



## 2nd London Festival of Bulgarian Culture

1 - 30 November 2012

### Programme

Friday, 9th November 2012, 7.30pm

St John's Smith Square, Westminster, SW1P 3HA

## A Forest of Sound

The London Bulgarian Choir

Led by Dessislava Stefanova

A Spell In Time

St John's Smith Square  
Westminster  
SW1P 3HA



Established in 2008



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# The London Bulgarian Choir



## THE LONDON BULGARIAN CHOIR

Led by Dessislava Stefanova

The London Bulgarian Choir was born when Dessi gathered a handful of friends and Bulgarian music enthusiasts in the Islington Arts Factory in November 2000. Twelve years on, sixty-strong and thoroughly international, the choir has brought traditional Bulgarian music to concert halls and churches, to nightclubs, rock gigs, festivals and even a barge on the Thames.

The choir has recently released its second album *Goro Le Goro*, which features seven new commissioned works by Kiril Todorov. The group has toured Bulgaria twice, was awarded BBC Radio 3 Open Choir of the Year for 2006, featured as one of Joan Armatrading's favourite choirs on BBC Radio 4 in 2008 and performed at Westminster Abbey in 2010.

It has also collaborated with rock, jazz and classical musicians, most prominently in a collaboration with rock band Doves, broadcast live at the BBC Electric Proms in 2009. Currently, singers from the choir are the voice of an extinct but alluring alien civilization on *Halo 4*, the most anticipated Xbox game of 2012.



## A SPELL IN TIME

*A Spell In Time* is a unique British-Bulgarian storytelling company formed in 1995 by Moni Sheehan and Ivor Davies to bring the power and magic of Bulgarian traditional narratives to UK audiences. These primal, poetic and deliciously dark tales have ancient origins and are largely unknown in the West. With an accessible mix of storytelling, music and ritual, *A Spell In Time*'s performances come from the heart of Bulgarian myth and folklore. The company has toured nationally in a wide range of venues and in 2012 represented Bulgaria at the 21st International Storytelling Festival in Guadalajara, Spain.

Moni Sheehan, artistic director and storyteller, is half Bulgarian. She originally trained in contemporary and in Bulgarian folk dance and has been telling Bulgarian tales since 1995.

Ivor Davies, co-director and musician, plays an unusual range of instruments including a customised autoharp, the Bulgarian *gudouka* (nail fiddle) and the Irish *bodhran* (drum).

Paraskeva Armstrong, translator, is a native Bulgarian who has lived in England for many years. She translates the source texts for *A Spell In Time*'s programmes.

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# First Half



## A FOREST OF SONGS

Three traditional Bulgarian tales interwoven with songs, dance and ritual.

### Krali Marko, Yve and Vida Samodiva

This story is part of the heroic song cycle about Krali Marko (King Marko) also known as Marko Kraleвити. Marko was a real historical figure who lived in the 14th century AD during the time of the Ottoman invasions of the Balkans. After his death, Marko entered the realms of mythology. He became a major character in the South Slavic oral tradition, portrayed as a great hero of epic adventures. Samodivi (plural) are wild and beautiful nymphs of the waters and the woodlands, very popular in Bulgarian mythology (and in Harry Potter as veelas). Vida is a fierce and powerful samodiva.

### Stoyan and the Stag

Once upon a time, according to Bulgarian mythology, stags were sacred animals that should not be killed.

### Dimyaninka and the Dragon

The Bulgarian dragon, the zmey, has an important place in Bulgarian myth and folklore. He is an intriguing beastie. He has elemental power, is associated with the fertility of the land and can shift into the shape of an alluring man, to the ruin of unwary maidens! Enyovden, St John's Day, midsummer, is considered a day of great magic. It is believed that healing herbs gathered before dawn, are at their most powerful on this day.

## The songs:

### *Goro Le, Goro*

Kiril Todorov

Solo: Jordan Gogov, Dessislava Stefanova  
'Oh green forest, until this year you were full of shepherds. Today, you are full of freedom fighters.'

### *Planino Perin Planino*

Trad. The Bansko Men

Solo: James Lyndsay

'Oh Pirin Mountains, you are so beautiful. In summer you are filled with shepherds, in winter with woodcutters. Freedom fighters shelter in the shadows of your trees.'

### *Sūbrali Sa Sa Sūbrali*

Trad. arr. The Rhodopeya Kaba Trio

Three maidens gathered in the forest to spin. As they spun, they fell asleep and when they woke up, the first one said, 'The necklace is gone from my white throat'. The second one said, 'The belt is gone from my slender waist.'

'My dress is gone,' gasped the third.

# First Half

## ***Vetar Veye***

Trad.

Sung by: Dessislava Stefanova, Diana Tsokova

The wind is blowing, shaking the whole forest.  
Through the forest a young man rides on a horse  
as big as a mountain.

## ***Buyen Vyatūr Veye***

Trad. A song for Rousalya week, the week when the  
Samodivi are at their strongest.

Tamboura: Tanya Jackson

Sung by: Mariana Bogdanova, Kalina Koleva, Kasia  
Sommerfeld

A wild wind is blowing, shaking three mountains,  
melting three snows. From each snow, a river flows.  
The first river brings herbs and roots for all the  
young maidens to help them weave their wedding  
trousseau.

## ***Mitro Le, Mitro***

Trad. arr. Dessislava Stefanova

'Hey Mitra, why is your boy looking so ill? Is it from  
wine and rakiya brandy, or has he eaten too many  
pickles?'

## ***Razbolyal Se E Mlad Stuyan***

Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov

Soprano sax: Bernard Burns

Solo: Steven East

Young Stuyan, the chieftain, fell dying deep in the  
heroes' green forest. There was nobody nearby: no  
one to bring him water or give him shade. 'Oh my  
horse,' said Stuyan, 'my trusted friend who carried  
the standard with me. Pray that the summer is rainy  
and the winter is wet. Pray that your reins will rot  
away. Tear yourself from the tree, my horse, and  
run to my mother's house. Tell her where her only  
son has died.'

## ***Pilentse Pee***

Krassimir Kyurkchiiski

On a majestic tree in the middle of the green forest  
beyond the wide field a nightingale sings, 'Listen  
people, young and old, make love while you can for  
troubled years of fighting lie ahead!'

## ***Kaval Sviri***

Petar Lyondev

'A kaval flute plays throughout the village, "tee-tee".  
If it's a boy from our village, I will love him from  
morning till noon, "tee-tee". If it's a stranger, I'll love  
him forever.'

## ***Dimyaninka***

Trad. arr. Philip Koutev

Dimyaninka took her horse to water and as the  
horse drank, she saw her reflection in the river.  
'Wow, I'm gorgeous!' she thought. 'If only I were a  
little taller and a little darker-eyed, I would be  
irresistible.'

## ***Didgeridoo, Bernard Berns***

### ***Mor'f Elenku***

Trad. A song in a remarkable Pirin style called na  
visoko – singing 'on high'.

### ***Zdravche Venche***

Trad. A song for Enoyvden (midsummer)

'Oh geranium, most fragrant of herbs!' A nightingale  
sang early. 'Wake up maidens and young men, let's  
go and pick the fragrant herbs, let's make the  
healing garlands!'

## **Interval - 20 minutes**





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## Second Half



### BLESSINGS, FLIRTATIONS AND WEDDINGS

**Percussion in all songs: Narendra Koiyan**

#### *Koledarska*

Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov

A Christmas blessing for the man of the house, abundant with images of fertility. 'May you plough long furrows and grow grain as big as acorns. May three sweet-voiced maidens reap it, and three heroes carry it. May it be winnowed by three young brides. Master of the house, pour the wine. The koldari are here to sing for you.'

***Dragana i Slaveya*** (Dragana and the Nighingale)  
Trad. arr. Philip Koutev

A Christmas blessing for a singer. Dragana sat in her garden, under a rosebush, embroidering and singing. A nightingale perched above her and said, 'Keep singing, Dragana. If you can outsing me, cut off my wings. If I win, I'll cut off your hair.' But Dragana sang even more beautifully than the nightingale. The bird pleaded, 'I have young chicks in my nest. Don't chop off my wings, chop off my legs instead.' Dragana replied, 'Nightingale, I don't need to chop off anything. It is prize enough to have outsing you.'

#### *Domachine*

Trad. arr. Dessislava Stefanova

'Host, good guest have arrived, bringing you good news. All your sheep have lambed and half of them have twins. Your wife has given birth to a boy child. Host, pour the wine and let's make merry.'

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## Second Half

### **Nazad, Nazad, Mome Kalino**

Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov

Solo: James Lyndsay, Dessislava Stefanova

'Go back, maiden Kalina, don't follow me. Ahead is a thick forest, you can't cross it.'

'Sweetheart, I'll turn into a hawk. I'll fly over the forest. I'll be yours forever.'

'Go back, maiden Kalina, don't follow me. Ahead is a deep river, you can't swim it.'

'Sweetheart, I'll turn into a trout. I'll swim the river. I'll be yours forever.'

'Go back, maiden Kalina, don't follow me. I have a beautiful wife and a few children.'

'Sweetheart, I'll turn into the plague. I'll kill your wife and look after your children. I'll be yours forever.'

### **Chubrichanche Le**

Trad. arr. Dessislava Stefanova

'Chubrichanche, young maiden, come outside. Let me see if your face is as slender as it once was, your figure as slender as it was.'

### **Zalibih Si Edno Libe**

Trad. arr. Ivan Tonchev

Solo: Dessislava Stefanova

'Mother, I am in love. Her eyes are like olives, her figure as slender as a poplar tree. I can't sleep at night and I dream of her all time.'

### **Proshtavai, Mamo**

Kiril Todorov

Bridal song. 'Farewell mother, farewell. From now on we will be apart. Mother, keep watering my flowers: in the morning with dew, at lunchtime with clear water, in the evening with tears.'

### **Izgriyala E Mesechinka**

Trad. arr. Dimitar Penev

The moon has risen like a honey sweet orange, a scarlet caress.

### **Gyura Beli Belo Platno**

Trad. arr. the Kushlevi Sisters

'Gyura was washing white cloth in the river under the willow. Muddy water dragged the cloth away. "Oh, no! I've been weaving that for three years!" (Muddy water and white cloth feature widely in songs of maidenhood...)

### **Povela E Yova**

Trad. arr. Philip Koutev

Yova the maiden took two horses to water. To one, she gave muddy water, to the other – clear water. The one drinking muddy water was her dear brother's horse. The one drinking clear water was her dear sweetheart's horse.

### **Izgreyala Yasna Zvezda**

Trad. arr. Dessislava Stefanova

A bright star has risen. It wasn't a bright star. It was a young maiden.

### **Forogletsa**

Trad. The Biserov Sisters

The wedding banner is fluttering like a dove, like a leaf above water, like a maiden's heart.

### **Dilmano, Dilbero**

Trad. arr. Ivan Kavalzhiev

'Beautiful Dilmana, tell me how to plant peppers, so that they fruit and flower and you can pick and pick and pick whenever you want?' 'You push them and you shove them. That's how you plant the peppers, so that they fruit and flower and you can pick whenever you want.' (An agricultural metaphor for wedding night activities.)

### **I Se Prochula, Razchula**

Trad. arr. Kiril Todorov

The golden maiden Zlatka was famed for her beauty – no girl was as pretty or as gracious. The nightingale praised her, the forest leaves whispered of her. She was the loveliest flower in the garden. All the young men and all the heroes set off to ask for her hand in marriage, and she became a bride. Blessings to all!

### **Sednalo E Jore**

Stefan Moutafchiev

George sat at his gate, knitting a colourful sock. A maiden came past and asked him, 'Who's that sock for?'

'For whoever will have me,' said George.

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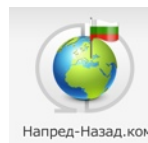
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# New Balkans Law Office welcomes you to the London Festival of Bulgarian Culture

New Balkans Law Office is a Bulgarian legal services provider with offices in Sofia and London, specialising in corporate and commercial law, with a particular emphasis on advisory and cross-border work. NBLO has recently been developing an interest in the technology and venture capital, and in the private equity sectors.

NBLO also maintains a strong private client practice and services high-net-worth individuals (HNWIs) and non-HNWIs from both overseas and Bulgaria in arranging their Bulgarian and cross-border estates, pensions, family affairs and in catering for their employment and immigration needs.

Founded in 2005, the firm has gone from strength to strength, providing advice primarily to international clients and diversifying its portfolio of practice areas.

We believe in the importance of supporting cultural initiatives, building on our strong interest in cultural property and charity law. We are proud to sponsor the London Festival of Bulgarian Culture.

We would like to thank the organisers who have worked tirelessly to put on a series of events and workshops that makes a compelling bid for the need for Bulgarian culture's more prominent representation in London's cultural calendar.

We hope you enjoy the events of the festival. In the meantime, if we can facilitate any of your plans in Bulgaria with legal advice and representation, we would be more than happy to assist you. For more information on what we do, please visit our website at:

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# LFBC Team



## **Ivo Stankov – Organiser of LFBC**

Classical Concerts Productions is a company operating in the field of arts, with particular focus on music. Director of the company is Ivo Stankov - Bulgarian born and currently living in London. Being an active performer himself, Ivo combines his artistic experience with managerial skills to present a number of successful cultural projects in the capital such as 'London Festival of Bulgarian Culture (LFBC)', for which he was awarded a Silver Medal from the Bulgarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



## **Teodora Ruseva – Events Manager LFBC**

Having lived in Bulgaria, The Netherlands and the U.S., Teodora Ruseva is currently studying TV & New Broadcasting Media and English Literature at Kingston University - London.



## **Svetla Dionisieva – Director of BCI London**

Svetla Dionisieva is the Director of the Bulgarian Cultural Institute London, and has been so since its creation in 2010. She has an extensive cultural background, including degrees in theatre direction and acting from universities in Prague and Sofia, and numerous years of experience in the industry. Svetla has always had a passion for Bulgarian culture, and it is her mission for the Bulgarian Cultural Institute London to share the treasures of the country and its culture with others, especially those outside of Bulgaria, in order to both bring out a similar passion in them and show the true significance of Bulgaria's heritage to as wide an audience as possible.



## **Evgeni Vasilev – Graphic & Web Designer**

With more than 12 years of professional experience in graphic and web design, Evgeni is highly dedicated and strongly driven individual. His key qualities are the excellent design skills, combined with his passion for new technologies and everything digital. Graduated as cinema & television director, and having worked as multi-media artist at InterSpace New Media Arts Centre, Evgeni possesses the skills & qualifications necessary to make significant contribution to any digital art project.



## **Lyudmil Karavasilev – Public Relations – Bulgaria**

Lyudmil Karavasilev is experienced marketing communications and PR professional currently working for a large international bank as a brand manager. He took part in the development of some of the most exciting art and sports sponsorships and CSR campaigns in Bulgaria, and in a number of award-winning advertising & PR campaigns. For him the partnership with the LFBC could be the start of an exciting adventure worth taking.



## **Evgeni Dimitrov - Bulfoto – Public Relations – Bulgaria**

Evgeni Dimitrov is a photographer and founder of the leading Bulgarian photo agency Bulphoto. His pictures often appear on the front pages of Bulgarian news media and in Internet. His agency is a partner of a number of international media – both European and American ones. Mr. Dimitrov is a member of the jury of the prestigious BG Press Photo Awards and organizer of several visual projects in cooperation with Sofia Municipality, EU representative office in Bulgaria and the Office of the European Parliament. Mr. Dimitrov is among the founders of the Days of the Bulgarian Culture in Rome in 2006, as a part of the Bulgarian Cultural & Informational Center in Rome, together with the La Fenice association.



**PROGRAMME**

**DATE**

	<b>PROGRAMME</b>	<b>DATE</b>
<b>Classical Music</b>	Varna Bulgarian Symphony Orchestra Martin Georgiev & Vania Vatrlova-Stankov <i>Bulgarian and British Symphonic Folk Songs</i>	3 Nov
	Chilingirian Quartet & Friends <i>Music Delights from the Romantic Era</i>	6 Nov
	Isis Ensemble & Ivo Varbanov <i>Pictures at an Exhibition for strings</i>	12 Nov
	Inspirity Quintet <i>Clarinet Quintet master pieces</i>	13 Nov
	Dimitar Burov (violin) & Mina Miletic (piano) <i>Eastern and Western passionate melodies</i>	22 Nov
	West London Sinfonia & Devorina Gamalova <i>Bulgarian &amp; English concerto premieres</i>	24 Nov
	Arcadia Mundi, George Hlawiczka & Ivo Stankov <i>'Jupiter', Piazzolla, and something more</i>	25 Nov
<b>Jazz Music</b>	Alexandra Jekova Jazz Trio	8 Nov
	JP3 Jazz Trio <i>Jazz with a twist of Bulgarian folklore</i>	10 Nov
	The big band of the Bulgarian National Radio Liane Carroll & Ian Shaw <i>European Jazz - big band with special guests</i>	15 Nov
<b>Folk Music</b>	London Bulgarian Choir & A Spell In Time <i>Bulgarian folk songs and tales</i>	9 Nov
	Trio Perunika	28 Nov
<b>Choral Music</b>	Seven Saints Church Choir	1 Nov
	Holst Choir (JAGS) & Paulina Voices	3 Nov
	London Bulgarian Choir	9 Nov
	London Irish Choir	10 Nov
<b>Pop Music</b>	Filip Avramov & Milena Avramova	21 Nov
	Bogdana Karadocheva, Mihail Belchev, Stefan Dimitrov, Kristina Belcheva	28 Nov
<b>Film</b>	Mr Gladstone and the Bulgarians	1 Nov
	Number 1	21 Nov
	Operation Smenti Kapelli	24 & 25 Nov
<b>Theatre</b>	Theatre Sofia - <i>Monodrama</i> Gadulkata Gori' and 'When The Rock was Young'	17 & 18 Nov
	Theatre 199 - 'Pleasantlyscary'	30 Nov
<b>Dance</b>	Dunav Balkan Group	10 Nov
	Tanetz Dance Group	28 Nov
<b>Poetry / Literature</b>	Contemporary Poetry from Bulgaria	31 Oct
	Presentation of the book 'Alo, Bulgaria'	14 Nov
<b>Exhibition</b>	Dimitar Voinov - Junior	8 - 22 Nov
<b>Events</b>	British-Bulgarian Society	10 Nov
	Gala evening dedicated to Bulgaria	28 Nov

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RESTAURANT & LOUNGE



# London Festival OF BULGARIAN CULTURE



DSTRKT in partnership with the London Bulgarian Culture is delighted to present two fantastic menus, available for a very limited period and throughout November 2012 - the month of the Bulgarian culture in London!

A special 'Bulgarian' night-out - Enjoy some fantastic cuisine, and visit any of the 20 festival exciting concerts and events throughout November 2012. You will get two top-priced tickets for any of our festival's events of your choice, and fine dine at one of London's top restaurants before the show! Special VIP shuttle service (included in the price) will take you straight from the restaurant to show's venue!

TWO exclusive Festival menus - exploring a mixture of contemporary with traditional Bulgarian cuisine. The Bulgarian themed pre-concert 'Festival menus' are prepared by our award-winning chef Georgi Yanev.

## £80 - The ultimate culinary journey to Bulgaria

*Two tickets and a pre-concert dinner for two special*

1. Bread (Tutmanik and Pogacha) and butter
2. Shopska salata "new way" served with shot of Uzo ili rakiya
3. Sea bass or Sea bream with yogurt dill sauce and baby fennel
4. Red pepper stuffed with goat cheese, toasted walnuts
5. Grilled Lamb cutlets, smoky aubergine purée and red peppers
6. Wild mushrooms with fresh mint, chives and Egg63
7. Dessert: Tikvenik - Bulgarian pastry with pumpkin and spices served with whipped yogurt honey sauce
8. Dessert: De-constructed Garage cake

## £50 - The modern taste of Bulgaria

*Two tickets and a pre-concert dinner for two deal*

1. Bread (Tutmanik and Pogacha) and butter
2. Shopska salata "new way" served with shot of Uzo ili rakiya
3. Salmon with yogurt dill sauce and baby fennel
4. Grilled Lamb cutlets, smoky aubergine purée and red peppers
5. Dessert: Tikvenik - Bulgarian pastry with pumpkin and spices served with whipped yogurt honey sauce

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**Book the 'Festival Menu and tickets' offer on [www.lfbc.eu/dstrkt.php](http://www.lfbc.eu/dstrkt.php), or phone 020 7317 9120**