

“Balkan Soul” Band





Bulgarian folk tunes and songs are known in the West for their complex rhythms, asymmetrical meters, melodic ornamentation, and unique harmony. “Balkan Soul” band brings the rich Bulgarian musical heritage to audiences on the East Coast at concerts, dance events, community celebrations, workshops, and lectures at universities.

“Balkan Soul” band performs Bulgarian folk music from all regions of Bulgaria as well as folk music from Romania, Serbia, Albania, and Northern Macedonia. The band members are Kalin Kirilov (accordion, tambura), Yana Kirilova (vocals), and Stanley Kirilov (tapan, tarambuka).





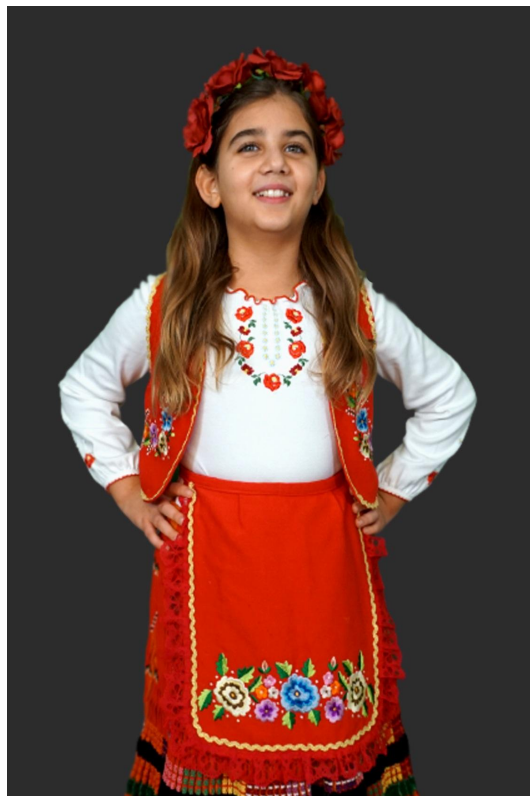
Kalin Kirilov, born in Vidin, Northwestern Bulgaria, began singing and playing the accordion at the age of four. He studied Bulgarian tambura and music theory in Vidin and Pleven and graduated from the Academy of Music, Dance, and Fine Arts in the city of Plovdiv in 1998. After coming to the U.S. in 2001, Kalin received a MA in Folklore and a Ph.D. in Music Theory from the University of Oregon. A master of multiple instruments, Kalin has performed extensively in Bulgaria and abroad, recorded with Bulgarian National Radio, and toured the U.S.

with the legendary Ivo Papazov and Yuri Yunakov. Kalin has taught at the University of Oregon and the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Currently, he is a Professor of Music at Towson University where he teaches Music Theory, World Music, and Creative Music Technology. Kalin lives in Phoenix, MD.



Stanley Kirilov, 13yo, started playing Bulgarian tapan and tarambuka in 2016. Stanley has performed with the Bulgarian band “Ljuti Chuski,” “Balkan Soul,” and the Ukrainian ensemble “Gerdan.” Since 2017, Stanley has been performing at the celebrations of the Bulgarian cultural centers in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD, and Richmond, VA, as well as for the events of the Bulgarian Cultural Center of PA, NJ, and DE. In 2021, Stanley performed at the East Coast Balkan Folk Music and Dance workshop organized by the Eastern European Folklife Center. In 2022, he was on stage with ensemble “Gerdan” at the 81st National Folk Festival in Salisbury, MD. Stanley studies percussion with Polly Ferber (tarambuka) and Genadii

Rashkov (tapan). He also studies Bulgarian singing with Tsonka Dimitrova, a renowned Bulgarian singer from the city of Plovdiv.



Yana Kirilova, 10yo, started singing Bulgarian songs in 2016. Yana has performed on stage with the bands “Ljuti Chuski” and “Balkan Soul.” Since 2017, Yana has been singing at the celebrations of the Bulgarian cultural centers in Washington, D.C., Baltimore, MD, and Richmond, VA, as well as for the events of the Bulgarian Cultural Center of PA, NJ, and DE. In 2021, Yana sang with “Balkan Soul” at the East Coast Balkan Folk Music and Dance workshop organized by the Eastern European Folklife Center. She has performed at the Towson University Department of Music Convocation (February 2022) and demonstrated Bulgarian and Macedonian singing styles for the MUSC47/571: Folk Music of the Balkans class and the Towson University World Music Ensemble. Since 2021, Yana has been studying Bulgarian singing with Tsonka Dimitrova, a renowned Bulgarian singer from the city of Plovdiv. Yana has also taken voice lessons with Maria Bebelekova and Donka Koleva.

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