

# Russian Guitar Quartet

Under the aegis of Dr. Oleg Timofeyev, the Russian Guitar Quartet debuted in Iowa City at the Second International Annual Russian Guitar Festival, June 3, 2007. It featured new arrangements for four Russian seven-string guitars of great works of the composers Cesar Cui, Alexander Borodin, Modest Mussorgsky, and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov (of the “Mighty Five”). This debut marked the beginning of virtuoso chamber performance of the rich Russian guitar tradition, which had been submerged following the introduction of the Spanish guitar to the USSR by Andrés Segovia in the 1920s. Three of the artists were crossing over from the seven-string guitar for the first time in international performance.

The seven-string Russian guitar is tuned in G and had a separate existence from the Spanish tradition, dating to at least the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It developed not only with Russian music, but also Roma, Jewish, Georgian and other traditions within the Russian Empire.

*Dr. Oleg Timofeyev, Iowa City, is a pioneer musicologist and performer who has single-handedly reconstructed and revived the repertoire and performance practice of the Russian guitar tradition. His numerous CD recordings establish the wide range of musical traditions associated with the seven-string guitar.*

<http://www.iarmac.org/index.html>

*Dimitri Illarionov, Moscow, is among the world's top virtuoso performers on the classical guitar. He was the 2002 winner of the International Guitar Foundation of America Solo Guitar Competition.* (<http://www.illarionov.com/>)



L-R: N. Borislova, D. Illarionov, J. Lonskaya, O. Timofeyev

*Nadia Borislova, Puebla (Mexico), classical guitar performer, composer, and teacher, from Moscow, living since 1989 in Mexico. A professor at Escuela de Artes de la Universidad Autónoma de Puebla, Ms. Borislova has recorded her own compositions and others' as well as directed guitar festivals.*

<http://www.buap.mx/cultura/nadia/>



*Yulia Lonskaya, Minsk (Belarus), is a leading virtuoso guitarist on the Russian musical scene, trained in both 6- and 7-string traditions. Yuliya is the winner of international guitar competitions, including the “Ivor Mairants Guitar Award” in (London, 2001) and the “Guitar Art Festival” (Belgrade, 2005)*

<http://guitarmag.net/lonskaya-2007/>

Sound clips of the Russian Guitar Quartet from the June 3 debut:

[MP3 CLIP 1](#)

[MP3 CLIP 2](#)

[MP3 CLIP 3](#)

[MP3 CLIP 4](#)