



Г О С У Д А Р С Т В Е Н Н Ы Й
РОГОВОЙ ОРКЕСТР

THE RUSSIAN HORNS

2018



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THE HISTORY OF HORN MUSIC

In 1751, His Excellency Semyon Naryshkin, Director of Imperial Theatres, decided to give Empress Elizabeth a birthday gift. To accompany hunting, her favourite pastime, he created an orchestra of two dozen hunting horns harmonized in semitones. At the start of the hunt, the Empress was stunned by an unusually forceful, open and unrefined sound of the horn orchestra with no differentiation in terms of timbre. The effect was so powerful that two horn orchestras were immediately founded at the imperial court, and the aristocrats happily followed the Empress's example.

Horn orchestras became all the rage, gaining huge popularity. The number of unique musical pieces written for horn orchestras grew exponentially and, according to the accounts of people living at the time, they could be combined into tremendously large groups on special occasions. As the result of an aristocratic whim, horn music would soon be transformed into an art form. A unique musical genre – horn music – had been created.

For over a hundred years, horn music reigned supreme in Russia, playing a significant role in the country's cultural life. Horn orchestras played at diplomatic receptions, imperial balls, royal hunts and folk festivals. Horn orchestras performed abroad, stunning their audiences. As time passed, however, European wind and symphony orchestras gradually came into fashion, and horn orchestras receded into oblivion. Performance secrets and scores were lost.

Attempts to revive the horn music based on the "one musician – one instrument – one note" principle had no lasting success. This theoretically simple, but practically complicated performance principle required immense concentration and endless rehearsals on the part of the musicians.

Baron Konstantin Stakelberg made a successful attempt to revive horn orchestras: his horn orchestra even played at Alexander III's coronation in 1882. The set of horns made for the occasion is kept today in Sheremetev Museum Palace in St. Petersburg. The last time these instruments were played was at the coronation of Nicholas II, on May 14, 1896. The horns served as prototypes for the instruments that the Horn Orchestra of Russia plays in the... 21st century.



The horn orchestra of 18 century



The horn orchestra of 19 century



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THE HORN ORCHESTRA OF RUSSIA

The Horn Orchestra of Russia is a St. Petersburg orchestra that revives the genre of Russian horn music. A total of 106 hand-made instruments with a four-octave range and a unique timbre were reconstructed in the Russian Horn Centre's Workshop based on horns that have survived from the 19th century.

The orchestra's sound is similar to that of the organ, but its internal working is unique. The Horn Orchestra of Russia has 17 musicians – students and graduates of St. Petersburg Conservatory, winners of All-Russian and international competitions. The horn orchestra is a stark example of unity, where each musician's individual mastery of ensemble performance forms the foundation of the entire orchestra's success.

The Horn Orchestra of Russia has given hundreds of concerts in such venues as the State Kremlin Palace, the Moscow and St. Petersburg Philharmonics, Mariinsky and Bolshoi Theatre, the Moscow Kremlin, the Hermitage and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Orchestra has successfully toured Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Austria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Belarus, Moldova, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Bahrein, Nepal, Israel, Hong Kong, China, Cuba and the United States.

Sergey Polyanichko is the founder, artistic director, and conductor of the Horn Orchestra of Russia.





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conductor
YURI TEMIRKANOV



conductor
VLADIMIR FEDOSEEV



film director
NIKITA MIKHALCOV



film director
ALEXANDER SOKUROV



conductor **VALERY GERGIEV**,
composer **ALEXANDRA PAKHMUTOVA**,
coach **MIKHAIL BOBROV**



singer
MIREILLE MATHIEU



sculptor and painter
ZURAB TSERETELI



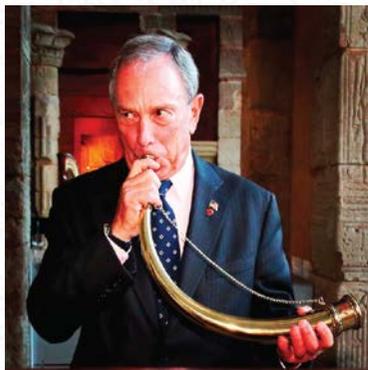
conductor
ALEXANDER POLIANICHKO



pianist
DENIS MATSUEV



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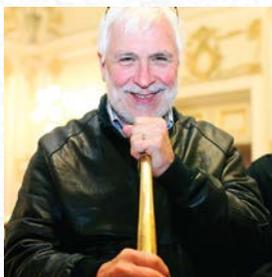
108th Mayor of New York City
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sculptor and painter
MIHAIL CHEMIAKIN



hornist and composer
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DALE CLEVENER



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SERGEY POLYANICHKO

Sergey Polyanichko was born to a family of musicians. His father is conductor Alexander Polyanichko, Honoured Artist of the Russian Federation, first prize winner at the Sixth All-Union Conductor Competition. His mother, Elizaveta Polyanichko, is a teacher and a musician.

Sergey went to a special musical school at St. Petersburg (Leningrad) State Conservatory, studying French horn under Professor V. Buyanovsky. He graduated from the St. Petersburg State Conservatory as a French horn player, studying under Professor A. Glukhov. Sergey is also a winner of an international French horn competition. From 1997 to 2007, Sergey played French horn with the Mariinsky Theater.

Sergey graduated from St. Petersburg State Theater Institute and St. Petersburg Television Academy. He has worked as a host on St. Petersburg Channel 5 and TV6 TV channels.

He graduated from the "Personnel Reserve" programme at International Management Institute St. Petersburg (IMISP).

During his studies, Sergey took elective courses in opera and symphony conducting at St. Petersburg Conservatory under Professor Ilya Musin. He then completed an internship at the School of Opera and Symphony Conducting, St. Petersburg Conservatory, under Professor Vladislav Chernushenko. Following this, he graduated with honours from Master's Program in Opera and Symphony Conducting at Rostov State Conservatoire, where he studied under Alexander Polyanichko. Sergey has attended master classes given by conductors Vladimir Ponkin, Jorma Panula and Jan Latham-Koenig.

As assistant conductor, Sergey took part in the production of Modest Mussorgsky's Boris Godunov at the Opera de Monte-Carlo and Pyotr Tchaikovsky's Mazepa and Eugene Onegin at the Welsh National Opera.

Sergey is a guest conductor at Sinfonia Varsovia (Poland), the Russian National Orchestra, Sveitlanov State Academic Symphony Orchestra, the Tchaikovsky Symphony Orchestra and the State Symphony Orchestra of the Republic of Tatarstan.

In 2006, Sergey founded Horn Orchestra of Russia, which he also heads.

Since 2007, he has been the director of the Russian Horn Centre he founded.

Since 2015, Sergey has been the artistic director of the Russian Centre of Wind Music.





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