



Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar

Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts Plovdiv, Bulgaria

July 31-August 6, 2015



TEACHERS

Folk Seminar 2014

[Teaching staff from previous years](#)

Kaval



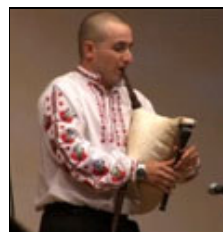
Stoyan Ivanov Paurov was born in Plovdiv in 1974. A graduate of the Shiroka Lûka Music High School, Stoyan received undergraduate and Master's degrees from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. He has taught in the Folk Music Department at the Academy, and from 2006 to 2009 he led the folk orchestra at *Ensemble Trakia*. Since 2007, Stoyan has been a member of the Union of Bulgarian Composers. He has authored several music booklets of original material, as well as arrangements of folk orchestra pieces, which are currently being used in many schools. Stoyan has won several prizes at national and regional competitions for his compositions.

[Watch a video](#) of Stoyan Paurov

Gaida

Ivan Georgiev "Balki" (*Thracian gaida*) was born in Burgas, Bulgaria, in 1976. He graduated from the specialist High School of Folk Music "Filip Kutev" in 1995 and went on to graduate from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv in 1999, having specialised in the bagpipe and orchestral conducting. He now teaches there and performs with the Academy's National Representative Orchestra.

He has toured all over the world with the renowned Bulgarian women's choir "The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices" and as accompanist to the vocal quartet "Slavei". As a solo performer he has awed concert hall audiences in Scotland and Northern Ireland with his outstanding presence and musicianship.



[Watch a video](#) of Ivan Georgiev



Dimcho Dimitrov Enchev (*Rhodope gaida*) was born in Plovdiv in 1973. He started playing gaida when he was 12 years old. He graduated from the Music High School in Shiroka Lûka, and in 2002, he received his Bachelor's Degree in music pedagogy from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. Since 2005, Dimcho has worked as a gaida player in *Ensemble Trakia* in Plovdiv. Dimcho has studied with well-known Rhodope gaida players Dafo Trendafilov and Vasil Bebelevkov.

[Watch a video](#) of Dimcho Enchev

Gûdulka

Prof. Dr. Todor Kirov was born in the village of Obedinenie, Veliko Turnovo region in North Central Bulgaria, and has been playing gûdulka since 1964. He has performed in several folk ensembles, including "Iskra" in Veliko Turnovo and National Folk Ensemble "Trakia" in Plovdiv. After graduating from the Plovdiv Academy in 1976, he became a professor there, and has remained at that position to this day.

Prof. Dr. Todor Kirov is the first professional gûdulka teacher in Bulgaria to receive the prestigious title "Professor Doctor." Besides being a world-renowned specialist in the field of gûdulka pedagogy and performance, he is also a prolific author.

During his long performing, teaching, and research career, he has published a vast number of books and many works on gûdulka. Currently, as a professor at the Academy, Prof. Kirov teaches a course on the topic of Methods of Teaching String Instruments. His numerous students have performed all over the world, and have won many awards at festivals and competitions. Some of them work as performers in renowned ensembles, and teachers in Bulgaria and abroad.



[Listen to a tune](#) performed by Todor Kirov

Tambura

Vladimir Vladimirov was born in Stara Zagora, Thrace, in 1975. He graduated as a tambura major from the Filip Kutev Music High School in Kotel. In 1998, he completed his Bachelor's degree at the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv. In 2002, he got his master's degree in Conducting of Folk Orchestras and Choirs. Vladimir began teaching tambura part-time in 2002; he has been working as a teaching assistant at the Academy since 2004. In 2005 he was promoted to Assistant Conductor for the Academy's Folk Orchestra.



[Watch a video](#) of Vladimir Vladimirov

Tûpan



Mitko Hristov Popov was born in Varna in 1962. He graduated from the Dobri Hristov Music High School in Varna. Since 1985, he has been playing tûpan with *Ensemble Trakia* in Plovdiv. Mitko has performed in over 20 countries with *Ensemble Trakia*, as well as with *Iglika*, *Matevski*, *The Mystery of the Bulgarian Voices*, and the *Trakia Choir*. His most distinguished appearances include shows at the Olympia Theater in Paris and Le Grand Mix show in Nantes, France. Since 2008 he's performed in Italy, Shanghai, the Netherlands, Belgium and was co-author on several tunes on Iliana Bozhanova's albums "Magic" and "Destiny".

[Watch a video](#) of Mitko Popov

Violin

Radoslav Iliev Iliev was born in Plovdiv in 1979. He graduated from the Shiroka Lûka Music High School in 1997 and from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv in 2003. From 2003 to 2011 he taught gûdulka at the Shiroka Lûka Music High School. Since November 2011, Radoslav has been performing with the *Ensemble Trakia*.



Accordion



Georgi Zafirov Seymenski was born in 1971 in the city of Lom, Montana region, North Bulgaria. In 1977 he moved with his family to Plovdiv and started studying accordion at a music school for children. When he was in the 4th grade he started learning to play gûdulka. He graduated from the Music High School in Shiroka Lûka in 1990 and is now working towards his bachelor's degree at the Academy of Music and Dance Arts in Plovdiv; at both schools he has focused on playing gûdulka. While studying, Georgi has also been working as an accordionist with different music groups. He has toured with the folk group "[Lyra](#)" both inside Bulgaria and abroad. He has taught accordion at a folk music workshop in Neuchateau, Belgium. From 1997 to 2008, Georgi was the accordionist for the folk dance ensemble "Iglika".

Clarinet

Nikola Iliev from Konush, in Thrace, is one of the most famous Bulgarian clarinetists. Trained at the Music Academy in Plovdiv, he studied under the well-known Petko Radev, and later received a Master's Degree in Sofia from the Sofia Conservatory of Music. Founder of Konushenska Grupa, one of the most popular, wedding bands in Bulgaria, he has been playing for weddings and recording studios for over 35 years and has toured extensively throughout Europe and appeared countless times on Bulgarian Television. A master of traditional and modern Bulgarian instrumental folk music, he is one of the founding pioneers of the contemporary wedding band style.

2013 was a big year for Nikola's Konushenska Groupa. They celebrated their 50th anniversary, which is a rarely achieved milestone for any music group. The festivities took place in Konush, where a dozen folk groups played in honor of the famous band.



[Watch a video](#) of Nikola Iliev's Konushenska Grupa live

Instrument Program Coordinator: Prof. Dr. Lyuben Dossev



Prof. Dr. Lyuben Dossev was born in Pleven, North Bulgaria, in 1953. Following in the footsteps of his father Tsvetan Dossev, the kaval player for *Sevemyashki Ensemble*, Lyuben started to play the kaval as a small child. As early as the 7th grade, he was recruited by youth folk camps to teach kaval to younger children. After Lyuben graduated from the Pleven Music High School, he moved to Plovdiv to attend the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. During this time, he was one of the founders of the vocational music high school in the town of Shiroka Lûka in the Rhodope mountains, the first of its kind in Bulgaria. Lyuben received his Bachelor's degree from the Academy and has been teaching there ever since; he later went on to earn his Doctorate degree, also from the Academy. Lyuben has

taught nearly all of the current generation of Bulgaria's most well-known kaval players and has been a mentor for many young musicians, as well as colleagues at the Academy. In 2004, Lyuben was elected Dean of the Department of Music Folklore, Choreography and Arts, at the Academy. For the past 10 years, he has taught numerous times at folk camps in the U.S. and is proud to be the Program Director for the Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar again this year.

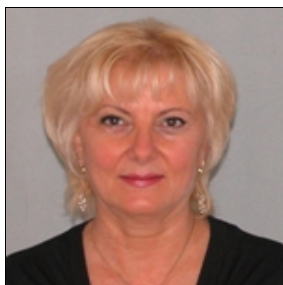
Late in 2008, Lyuben Dossev became Bulgaria's first kaval player to achieve full professorship and was elected Vice Rector of the Music Academy. In October 2013, Lyuben became only the second folk musician to be honored with the highest possible academic title "Member of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences and Arts." Also in 2013, Lyuben Dossev was a special guest during the Christmas production of the Washington Revels called Echos of Thrace. This one-of-a-kind opportunity he shared with his wife, Tanya Dosseva, his daughter Tzvety Weiner, his son-in-law Bryndyn Weiner, and his in-laws Larry Weiner and Margaret Loomis. Prior to the Washington Revels series in December of 2013, Lyuben Dossev performed for distinguished guests at the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington D.C. with his family.

[Watch a video](#) of Lyuben Dossev

[Watch a short intro](#) to kaval playing by Lyuben Dossev.

Singing Classes

Thrace



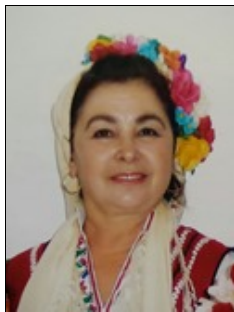
Tanya Dosseva was born in 1954 in Sinapovo, Strandzha region, in Eastern Thrace. Tanya's first singing experiences date back to her early childhood performances at village fairs, celebrations and competitions where she often moved the audience to tears with her sad slow songs and beautiful voice. Tanya graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Plovdiv in 1977 and was immediately hired as a teacher at the Shiroka Lûka Music High School; she was simultaneously appointed a soloist for the Academy's Folk Choir, a position that she held for 11 years. Throughout her singing career, Tanya has performed at many prestigious venues in Bulgaria and Europe; she now sings with one of the most popular wedding bands in the country, *Konushenska Grupa*. In the

summers of 2000 and 2001, Tanya taught at the East European Folklife Center's Balkan Music & Dance Workshops in Maryland, USA.

In late 2013, Tanya Dosseva was a special guest during the Christmas production of the Washington Revels called Echos of Thrace. This one-of-a-kind opportunity she shared with her husband, Lyuben Dossev, her daughter Tzvety Weiner, her son-in-law Bryndyn Weiner, and her in-laws Larry Weiner and Margaret Loomis. Prior to the Washington Revels series in December of 2013, Tanya performed for distinguished guests at the Bulgarian Embassy in Washington D.C. with her family.

[Watch a video](#) of Tanya Dosseva

Dobrudzha



Kalinka Vûlcheva, born in 1942 in the village of Sûrnets, Dobrudzha, learned much of her repertoire from her great-grandmother. Since 1960 when she won 1st prize at the First Dobrudzhan Festival, she has received numerous awards at home and abroad. Known as the "Dobrudzhan Nightingale", she is recognized as a leading exponent of the Dobrudzhan singing style. Kalinka Vûlcheva was a soloist in the Ensemble for Folk Songs at Bulgarian National Radio and Television, and for 23 years she was soloist with world famous choir, "Les Mystères des Voix Bulgares" (The Mystery of Bulgarian Voices). She has recorded more than 150 Dobrudzhan songs for Radio Sofia, and for radio stations in Varna, Stara Zagora and Shumen. She lived for some time in Great Britain where she performed and recorded with traditional Bulgarian as well as Anglo-Bulgarian crossover groups. In 2001 Kalinka Vûlcheva was named an honored citizen of the city of Tervel, Dobrudzha. She now makes her home in the Dobrich area. Folk Seminar Plovdiv is honored to welcome Kalinka Vûlcheva to our teaching staff for 2014.

[Watch a video](#) of Kalinka Vûlcheva

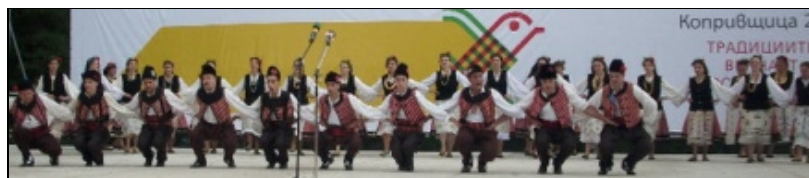
Vocal Music Program Coordinator: Lyuben Dossev, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Dance Classes

- **July 21, 2014: NORTHWEST BULGARIA:** Vrûv village, Vidin region - "Sûznanie-1927" Cultural Center
The folk group at the "Sûznanie-1927" Cultural Center in the village of Vrûv was founded in 1980 under the direction of violinist Nikola Vaitishev. The group won a gold medal at its first performance at the Koprivshitsa festival in 1981 and has won awards at every Koprivshitsa festival since then. They compete in all the annual mini-festivals in their region and do well. Some of the founding members are still in the group today and they happily share their experience with the younger dancers because they believe their horos are unique and should not be forgotten. Three of the dances the group will show at the seminar are "*Sitnata*", "*Leshnicheto*" and "*Tsiganskata*".



- **July 22, 2014: EAST THRACE:** Zhelyu voivoda village, Sliven region - "Daskal Dimitûr Dimov" Cultural Center - Dance group "Cherkeshlii"
The village of Zhelyu voivoda (formerly Cherkeshlii) is located on the Tundzha River 15 km. from the city of Yambol and 22 km. from the city of Sliven. The dance group "Cherkeshlii" was founded in 1947 at the "Daskal Dimitûr Dimov" Cultural Center by the teacher, Kostadin Genov, with the goal of preserving the local traditions, songs and dances. The group has participated in all the Koprivshitsa festivals and has won many international, national and local awards. Among the dances they will show at the seminar are "*Boaliiska*", "*Lyavata*" and "*Mûzhko horo*".



- **July 23, 2014: PIRIN:** Pûvomai village, near Petrich, Blagoevgrad region - Folklore Ensemble "Gaitan"
Folklore Ensemble "Gaitan" was founded in the year 2000 to research, preserve and expand the treasury of Bulgarian folk dances. While the group performs dances from other ethnographic regions of the country, its basic repertoire is built upon typical dances of the Pirin region, to the musical accompaniment of zurna and tûpan. This year at the seminar, among other dances they will present "*Ėski mangosar*", "*Ėlbasan*" and "*Selinik*". Ensemble "*Gaitan*" has taken part in the festivals at Koprivshitsa, Pirin Pee, and many other competitions and festivals in Bulgaria and abroad.



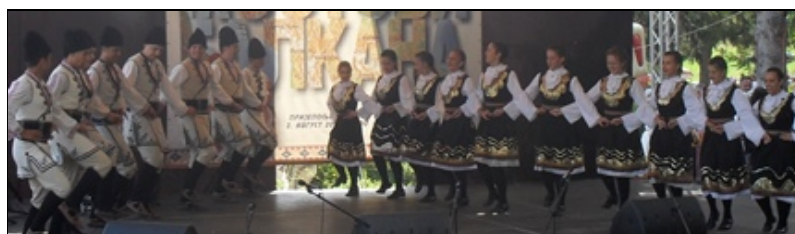
» **July 24, 2014: SOUTH THRACE:** Haskovo town - Misho Kadiev



Misho Georgiev Kadiev, born in 1967, has been dancing since he was 7 years old when he joined the Ensemble for Folk Songs and Dances at the Regional Children's Center in Haskovo; while in high school, he was a member of the "Horo" dance ensemble in the same city. In 1989 he graduated from the National Study Program in Plovdiv as a qualified leader of amateur Bulgarian folk dance ensembles; his primary teacher there was Georgi Shishmanov. Back home in Haskovo, he has been director of the music and dance ensemble "Balkanika", and is currently the leader of "Fürtunite na Misho" (Misho's Blizzards), a club for Bulgarian folk dance founded 3 years ago. He is also director of the "Gaitanche" children's dance group. "Elehchensko", "Ekizliisko" and "Makamliisko" are among the dances Misho will teach at the seminar.

» **July 25, 2014: SHOPLUK:** Bobov dol town, Kyustendil region - Cultural Center "Prosveta-1903" - Ensemble "Razmetanitsa"

The youth dance group "Razmetanitsa", whose leaders are Boiko and Alexander Sedevchovi, is one of the many diverse activities at the "Prosveta-1903" Cultural Center that have played an important role in the lives of the people of Bobov dol since 1903. The ensemble was founded in 2009 and despite being relatively new, has already had a notable artistic career; they have won prestigious awards in neighboring countries as well as at home in Bulgaria, and videos of their performances have been shown on Bulgarian TV. Some of the dances "Razmetanitsa" will show at the seminar are "Chetvorno", "Petrunino" and "Kyustendilska rüchenitsa".



» **July 26, 2014: DOBRUDZHA:** Tervel town, Dobrich region - "Dimitür Donchev - Doktora-1893" Cultural Center - Dancing and singing group "Dobrudzhanska Ogürlitsa"

The dancing and singing group "Dobrudzhanska Ogürlitsa" ("Dobrudzhan Necklace") at the "Dimitür Donchev - Doktora-1893" Cultural Center in the town of Tervel has won 9 gold medals from their participation in the festivals at Koprivshitsa and awards at many other festivals in Bulgaria; they have recorded for Bulgarian national radio and TV. They are special guests at the Festival of Folk Costumes held in the town of Zheravna. The repertoire of the group includes more than 100 songs, chiefly from Dobrudzha, but also from other ethnographic regions of the country. At the seminar they will present 3 dances - "Brüsnü tsürvul", "Streshta na dva bueneka" and "Baramboi" - and a number of other dances from their area that are done to songs.



Dance Program Coordinator: Iliana Bozhanova, Plovdiv, Bulgaria

Iliana Bozhanova was born into a family of musicians and singers in Galabovo, South Thrace. She graduated from the National School for Art Instructors and later completed her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Bulgarian Folk Dance and Choreography at Plovdiv's Academy of Music, Dance and Fine Arts. At the age of 16, Iliana joined the folk dance ensemble Rûchenitsa in Plovdiv. Through this group, she had the opportunity to perform Bulgarian folk dances in other parts Bulgaria, as well as in Greece, Serbia, Poland, Belgium, Portugal, France, Italy, Holland, and Russia. In 1981, she became choreographer and artistic director of two children's folk dance ensembles — *Radost* in the village of Yoakim Gruevo, and the ensemble of the Rosa Dimitrova Orphanage. Since October of 2004, Iliana has been the director and choreographer of *Ensemble Voivodintsi*, which has 100 dancers and singers who range in age from 5 to 76 years old. Throughout the years, Iliana has also worked with many ensembles in the Netherlands, Norway, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Switzerland and the U.S. In the United States, she is also well known as a dance teacher at dozens of folk dance clubs and camps, including EEFC East and West Coast Balkan Music & Dance Camps, Old World Music & Dance, Pinewoods, Mainewoods, Stockton, and others. She has lectured at many colleges and universities around the world. In addition to working as a dance teacher and choreographer, up to 2005, Iliana also worked as an architectural draftsman. For more information, visit [Iliana Bozhanova's web site](#).



Dance Program Teacher Assistant and Bulgarian/English Translator: Dilyana Kurdova, Assenovgrad, Bulgaria.



Dilyana Kurdova joined the Seminar team in 2010. She has been involved with folk dancing since 1999 when she was part of an amateur dance group affiliated with the Filip Koutev national ensemble. In 2000, she moved to Athens, Greece to pursue a Bachelor's Degree from Panteion University and joined the amateur dance ensemble for Greek dances at Zografou Cultural Center. In 2007, Dilyana left Greece to earn a Master's Degree from Hochschule Bremen in Germany. While in Germany, she taught Balkan dances at an independent local dance club. Since 2010, Dilyana has been a guest teacher of Bulgarian dances at different recreational folklore groups all around Bulgaria and has been a judge at several folklore competitions. She currently lives in Varna, Bulgaria, where she is pursuing a Master's Degree in Bulgarian Folklore Choreography at the Varna Free University and leading her own group for

Balkan and Bulgarian dances.

Bulgarian Language Classes

Daria Mihalkova grew up dancing in children's folk ensembles. She holds a Bachelor's Degrees in Bulgarian Choreography from New Bulgarian University, Sofia, and has worked and still collaborates closely with prominent Bulgarian choreographers such as Maria Evtimova, Lozan Ivanchev, and the late Todor Bekirski. She teaches Bulgarian folk dance at the "Letets - Hristo Toprakchiev" secondary school in the town of Bozhurishte and together with her brother Mitko Mihalkov leads six different amateur Bulgarian folk dance groups of over 250 dance enthusiasts in the towns of Sofia, Pernik and Bozhurishte.

NOTE: 2014 Schedule — subject to change