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Music in the Mansion Presents its Final Concert for the Season at Greystone Mansion and Gardens

Firebird Balalaika Ensemble Perform using Russian Traditional Instruments on June 23

Beverly Hills, Calif. – Music in the Mansion continues at Greystone Mansion & Gardens: The Doheny Estate with its final concert on Sunday, June 23 at 2 p.m. with Firebird Balalaika Ensemble. Founded in 1995, Firebird is building a reputation as a unique, dynamic, and accomplished group of musicians performing on Russian traditional instruments. Instruments include the domra, the balalaika, and the bayan. Firebird's repertoire ranges from traditional Russian and Eastern European songs to well-known classics and works of contemporary composers.

Ensemble members Iryna Orlova, Anatoliy, Mamalyga, Peter Rothe, Tom Barnes and Lynn McConnell have toured extensively in the United States and abroad. They have appeared at the John Anson Ford Amphitheater in Los Angeles, Palace of Fine Arts Theater in San Francisco, Luther Burbank Center in Santa Rosa, Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Sound of LA concert series at the Getty Museum, Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena and the Ronald Regan Library in Simi Valley.

Iryna Orlova is an outstanding virtuoso of the domra and a graduate of the Kiev Conservatory, is the music director. She has been playing the domra since the age of 10. Iryna is a winner of the Ukrainian Stage Performer's Competition in Zaporizhia and the USSR Stage Performer's Competition in St. Petersburg.

Bayan player **Anatoliy Mamalyga** is the principal arranger for Firebird. Anatoliy was the music director and conductor of the internationally acclaimed "Ridni Naspivy" ensemble of the Kiev State Philharmonic Society. He is an Honored Artist of Ukraine and a laureate of the Second International Golden Accordion Competition.

Peter Rothe studied Balalaika with Emanuil Sheynkman and toured with the Odessa Balalaika Ensemble for twelve years. With this group, he performed at the Hollywood Bowl, Beckman Auditorium Ambassador Auditorium and made several recordings with Nonesuch.

Tom Barnes plays the contra-bass balalaika, the largest instrument of the balalaika family. A graduate of Cal State University Dominguez Hills, Tom also plays guitar with different groups in Southern California. He is one of the founding members of the Los Angeles Balalaika Orchestra.

Lynn McConnell, alto balalaika, received her Master of Arts degree in music from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1974. Since then, she has performed professionally on alto and prima balalaikas with various Russian groups, such as the Troika Balalaikas, Tziganka, the Great American Gypsy Band, and the Neva Russian Dance Ensemble. She has recorded three albums, has toured extensively throughout the United States, Canada, and the Far East, and is one of the founding members of the Balalaika and Domra Association of America.

The Music in the Mansion season concludes on July 26, with iPalpiti Festival, which brings together prize-winning musicians from around the globe known for their beautiful string playing, lustrous tone and infectious way of making music.

The performance is at 2:00 p.m. with the exception of the iPalpiti Festival, which will take place on July 26 at 7:00 p.m.

Tickets for regular concerts are \$20/pp and the iPalpiti season finale is \$40/pp. Seating is limited and advanced tickets are encouraged. To purchase tickets online, visit www.beverlyhills.org/bhreg. For online ticket purchase, if you don't have a Client ID or Family Pin, call the registration office at 310-285-6850. For information about concerts, call 310-285-6830 or go online to www.beverlyhills.org/musicinthemansion.

Greystone Mansion & Gardens: The Doheny Estate is located at 905 Loma Vista Drive, Beverly Hills, California 90210.

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