

BENNINGTON COLLEGE RECITAL  
AND  
THEATRE GUILD PROGRAM

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Tuesday, October 16th	Angna Enters	Dance Recital
Friday, October 19th	Julian DeGray	Piano Recital
Monday, October 29th and Tuesday, October 30th	Theatre Guild Production	"Major Barbara" by George Bernard Shaw
Tuesday, November 13th	Ethel and Otto Luening	Joint Voice and Flute Recital
Tuesday, November 20th	Efrem Zimbalist	Violin Recital
Thursday, December 6th	Bennington College Dance Group	Dance Recital
Saturday, December 8th	Williams-Bennington Joint Chorus Recital	
Saturday, December 15th and Monday, December 17th and Tuesday, December 18th	Theatre Guild Christmas Production	

All recitals and plays begin at 8:30 p. m. The Theatre Guild Productions are open to members of the Guild and others who purchase tickets through its auspices. Members of the College community and persons outside the College community are invited to attend without charge the other events listed above. On account of the limited number of seats in the College Theatre, admission is by ticket only. Those wishing to procure tickets should make application to Miss Elizabeth Hall, Manager of the Bennington College Cooperative Store at the Commons Building of the College.

*The Division of Arts and Music*

*Bennington College*

*presents*

*The Don Cossacks Russian Male Chorus*

*Leader: Serge Jaroff*

*College Theatre  
Bennington College  
Wednesday Evening, October 10, 1934  
At Eight-thirty*

## PROGRAM

### I

#### 1 Credo . . . . . *A. Kastalsky*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty. (1858-1926)

The fact that the Greek Orthodox Church allows no musical instrument, not even an organ, in its ritual, has brought about that marvelous accuracy of pitch which characterizes the unaccompanied choral singing of the Russians. Another factor that distinguishes the Russian chorus is the stupendous range of its basses, some descending to unbelievable depths, often an entire octave below the ordinary bass.

Kastalsky was for many years director of the Synodal School in Moscow—the same school from which Jaroff, the leader of the Don Cossacks, was graduated.

#### 2 We Sing to Thee . . . . . *S. Rachmaninoff* (1875—)

The ritual of the Greek Orthodox Church is indebted to Rachmaninoff for a number of anthems and a setting of the Liturgy of St. Chrysostom.

In the anthem "We Sing to Thee," based on one of the psalms, the composer has given a fine example of long-sustained counter-bass as background to the interweaving of the tenor section with its delicate falsettos.

#### 3 Psalm of David . . . . . *Old Church Melody*

Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly . . . .

#### 4 How Great is Our Lord in Zion . . . . . *Dimitri Borniansky* (1752-1825)

Tongue cannot express how greatly our Lord is glorified in Zion. He is great in Heaven upon His Throne. He is great on earth in every blade of grass. His radiance is the same by night and by day.

#### 5 Have Mercy on us, O God! . . . . . *D. Lvovsky* (1830-1894)

At Vespers on Good Friday, this phrase is repeated forty times. The diminuendo of the voices suggests the lowering of the cross—the gradual crescendo, the elevation.

### II

#### 6 Chorus from the opera "The Life of the Tsar" . . . . . *M. Glinka*

The opera opens with this chorus. The peasants have gathered on the bank of the river to greet the returning soldiers, Moscow is saved, the Polish army in flight and Prince Michael, the first of the Romanoffs, has been elected Tsar. First, the men's chorus is heard, as the peasants rejoice and sing of their love for Holy Mother Russia and her brave sons; then in the distance, the women's chorus, growing in crescendo as they approach to join with the men's chorus in a mighty finale.

#### 7 My Lady . . . . . *Arr. by I. Dobrowen*

An old nonsense rhyme, originally sung and danced to the music of the Balalaika.

#### 8 Holy Night . . . . . *N. Gogotzky*

A simple little melody in folk style, with the antiphonal-like response "Holy night, Holy night" at the end of each of the three couplets. The arrangement for chorus is by S. Jaroff.

#### 9 Ehj Uchnyem! (Volga Boat Song) . . . . . *Arr. by Serge Jaroff*

The dirge-like cry of the Volga Boatmen is untranslatable into English. The nearest approach might be "Heave a-hoy!" All through the summer months this cry is heard along the Volga, as the bare-footed "burlaki" (peasants) trudge along the bank, hauling the heavy cargo barges that would otherwise run aground in the low, muddy waters of the river. The familiar melody steals upon the air as from a distance, gradually growing in volume, then finally dying away to a whisper as the singers' voices are lost in the distance.

#### 10 Russian Peasant Songs . . . . . *Arr. by K. Schvedoff*

This collection of short folk-melodies covers the gay, the sentimental, and the sardonic, in turn. They are usually accompanied by the harmonica.

- (a) What a racket on the roof! A sparrow is dancing the polka with his sweetheart.
- (b) On the hillside the yellow sunflowers nod. Little sweet figs hang on the branches of the fig-tree.
- (c) In God's name, don't love me! I'm too good for such as you. In truth, you have my thanks for leaving me alone.
- (d) Oh, how I suffered and am suffering, for I cannot forget my sweetheart.
- (e) Raspberries grow on the hill, but sweeter than these is my little Galline, my true love.
- (f) There goes the jolly Cossack, whistling a tune, his cap on the back of his head and a tuft of hair sticking up so comically. Ha, ha ha!

### III

#### 11 Two Folk-Songs . . . . . *Arr. by I. Dobrowen*

##### Boat Song

A lad sings as he rows down the Volga.

##### The Home-Land

A young girl in a distant land sings of her longing for the home-folk.

#### 12 \*The Red Sarafan (*Arr. by Serge Jaroff*) . . . . . *Alexander Warlamoff* (1810-1849)

"Sew not, O little mother, upon my cloak of red;  
I'll never wear it, mother, so rest yourself instead."  
"My daughter, sit thee by me, and say no more, I pray;  
Youth gone, is gone forever, so let youth have its day.  
And while I sit here sewing, say not I sew in vain;  
For memories are stirring and I am young again."

\* The sarafan is a long cloak worn by the peasant women of Russia. This lovely and haunting melody was used by Wienawski in his familiar "Souvenir de Moscow".

#### 13 Black Eyes (Gypsy Song) . . . . . *Arr. by K. Schvedoff*

Black eyes, haunting eyes, that set my heart a-sighing!  
Cruel eyes, taunting eyes, forever love denying!

#### 14 Old Cossack Song . . . . . *Arr. by Serge Jaroff*

From behind a forest of lances a hundred Cossacks dash by, led by their chief. "Follow me, brothers! To the defense!" There we stood like a wall. Bullets buzzed like bees and blood flowed like a broad river.



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