



ST. PETERSBURG MUSIC GUIDE

The musical life of St. Petersburg, Russia, is captured for the first time in one place - the [St. Petersburg Music Guide](http://www.spbmusicguide.info) (www.spbmusicguide.info). The site is a guide to musical heritage and the contemporary music scene of St. Petersburg, from classical to jazz.

For music lovers, Russophiles and would-be travelers to this magnificent city, the guide features a comprehensive listing of orchestras, groups, performing arts venues, music festivals, and biographies of St. Petersburg musicians. There is also a brief history of the city's music life from Peter the Great to today. A special introductory section explores the memorable August 1942 concert of Shostakovich's 7th Symphony during the Siege of Leningrad, with never before seen photographs from the time. A section on libraries and museums that specialize in music is provided for those who may want to explore the subject even further.

The guide includes a listing of cemeteries where many musical luminaries were laid to rest, a bibliography, credits and useful web sites for learning more about this most musical of cities. A map of cultural sites throughout the city is also included at the web site. Musical personalities Leif Ove Andsnes, Vladimir Ashkenazy and Thomas Hampson contribute their thoughts and memories of performing in St. Petersburg.

The site also contains musical selections which relate to the text. A special treat is a preview of the new CD "The Land with No Regrets" by bass-baritone Evgeny Nikitin.

Each section of the site is richly illustrated with photographs, many published here for the first time. These photographs were generously provided by the St. Petersburg Conservatory, the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Library, the Hermitage Museum, and the Estate of Glenn Gould, among others.

Professional photographer Katya Chilingiri offered contemporary photos of the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra, and historian George Rome contributed an array of photographs from his personal collection, taken during his many trips to the city. A striking panoramic shot of Vasilievsky Island and the Admiralty, a distinctive feature of the web site, was provided by Petersburg photographer Andrei Pashkevich. A number of images were also obtained from the Library of Congress and the National Library of Russia.

The site is authored by Amy Ballard, whose interest in Russian music and culture began when she read "Nicholas and Alexandra" in high school. Ms. Ballard has traveled to St. Petersburg many times since her initial trip in 1973 and has made many friends in the music world. Those friendships led to the idea for the St. Petersburg Music Guide. The site's sleek, easy-to-navigate design is by [Irina Kuzes](#), a professional graphic and web designer with deep roots in Russian culture.

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