

# Novosti

Balalaika  
**NEWS**  
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**Another busy period** is looming for the Sydney Balalaika Orchestra as we prepare for a number of concerts & the recording of our fourth CD. This follows a number of successful performances at Penrith, Strathfield, Hurstville & Bargo.

**Orchestra numbers continue to swell**, latest additions being another guitarist Brian Free which will bring our present total to 26. *"There is even the chance of a second contra bass balalaika joining us. That will add a bit more boom & tonal depth - not to say visual impact to the line up"*, said musical director Victor Serghie. *"It only seems a couple of years since fewer than 15 of us flew to Uzhno Sakhalinsk for our last Russian Far East tour. At this rate, we'll soon need a bigger stage."*

**A successful concert** was held in June at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith. On 15th August the SBO also played at the Hurstville Civic Centre. This was a charity concert; the proceeds being donated to the Calvary Hospital.

**In June**, the orchestra performed before many VIPs from the Russian Asia-Pacific Council in Strathfield's Russian Club. The President of the Russian Australian Representative council Igor Savitsky, reported that some members of the delegation were not only startled to discover that such an orchestra existed in Australia, but were amazed at how well it performed.

**The Australian Institute of Music** was equally impressed when SBO accompanied one of the orchestra's bayan (*accordion*) players, the beautiful Lina Chegodaev. It was her graduation recital and as a result, she won a high distinction – and it was thoroughly deserved.

**With all these new players**, the orchestra is also working on increasing its repertoire to take advantage of the added richness of tone. *"We are due to give a major concert in the Strathfield Town Hall on 21 November. We will have our usual catering of home-made delicacies and refreshments and will have a raffle with excellent prizes. This concert will be followed on 27*



Lina Chegodaev (bayan)

*November by our annual Musica Viva performance at the Café Carnavale in Paddington"*, said Victor.

**The orchestra** is also in the process of recording its fourth CD, taking advantage of the bigger sound & the new repertoire being rehearsed. It will build on the orchestra's earlier CD releases. The new CD will hopefully be available early next year.

**The orchestra** will also have a bigger on stage look with a costume 'makeover'. *"These new costumes,"* said Victor *"while definitely made in Australia, will look very Russian". "While our earlier costumes will still be worn on stage, new ones will look...well...you'll just have to wait and see!"*

Please check our website [www.balalaika.com.au](http://www.balalaika.com.au) for all the details on forthcoming performances and other updates.

SBO Executive Committee

## Upcoming Shows

**21ST NOVEMBER at 7.30pm**  
Full Orchestral Concert  
STRATHFIELD TOWN HALL  
HOMEBUSH RD STRATHFIELD  
BOOKINGS: (02) 9617 0531

**27TH NOVEMBER at 8.00pm**  
Full Orchestral Concert  
CAFE CARNIVALE  
EASTSIDE MUSIC CAFE  
2 NEWCOMBE ST PADDINGTON  
BOOKINGS: (02) 8394 6666

sydney**balalaika**  
orchestra 

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