

Gennady Zut

**Balalaika
Virtuoso**



“... stunning virtuosity... deeply moving...
Magnificent!”

- Deanna Relyea
Kerrytown Concert House
Ann Arbor

“... an outstanding, virtuoso performer... his sensitive, emotional playing demonstrates the truly wonderful qualities of the balalaika with taste and style. I give my highest recommendation...”

- Neeme Järvi
Artistic Director
Detroit Symphony Orchestra

“Gennady Zut is a great balalaika virtuoso performer with a passionate, authentic style. His music touches the heart.”

- Alexander Shalov
St. Petersburg Conservatory
Russia

“A concert of superb artistry... made the impossible seem easy with the power of the music.”

- The Toledo Blade

An acclaimed virtuoso in his native Russia, Gennady Zut now brings to American audiences the **MAGIC OF THE BALALAIKA...**

IN SOLO RECITAL, Gennady Zut has been a major attraction in chamber, community, and university concert series. Accompanied by pianist, Tatyana Zut, he commands an extensive repertoire of classical and modern compositions, as well as traditional Russian folk song arrangements.

As a **SOLOIST WITH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS**, Mr. Zut is a performer of international stature, familiar with a varied repertoire for balalaika and symphony orchestra. After an acclaimed solo performance with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra in 1996, the DSO's Neeme Järvi invited Mr. Zut to perform in Sweden and Vienna with the Gothenburg Symphony, where critics described him as “a real virtuoso and an artist by God's grace.”

Gennady Zut

Balalaika Virtuoso

29845 Southbrook Lane, Farmington Hills, MI 48334
Phone (248) 851-0626 Email: gzut@gennadyzut.com
www.gennadyzut.com

Born in the small Siberian city of Tyumen, Gennady Zut began studying balalaika at age 12 starting a course of education that would lead to a major performance career in the former Soviet Union. He was selected at an early age to study with the accomplished musician, L.F. Bezzubov at the musical college of Tyumen. After graduating from the distinguished college in 1968, Mr. Zut performed in solo recitals, taught balalaika at the Musica School and College of Tyumen, and directed a Russian folk music orchestra.

In 1976, Mr. Zut was accepted into the prestigious Leningrad Conservatory, where he studied balalaika with the eminent Professor A. B. Shalov, and conducting under the tutelage of L.B. Erzhemsky. While at the Conservatory, Mr. Zut performed as a member and premier soloist of the Andreyev Russian Folk Orchestra for Leningrad radio and television programs.

Upon graduation from the Leningrad Conservatory, Mr. Zut's career flourished as he gave solo recitals throughout Russia, most notably in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, and Odessa. He was a soloist in the Nickolayev Philharmonic Society, and was a director of the Uzori Ensemble.

Having relocated to the United States, Mr. Zut has often appeared as guest soloist with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra under conductor, Neeme Järvi, as well as with other orchestras in the United States and Canada. His solo performance in 1996 with the DSO led to an acclaimed tour with Maestro Järvi and the Gothenburg Symphony in Sweden and Vienna, the final performance being recorded by Vienna radio at the legendary Wein Musikverein Hall. Most recently, Mr. Zut had the honor of opening the week-long Tallin Music Festival in August of 1998, in Tallin, Estonia, where he gave a solo performance with the Estonian Symphony Orchestra under the conductor, Arvo Volmer.

Gennady Zut is available for solo recitals and festival programs throughout the year. His vast repertoire ranges from Russian and Eastern European folk arrangements to the classics to modern compositions, making him a versatile performer for classical, folk and general community concert venues. Mr. Zut also works with amateur as well as professional symphony orchestras, with a large repertoire for balalaika and symphonic orchestra

About the Balalaika

Balalaika means "chatterbox". Dating back several centuries, it was originally a simple instrument strummed by common Russian folk to accompany song. But around the turn of this century, it underwent a renaissance that brought it into Russia's music salons and onto the concert stage. A Russian nobleman and classicist, V.V. Andreyev, met his life's work when he heard a peasant strumming a balalaika on his family's country estate, and became transfixed by its bright, "chattering" sound. Andreyev went about revamping the balalaika, with the help of Russia's best luthiers, improving its sound and artistic potential. He eventually oversaw the creation of a family of different sized balalaikas, and created the first balalaika orchestra. The results were stupendous. Russia's top composers contributed to its repertoire, and Andreyev took the orchestra on a World Tour, having its U.S. debut in 1911 at Carnegie Hall. Wherever Andreyev went, amateur balalaika orchestras sprung up, as people of all countries fell in love with the balalaika's special sound. Today, Russia's most prestigious music conservatories have departments devoted to the study of Russian folk instruments, where serious musicians can study the balalaika and prepare themselves for careers as soloists or members of professional Russian folk orchestras... assuring a place on the world concert stage for the triangular "chatterbox" with three strings.