

***Day of Russia  
in New York  
2007***

*in celebration of the 200th anniversary  
of the diplomatic relations between  
Russia and the United States of America*

**UNDER THE GRACIOUS PATRONAGE OF**

***The Embassy of the Russian Federation  
to the United States of America  
The Consulate General of the Russian Federation in New York  
The New York Office of the Trade Representation  
of the Russian Federation***

**HONORING**

***Senator Mikhail V. Margelov***  
*Chairman of the Committee  
for Foreign Affairs of the Council of Federation  
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation*

***Louis F. Bantle***  
*Chairman Emeritus of UST, Inc.*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2007  
CHELSEA PIER 59**

**CRUISE AROUND NEW YORK ON THE "CORNUCOPIA MAJESTY"**

**EMBARKATION 7:00 P.M.  
BUSINESS ATTIRE**

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*Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary  
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**Senator Roy M. Goodman**

*President and Chief Executive Officer  
United Nations Development Corporation*

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## DAY OF RUSSIA 2007 ORGANIZER

**Ioori Smirnov**  
President  
*Globe PR Group, Inc.*

## **LOUIS F. BANTLE**

Louis F. Bantle is Chairman Emeritus and former Chief Executive Officer of UST, Inc. He joined the company in 1962 and served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer for 20 years.

His civic and professional involvements include serving as Chairman Emeritus for life of the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Fairfield County, Connecticut, Director of High Watch Farms and Ashley, Inc., and Chairman of the Connecticut Alcohol and Drug Commission. He was a key figure in planning the 1989 Soviet-American Conference on Alcoholism and is Chairman of the International Institute for Alcoholism Education and Training.

In 1986, he made a commitment to fund the Louis A. Bantle Chair in Business and Government Policy, a joint venture between the Maxwell School and the School of Management, Syracuse University. His company has also funded the Bantle Institute and the Program Development Office which serves African American and Latino alumni. In 1979, Mr. Bantle received the George Arents Pioneer Medal for excellence in business and the Chancellor's Medal for service to business, education, and humanitarian concerns in 1991.

He is also a trustee of Syracuse University and serves as a board member of the Taft Institute, The National Legal Center for the Public Interest and the Greater New York Boy Scout Council. In 1991, he was appointed to President Bush's Advisory Committee for the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and is a member of the board of advisors of AmeriCares. Mr. Bantle is a recipient of the National Conference of Christians and Jews' National Human Relations Award.

Mr. Bantle graduated from Syracuse University and served two years active duty in the U.S. Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Captain and received the prestigious "Semper Fi" award from the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. He is also a Knight of the Royal Order of the North Star, an exclusive investiture of the government of Sweden rarely granted outside the country.

He and his wife Virginia Clark Bantle are the parents of Robert and Terri and have four grandchildren.



## **MIKHAIL VITAL'EVITCH MARGELOV**

Mikhail Vital'evitch Margelov, Senator, Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs, Council of Federation, Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, Vice-President of the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe (PACE), Chairman of the European Democrat Group in the PACE.

In December 2000, Mikhail Margelov was elected to represent the Pskov Region in the Council of Federation (the Upper House of Russian Parliament), where he joined the Committee for Foreign Affairs. In November 2001, he was elected Chairman of this Committee.

From January until March 2000, Mikhail Margelov served as a consultant to Vladimir Putin's Electoral Headquarters, specifically in charge of contacts with foreign media.

From its creation in October 1999 until autumn 2000 Mikhail Margelov was a director of the Russian Information Center (Rosinformcentr). The Center was established as a governmental agency to cover events in the Northern Caucasus, as well as general coverage of the internal political events. From May 1998 to September 1999 he held a managerial position at RIA-Novosti Information Agency.

Mikhail Margelov was head of the Public Relations Department at the Administration of the Russian President since November 1996. Earlier, he was with President Boris Yeltsin's 1996 re-election campaign headquarters as chief coordinator for advertising. In 1995 Mr. Margelov became the project director at the Video International Group for the publicity campaign of Grigory Yavlinsky and "Yabloko" movement.

During the period of 1990-1995 he was employed by American consulting companies World Resources, Boston Consulting Group, Bain and Company. He dealt with investment projects on the territory of CIS, enterprise restructuring, and others.

Mr. Margelov was born in 1964 in Moscow. He graduated from the Institute of Countries of Asia and Africa, affiliated with Moscow State University. He has worked as an interpreter in the International Department of the Central Committee, Communist Party of the Soviet Union, taught Arabic at the Higher School of the USSR State Security Committee, and was Senior Editor of the Arab section in the TASS News Agency.

Mikhail Margelov is married and has a son Dmitri.





THE COUNCIL OF FEDERATION  
OF THE FEDERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
**THE COMMITTEE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

26, B.Dmitrovka Str., Moscow, 103426, Russia

№ \_\_\_\_\_

## Welcoming Address

May 19, 2007

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today as never before, Russia and the United States, in political terms, are reliant upon each other. Obviously, any cool down in relations is not beneficial for either country or the international community. This will only intensify present-day problems.

Cooperation between our countries is necessary so that the world will be able to tackle issues related to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. We cannot wait for the moment when international terrorists acquire nuclear weapons without taking any action, especially when experts tell us this is a real possibility.

International terrorism is not yet defeated. The international union of terrorists can be countered with unity of actions of both countries. We should not distinguish between home and foreign terrorists as they both pose an equal threat to civilization. Lack of cooperation will only strengthen extremism.

The world has many problems that cannot be tackled by the United States, Russia, or other countries alone. Today's world is difficult to govern and we are witnessing increasing conflicts, not only among countries, but among ethnic and religious groups as well. These clashes have no borders; fighting divides cities and communities, sometimes even families.

Together our countries have to solve common difficult tasks in the Middle East, Central Asia, the Asia-Pacific Region, and Africa. Conflicts in these regions pose an equal threat to both Russia and the United States.

Naturally, there are differences in our interests, but they are not that different, and leave room for compromise.

In the current difficult international situation, we cannot allow the emotions of politicians and the media to promote discord between our countries and our citizens. The more realistic steps we do together, the more the spirit of partnership and solidarity will grow between us. It has been proven by the hard-won experience of both our countries.

Sincerely,

Mikhail V. Margelov



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10007

June 1, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is a great pleasure to welcome all those attending the Day of Russia in New York 2007 celebration.

We are proud to join with the Russian and American diplomatic communities to commemorate the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations between these two allies. The relationship between the United States and Russia has gone through many stages, but we now enjoy a productive partnership that continues to be strengthened by the ambassadors, representatives, and diplomats of each of these nations.

On behalf of the residents of New York City, I commend all of the organizations responsible for making tonight's event possible. In addition, I congratulate Senator Mikhail V. Margelov and Louis F. Bantle upon being recognized for their role in fostering goodwill between the United States and Russia. Please accept my best wishes for an enjoyable evening aboard the *Cornucopia Majesty!*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael R. Bloomberg".

Michael R. Bloomberg  
Mayor



AMBASSADOR  
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION  
TO THE USA

**To Participants of Day of Russia Celebration in New York**

June 1, 2007

Dear Friends,

I would like to extend my warmest greetings to all of you who have gathered aboard Cornucopia Majesty cruise liner to celebrate the Day of Russia.

Festivities on the occasion of Russia's National Day are becoming a good tradition in New York, which is justly considered to be the capital of «Russian America». The history and the present day of this great American city are inseparably linked with many natives of my country, who made it a true meeting point of both cultures.

In 2007, the depth of Russian-American ties is felt very strongly, since we are commemorating the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between our countries. Of course, this relationship has gone through different periods that included both ups and downs. But the intense mutual interest of both peoples towards each other has always been there. I am confident that this feeling will continue to bring Russia and the United States closer together and help to build a stronger partnership between our nations.

I commend the Globe PR Group's initiative to hold such a wonderful celebration of Russian culture and spirit in New York. I wish upbeat mood to all of its participants and hope that this evening will see many toasts proposed to the friendship and cooperation between Russia and the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuri Ushakov', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Yuri V. Ushakov

**SENATOR**  
**ROY M. GOODMAN**  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



TWO UNITED NATIONS PLAZA, 27TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10017  
(212) 888-5106 FAX: (212) 588-0759  
RMGOODMAN@UNDC.ORG

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

May 18, 2007

Consulate General of the Russian Federation  
in New York  
9 East 91<sup>st</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10128

**Re: To Participants of the Day of the Russian American celebration**

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to be designated Co-chairman of the Russian Federation Day celebration.

On behalf of all New Yorkers, I am glad we have joined together to celebrate this significant event.

It is appropriate that our cultures which are so similar have integrated and became one, in the spirit of friendly celebration.

I commend the Russian Consulate on its initiative to bring us together.

Sincerely yours,

**WELCOME**

***Ed Green***

*Master of Ceremonies*

The Russian National Anthem and the Star Spangled Banner

**GREETINGS**

***Ioori Smirnov***

*President*

*Globe PR Group, Inc.*

***Hon. Sergey V. Garmonin***

*Consul General of the Russian Federation in New York*

***Senator Roy M. Goodman***

*President and Chief Executive Officer*

*United Nations Development Corporation*

**PRESENTATION OF AWARDS**

***Louis F. Bantle***

*Chairman Emeritus of UST, Inc.*

***Senator Mikhail V. Margelov***

*Chairman of the Committee for Foreign Affairs of the Council of Federation  
of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation*

**REMARKS**

***Hon. George E. Pataki***

*57th Governor of the State of New York*

***Zurab K. Tsereteli***

*President*

*Russian Academy of Arts*

***Rick Shannon***

*Corporate Chair*

*President*

*AmeRussia Shipping Co.*

**CONCERT**

**DINNER AND DANCING**

## CONCERT PROGRAM

### **Ilya Itin – Piano**

*Sergei Rachmaninov: Prelude Op. 3 No 2 in C-sharp minor*  
*Sergei Rachmaninov: Etude-Tableau Op. 39 No 5 in E-flat minor*

### **Mikhail Svetlov – Bass**

### **Marina Struleva – Piano**

*L'arlesiana Malashkin: "O, Could I in Song Tell My Sorrow"*  
*Modest Mussorgsky: Mephistopheles' Song of the Flea*

### **Borislav Strulev – Cello**

### **Ilya Itin – Piano**

*Popper/Liszt: Hungarian Rhapsody for cello and piano*  
*Rodion Shchedrin: In style of Albeniz for cello and piano*

### **Anna Shafajinskaja – Soprano**

### **Mikhail Svetlov – Bass**

### **Marina Struleva – Piano**

*Giacomo Puccini: "O Mio Babbino Caro"*  
*Giacomo Puccini: From Opera "La Boheme" - Musetta's Aria*

*"Ochi Chernye – Dark Eyes" **encore with***

**Borislav Strulev, Mikhail Svetlov, Anna Shafajinskaja,  
Vasily Romani, and Leo Loginov-Katz**

## DINNER

### **Felix Swing Band with Mikhail Svetlov**

*Rodgers and Hammerstein: "Some Enchanted Evening", "Bésame Mucho"*

### **Felix Swing Band with Mikhail Svetlov and Leo Loginov-Katz**

*"The Volga Burlak's Song"*

**and**

**Vasily Romani singing Russian Gypsy, Neapolitan and American songs**

**Dancing with the Felix Swing Band in the Main Floor Ballroom**

**DJ Dancing Party in the Admiral Room on the Second Deck  
and on the Sky Deck**

*Thank you to the following sponsors:*

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**BENEFACTORS**

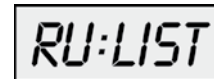
*Natalie Azarov, Cinderella Travel*

*Alfred Ross, President, Institute for Democracy Studies*

*Felix Satter, BayRock Group*

*Henry Zabarasky, Washington Mutual*

**MEDIA**





### **ED GREEN, MASTER OF CEREMONY**

Ed Green is one of the industry's leading voice-over talents. For more than thirty years, he has been the voice of major sporting event projects, motion picture trailers, and television narrations, as well as the voice for the most familiar commercial and product advertisers in America.

His commercials have currently passed the 30,000 mark, and are still climbing. This includes his well-known work as an audio personality for Fortune 500 Corporations - working on their national campaigns while creating a unique image for internal corporate projects and shareholder meetings.

He is constantly incorporating the latest technology to better serve his clients and their business needs. He was the first professional voice-over artist in New York City to equip his professional recording studio with an ISDN line - enabling him to "GO LIVE" with air ready copy in seconds.

Whether it's television commercials, narrations, promos, movie trailers, or even motion picture dubbing, his 30 years of experience speaks for itself. Ed is one of the most respected and dependable professionals in the industry.

## TIMELINE OF RUSSIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS 18-20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURIES

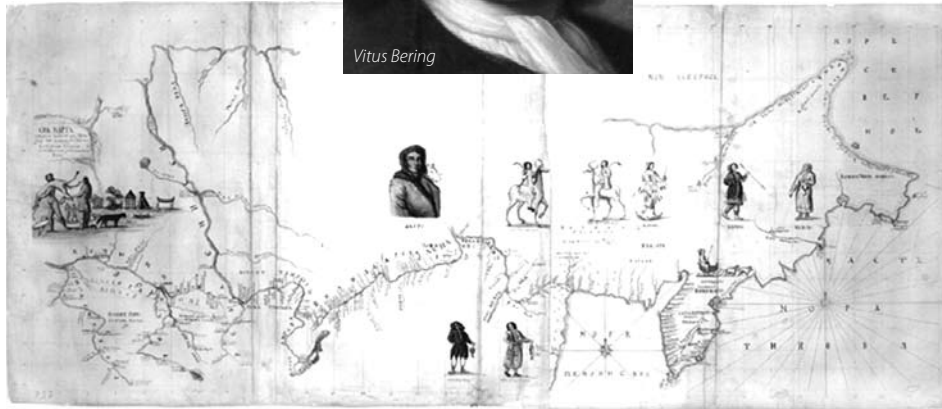
**1540** A manuscript by Maksim the Greek written during the Moscow period of his life contains the first reference in old Russian to the existence of the New World.

**1584** "The Chronicle of the Whole World" (The Belskiy Chronicle), where the name "America" is first mentioned, is translated into Russian.



and America connect. In August 1728, the expedition reaches the latitude of 67° N and confirms the existence of a strait dividing the continents.

**1732 July 23** The expedition of Russian seafarers M. Gvozdev and I. Fedorov begins - the first Russian expedition to reach the north-western coast of America.



**1698** The first officially documented meeting of American and Russian political figures - Peter the Great and William Penn - takes place in London.

**1725** Preparations begin for the First Kamchatka expedition by Vitus Bering to discover whether Asia

Asian and American shores of the Bering Strait are drawn on a map for the first time.

**1733** V. Bering and A.I. Chirikov preparations begin for the second Kamchatka expedition. In the summer of 1741 the northern part of the Pacific Ocean and north-western coast of America are explored. The Aleutian Islands, Alaska, the Aleksandr Archipelago are discovered.

**1750 November 25** "The Sankt-Peterburg Vedomosti" publishes for the first time in Russia the geography and the history of North America and its inhabitants.

**1763 May** Americans visit Russia for the first time on the first direct Trans-Atlantic freight voyage of "The Wolfe" (owner Nicholas Boylston).

**1763** Russian seafarer S. Glotov discovers Kadjak Island.

**1764** P.K. Krenitsyn heads the first secret Russian government-sponsored expedition to explore the Aleutian Islands and Alaska.

**1764** V.Ya. Chichagov heads a secret expedition initiated by M.V. Lomonosov to discover sea routes from Arkhangelsk to America via the Arctic Ocean.

**1765 February** American scientist Ezra Stiles sends a letter through Benjamin Franklin to M.V. Lomonosov, an act which marks the first contact in the field of science between American and Russian scientists.

**1766 June 6** Benjamin Franklin sends a letter to Russian scientist Franz Epinus appraising his treatise on the theory of electricity and magnetism thereby establishing a foundation for the exchange of applied science between Russian and American scientists.

**1773 January 15** First Russian scientist-academician T.I. von Klingshtadt is elected to the American Philosophical Society.

**1775 September 23** September 23 is the date of the letter of Russian Empress Yekaterina the Great written to British King George III, denying him military assistance to defeat the insurgents in the British American colonies.

**1775** Russian trader and seafarer G.I. Shelikhov organizes a trip of Russian merchant ships to the Kuril and Aleutian Islands.

**1777** Russian educator and traveler F.V. Karzhavin, one of the first Russians to visit America,

begins his lengthy extensive travels in America.

**1780 February 28** Russia proclaims Declaration on Armed Neutrality.

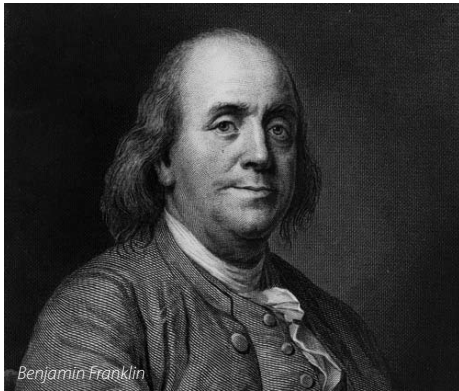
**1781 August** American diplomat Francis Dana arrives in Russia to establish diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia.

**1782** Russian physicist Leonard Eyler becomes the first Russian member of the American Acad-

emy of Arts and Sciences.

**1783 June 1** The first U.S. merchant ship arrives in Russia





**1783 August 16** G.I. Shelikhov and I.I. Golikov begins expedition to the north-western shores of America.

**1784 June 21** G.I. Shelikhov reaches Kadjak Island and creates a hunting base. In 1786 a Russian settlement is established.

**1785** Russian seafarers and explorers I.I. Billings and G.A. Sarychev begin ten-year expedition. They explore the northern part of the Pacific Ocean and reach the Aleutian Islands and American shores.

**1787 Summer** One of the first Americans, traveler John Ledyard, arrives in St. Petersburg, travels through out Russia, including Siberia, for two years.

**1787** Russian merchants find the North-Eastern American Company.

1788 April U.S. Navy Captain John Paul Jones, a heroic naval commander during the American Revolution, arrives in St. Petersburg to be commissioned a Rear Admiral in the Imperial Russian Navy."

**1788** Russian seafarer G.L. Pribylov discovers a group of islands to the north of the Aleutian Islands, which are named after him - the Pribylov Islands.

**1789 September 17** President of the Russian Academy of Arts and Sciences Duchess E.R.

Dashkova is elected as an honorary member to the American Philosophical Society.

**1789 November 2** Benjamin Franklin becomes the first American elected member of the Russian Academy of Arts and Sciences.

**1790** Russian merchant A.A. Baranov becomes the first formal ruler of Russian America.

**1792 Fall** D.D. Golitsyn, the first Russian emigrant, arrives in the United States to settle in America permanently.

**1794** The Holy Synod sends a Russian Orthodox Church Mission to Kadjak Island.

**1796** Russian ruler of Russian America A.A. Baranov builds a fort and a settlement at Yakutat Bay.



**1797** Russian merchants find the American United Company.

**1799 July 8** By decree Russian Emperor Pavel I finds the Russian American Company.

**1799 Summer** Russian ruler of Russian America A.A. Baranov establishes the Mikhaylovskiy Fort on the Sitka Island.

**1800** Second American census registers the first reference

to a Russian settled on American territory.

**1803 Summer** Seafarers and scientists I.F. Kruzenshtern and Yu.F. Lisianskiy begins the first round-the-world Russian expedition and visits Russian America.

**1803 October 19** The first U.S. Consul Levett (Levitt) Harris arrives in St. Petersburg and assumes official duties.

**1803** The ruler of Russian America A.A. Baranov organizes

first Russian expedition to Californian headed by Russian seafarer and merchant I.A. Kuskov.

**1804 June** Regular correspondence is established between Russian Emperor Aleksandr I and U.S. President Thomas Jefferson. Correspondence begins after Jefferson sends the Emperor in 1802 a list of publications on the U.S. Constitution with a personal letter.

**1804 August** American seafarer John D'Wolf begins his five-year travels through Russia on board the "Yunon" schooner and in the summer of 1805 reaches Sitka Island.

**1804 Fall** The Russian ruler of Russian America A.A. Baranov builds a fort and a settlement called Novoarkhangelsk on Sitka Island. It becomes the capital of

Russian America in 1808.

**1806 February 25** Russian Navy officer and merchant N.P. Rezanov sails toward the western coast of North America reaching San Francisco Bay on board the "Yunon" schooner (purchased from John D'Wolf and commanded by N.A. Khvostov). The "Avos," a schooner commanded by G.I. Davydov, accompanies the "Yunon."

**1806** First direct route of Russian merchant ships loaded with Russian goods organized by Russian merchant K.A. Anfilatov begins.

**1807 August-December** Diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia are officially established through an exchange of reports and messages between Russian Envoy in London M.M. Alopeus and Russian Foreign Minister A.Ya. Budberg, on one side, and American Envoys in London James Monroe and William Pinkney and U.S. Secretary of State James Madison, on the other.





### **ILYA ITIN, PIANIST**

Since winning all the major prizes of the renowned Leeds International Pianoforte Competition in 1996 Russian born Ilya Itin's consummate pianism has delighted audiences on four continents. He has been praised for "his rare and exciting artistry" and "superb technique" ( Daily Telegraph UK).

Ilya Itin's performance in the final of the Leeds led to an invitation to perform Rachmaninov's Concerto #3 with Sir Simon Rattle on his farewell tour of Europe with the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra.

His wide ranging recital and concerto repertoire from Bach to Messiaen has been applauded throughout Europe, the Americas, and in Asia performing with orchestras including London Philharmonic, Cleveland Philharmonic, Prague Symphony, St Petersburg Philharmonic, and Tokyo Philharmonic. He has collaborated with such conductors as Dohnanyi, Jarvi, Kreizberg, Pletnev, Sinaisky, Polyansky, and Tovey. His growing interest in conducting culminated in leading 'Opera Naples' in their production of "Amahl and the Night Visitors" by Menotti.

Recordings include Beethoven Piano Concerto # 2 with the Jerusalem Camerata under Avner Biron released by JDR and a recital of Pictures at an Exhibition by Mussorgsky and Sonata # 6 by Prokofiev released by VAI on DVD and CD.



***“...Mikhail Svetlov was a sensation!”***

La Presse, Montreal

***“The evening, indeed, was rich in deep voice,  
with Mikhail Svetlov...first rate”.***

New York Times

### **MIKHAIL SVETLOV, BASS**

Celebrated bass and international opera star Mikhail Svetlov is known for the unique range and beauty of his voice as well as for his outstanding acting ability. Described by The Washington Post as “a Titanic, all encompassing and penetrating voice”.

Mr. Svetlov is a winner of the Viotti International Competition, two Telerama Awards, and a Grammy Award nomination. A principal soloist at the venerated Moscow’s Bolshoi Theater for more than a decade, he also performed to great acclaim on its international tours at New York’s Metropolitan Opera, Milán’s Teatro alla Scala, and London’s Royal Albert Hall.

He has performed the greatest roles of the bass repertoire such as Zaccaria (Nabucco), Mephistopheles (Faust), Phillip (Don Carlos), Boris (Boris Godunov), Attila, Don Giovanni, and Dutchman as well as orchestra works and recitals, in world prestigious venues like Carnegie Hall, Arena di Verona, Deutsche Oper Berlin, Bayerische State Opera, Hamburg Stadtoper, Teatro Colón, Salzburg, Edinburgh and Britten festivals, Bregenz Festspiele, Genoa’s Teatro Carlo Felice, L’Opera de Montreal, Houston and Florida Grand operas, Santa Fe, Baltimore, San Diego and Palm Beach operas, Opera de Bellas Artes (Mexico), and many others.

## **BORISLAV STRULEV, CELLIST**

Mr. Strulev will appear as special guest at a tribute to Oscar Peterson at Carnegie Hall on June 8th, 2007. He took part in 6th Annual Russian Rhapsody in London. At the 92 Street Y in New York he performed as well as concerts entitled “Russian Sundays at the Y”. He performed with the celebrated Terem Quartet for their 25th Anniversary. Mr. Strulev is currently producing “Mythodea: Music for the NASA Mission - 2001 Mars Odyssey” of Oscar-winning composer VANGELIS for chamber ensemble as well as performing his numerous cello works.

Mr. Strulev’s orchestral appearances include Detroit Symphony, Orpheus Chamber Ensemble, Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, Honolulu Symphony Orchestra, Orchestra Nazionale della RAI, WDR Symphony Orchestra- Köln, NÖ Tonkünstler Orchestra, Helsingborg Symphony, Orquestra del Principado de Asturias, NorrlandsOperan Symphony Orchestra, Bolshoi Symphony Orchestra, Moscow Philharmonic, Moscow Virtuosi, and the Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra.

He performs at numerous important occasions such as the opening of the 27th International Film Festival in Moscow invited by Nikita Mikhalkov, Denis Matsuev’s “Crescendo” Festival (under auspices of Ministry of Culture and President Vladimir Putin), the United Nations in New York, Unesco in Vienna, where he played in honor of such celebrated figures as Prince Alexis N. Obolensky, Gorbachev, Clinton, Berlusconi, Mayor Giuliani, JAY-Z, U2’s Bono, and G8 by special invitation of President Putin. He performed “Svyati Boje” by John Taverner on the occasion of Festival of Slavic Literacy in front of 30.000 people.

Mr. Strulev debut recording on French label LYRINX includes Rachmaninov and Schostakovich sonatas. The same label is to release his debut orchestral recording of Arvo Pärt’s Pro et Contra, Erkki-Sven Tüür’s concerto, and Daniel Schnyer’s cello concerto (world premiere). Mr. Strulev is special guest on significant crossover recordings produced by Ettore Stratta with Regina Carter on “Paganini: after a dream” with celebrated mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves and Eliane Elias on “Lost Days”. He has collaborated with Bobby McFerrin, Roger Kellaway, Vangelis, and Billy Joel.



Russian cellist Borislav Strulev has been fascinating audiences on some of the world’s most prestigious stages since his U.S. debut at the Kennedy Center in 1993 arranged on initiative of Isaac Stern, Former World Bank President James Wolfensohn, and Byron Janis with whom he made his Carnegie Hall debut in 1999 playing F. Chopin Sonata. Critics call him a “soloist ... with a rich, singing tone” - The New York Times

## **ANNA SHAFFA (SHAFAJINSKAJA), DRAMATIC SOPRANO**



Dramatic Soprano Anna Shafajinskaja was born in Odessa, Ukraine. She graduated The Academy of Music in Moscow, Russia. She gained international recognition when she was invited to appear as Tosca opposite Luciano Pavarotti, as a result of her winning the 5th Luciano Pavarotti International Voice Competition. Winner of over a dozen prestigious international vocal competitions, including The Bilbao International in Spain, and winner of The Best Debut Artists Award at NYC Opera. She has been nominated for The Maria Callas Award at Dallas. Anna was elected as The Laureate of The World Contest "Best Of The Best" as Musician of the All World Class, The International Academy Of Sciences, Education, Industry & Arts, California, February 2007.

Anna has been an acclaimed guest at many of the world's opera companies including:

The Royal Opera House Covent Garden; Opera National de Paris (Bastille); Opera de Nice; Gran Teatre del Liceu (Barcelona); The New National Theatre (Tokyo); Teatro Massimo (Palermo); Teatro Comunale (Florence); Torre del Lago Puccini's Festival; Deutsche Oper (Berlin); Oper Frankfurt; Semperoper in Dresden; New York City Opera; The Dallas Opera; Michigan Opera (Detroit); Nederlandse Opera; The Amsterdam's Concertgebouw; The Mariinsky Theatre (St.Petersburg); The Bolshoi Theatre (Moscow); Finnish National Opera; Den Norske Opera (Oslo); Opera National de Montpellier; Royal Opera de Wallonie (Liege); Welsh National Opera; Florida Grand Opera (Miami); San Diego; New Orleans; Columbus; Nacionale Opera (Mexico City); Opera de Montreal; Opera Festival of New Jersey; Opera Ontario (Hamilton)...

Her repertoire includes such roles as:

Aida – "Aida" Verdi; Abigaille – "Nabucco" Verdi; Lady Macbeth – "Macbeth" Verdi; Leonora – "La forza del destino" Verdi; Gioconda – "La Gioconda" Ponchielli; Tosca – "Tosca" Puccini; Turandot – "Turandot" Puccini (Alfano's and Berio's finale); Musetta – "La Boheme" Puccini; Maddalena – "Andrea Chenier" Giordano; Lisa – "The Queen of Spades" Tchaikovsky; Nedda – "Il Pagliacci" Leoncavallo; Fiora – "L'amore dei tre re" Montemezzi; Fata Morgana – "L'Amour des trois oranges" Prokofiev; Lubava – "Sadko" Rimsky-Korsakov; "Requiem" Verdi; "War Requiem" Britten.

***"Shafajinskaja's emotionally charged voice is huge, but lustrous and creamy, and her coloratura ability allows her dramatic spinto repertoire to include bel canto. Her high notes are effortless and her acting skills are superb."***

"Opera Canada" Magazine, 2006

***"Shafajinskaia, who has achieved success as Turandot, Lady Macbeth, and Gioconda managed to satisfy the composer's demands for a large voice capable of reaching high notes and also operating with considerable power in the lower registers. Her voice sounds like a mezzo with a high reach."***

"Opera News" Magazine, NYC, 2007



### **LEO LOGINOV-KATZ, PIANO**

Leo Loginov-Katz whose well reputed works include both musical and theatrical art fields joined legendary Dr. Stanley Taub in early 2004 to form “Virtuoso Improvisation Pianists of New York City” (VIP of NYC) and produced a series of successful concerts at the Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center, Yamaha Piano Salon, and The Steinway Hall.

Critics and fans agree that Leo’s high energy musical performances are “never predictable and always entertaining”.

### **VASILY ROMANI, TENOR AND GUITAR**

One of the best known gypsy singers in the world, Vasily Romani graduated in 1982 from the Gnesien Music Academy in Moscow, Russia. From 1982 to 1990, Vasily performed as the lead musician in the Gypsy Theater Romen under the direction of N. Slechenko in Moscow. He served in the military as a soloist in the Moscow State Ensemble Song and Dance from 1986 to 1988. He was presented with a special military citation by the Ministry of Defense for his contributions to the State Ensemble. Since 1990, he has traveled the world as a musician and has performed in Moscow and the United States. He has entertained President Putin, Pope John Paul II as well as performing in the Russian Embassy in Washington, DC. and at festivals throughout the country.

Vasily’s vocal and guitar repertoire includes songs and arias from the best of Russian and American classical and popular traditions. He has appeared in concert halls all over the United States and was in the film “Autumn in New York” with actor Richard Gere.



### **MARINA STRULEVA, PIANIST**

The accomplished pianist, Marina Struleva, was born in Moscow and received her musical education at the Gnesin Academy of Music. She studied with legendary teachers and she was the youngest appointed accompanist at the Gnessin Academy at age 16.

Marina developed a flourishing career as a chamber musician and accompanist to many of the most famous classical instrumentalists and singers in the world. She was invited to perform at some of the most celebrated musical venues all over the United States and the world.



### **FELIX ENDICO, BAND LEADER AND KEYBOARDS**

Felix Endico has been an organizer of bands since his college years at Lehigh University and has played with the great jazz organists, including Wild Bill Davis, Jack McDuff, and with the bandleader Erskine Hawkins. He has always been inspired by the “Harlem” stride piano style of Wille the Lion Smith, and the South Side Chicago piano styles of Jess Stacey and Earl Hines. Endico interprets his music as an arranger and is highly influenced by Fletcher Henderson, Jimmy Mundy, and Gordon Jenkins. As an organist he has been able to test his new arrangements before using them in his orchestra.

#### ***The Felix Swing Band:***

Piano/Leader	<b>Felix Endico</b>
Bass	<b>Stuart Grant</b>
Drums	<b>Ron Turso</b>
Guitar	<b>Rick Stone</b>
Vocals	<b>Jim Malloy</b>
Alto Sax	<b>Julius Tolentino</b>
Tenor Sax	<b>Bob Curtis</b>
Baritone Sax	<b>Carl Marghi</b>
Trumpet	<b>Colin Bridgestocke</b>
Trombone	<b>Eddie Bert</b>





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