and Social Work. While at Illinois, he was a member of the famed University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra, the Persian Orchestra and the Wind Ensemble. In 1979, Dave moved to Atlanta and since then has appeared internationally with the World Music Consort, Troika Balalaikas, Czar Balalaika, Massenkoff Russian Folk Festival, University of Pennsylvania Balalaika Orchestra, and the University of Illinois Russian Folk Orchestra. Selected for a fellowship at the Glière Institute in Kiev, Ukraine in 1987, Dave studied prima balalaika with Anatoly Ryabinin and Yuri Aleksik.

Mr. Cooper has served as music director of the Atlanta Balalaika Society since 1986. He is a multi-talented musician; David is a member of numerous ensembles, performing on everything from the Russian garmoshka to Caribbean steel drums. He leads a Caribbean steel drum ensemble called Pandomania. He travels throughout the United States and Canada to teach members of other balalaika ensembles, as well as to conduct and lead workshops at the annual BDAA conventions.