

Title – Karlendra Frank

- If someone had told me 10 years ago – can you imagine singing Bulgarian folk songs and to do it with great pleasure – I would have told him “Man, you are crazy!” But now I cannot imagine living without this music.

Title – Tatiana Surbinska, head of group “Orfeia”

- We were at tour in USA for almost 3 months. That was in 1980. By then I was a soloist in “Pirin” group. When we said we are from Bulgaria, they asked me “Which US state is Bulgaria”.
- Do the Americans now know where Bulgaria is?
- I can now say that they not only know where Bulgaria is, but they love Bulgaria. I make them feel Bulgarians. I created my own small Bulgaria there.

\The anchor announces: “The singers from this ensemble are a group of enthusiastic Americans, who love Bulgarian music, traditions and culture...”\

/Big title/ – **THE LITTLE BULGARIA**

American woman on stage

- We are americans, who don't speak bulgarian, but we are all so fascinated by the traditional bulgarian folk music. these are the most beautiful songs in the world! thank you so much, chepelare, thank you, bulgaria!

/They start to sing/

Title –Ensemble “Orfeia” from Washington

Title – Ellen Zulbrick

- It is hard to explain why I love to sing Bulgarian folk songs. When I heard this kind of music for the first time, I carried my spirit in another world. The feeling was like falling in love. I said to myself – Oh, my God! What is this harmony? Unearthly music, which is part of this world. Do I feel like Bulgarian? I feel like a special guest in Bulgaria.

Title – Karlendra Frank

- I love to be in Bulgaria, because I like the music, the food, the people, everything about Bulgaria. I am very happy to be here and... I don't know. I like everything, everything, yes...

TITLE – “SPICY PEOPLE” – BERLIN

Natural sound

Title – Miro Yordanov

“Spice people” are a group of Germans, not only Germans, who play Balkan folk dances. They stress mainly on Bulgarian folk music. To listen to Bulgarian music and to look how Germans dance – it is exciting. But first it is amazing, second – very enjoyable to see how foreigners dance Bulgarian folk music. Sometimes they start to sing. The feeling is incredible.

- Who are these people on the photo?
- This is Oli, who keeps the things running, who plays the music, who organizes everything that happens.

Title – Oliver Gyors

- Franka is the group's accordionist. Doris is our choreographer. Martin – the only Bulgarian in the group – is the bagpiper. I travel across the Balkan countries since I was a child. In summer we went to the seaside in Bulgaria. At the beginning I started to play bagpipe and drum. That's how 10 years ago we started “Spicy people”. The circumstances surrounding the name are a little bit funny. We had to think on the name rather quickly before Martin's performance. He offered “spicy”, which would have to mean “spicy seasoning” and people, which could be understood ambiguous – as people and as folk dance – according to the accent in Bulgarian language. And then immediately we accepted the idea. After some time we decided to think on new name, but in Berlin we were already famous with the name “Spicy people” and this is our trade-mark.

Natural sound – playing folk music

Title – Martin Petrov

- We play on weddings, on German weddings, which is very interesting. Young people, who have been in Bulgaria and in Greece and they liked it. The last wedding was Bulgarian. They had a list with some dancing

melodies, which they wanted us to play. The nice thing in Germany is that there isn't the Balkan separation, which exists on the Balkans. They enjoy both Serb and Bulgarian dances, Greek, too. They accept us as normal people, don't divide us the way we divide ourselves on the Balkans.

Title – Oliver Gyors

- When I play Bulgarian music I feel very comfortable. I am charged with energy. The music gives me much. What to say to Bulgarians? I love your country. Every time I come to Bulgaria I feel as I am returning back home.

TITLE – VOIVODINOVO VILLAGE, PLOVDIV REGION
RUMJANA AND RANGEL KOSTADINOVI'S HOUSE

Title – Rumjana Kostadinova – community center “Videlina 1928” secretary, village Voivodino

- Many Japanese, Americans, Taiwanese had come to our house, and in the village people from the Netherlands had come, too. We can say from all over the world. Here in the yard we have put two wide tables, we had live music and we made revelry until dawn. They liked most our bleakness, warmth, hospitality, but... /guest from the table/ Do you remember, Japanese or Taiwanese, when they rushed to touch the leaves of the tree, because they have never seen such a species in natural environment. To pick a pear from the tree – that was a great event for them – and they carried the pear like a treasure. - /Rumjana continues /But the main part in this has the leader of our group Iliana, who has close ties with people all over the world. She has been in the USA many times, in Asia.

TITLE – VOIVODINOVO VILLAGE, PLOVDIV REGION

Swiss are taught Bulgarian folk songs and dances in Iliana Bojanova and Todor Yankulov's school

Natural sound – playing folk music

- They dance like gods. They dance better than us, because some of us dance only Thracian dances, but they know the dances of all folk regions.

Natural sound – playing folk music

TITLE – “BULGARIAN VOICES OF BERLIN”

- Many people from different nationalities used to sing in that choir. At the moment, as you see them the most are Germans, but there are people from Great Britain, Russia, Poland, but there were French, Americans. I think that about 10 different nationalities had sung in this choir. The thing they like most are the authentic sound of Bulgarian folk songs. That’s why the interest to that choir is enormous.

Natural sound – rehearsal

Title – Svenja

- I heard Bulgarian music for the first time 20 years ago. That was “The Mystery of Bulgarian voices”. My first feeling is I was flying in the clouds. When I sing your songs I feel connected with the space and nature.

Title – Ulrike

- The rhythms and harmony are much more different and that’s why I like Bulgarian music so much. Come on, take the mandolin, grandpa, sing, start sing, sing me a song...

Title – Greta

- I like the song “Dragana and the nightingale”. I like the melody and the fact the text sounds like a fairy tale. /singing/ Dragana sits in a garden, lass Dragana and a nightingale sings a song to her.

Title – Erica

- “Wooden flute sings” is my favorite. It is about the sadness of the wooden flute’s player, who leaves his country and family. So strong feelings I have never met anywhere else.

Natural sound – the song

Title – Boryana Velichkova, chairman of choir “Berlin’s Bulgarian voices”

- Our folklore and our nature – they both are phenomenal, they cannot be found anywhere. They touch their hearts, their souls. They don’t have it in their countries and that’s why they appraise it. We, Bulgarians, do have it but we cannot evaluate it or even don’t asses it in timely manner.

Title – Irina Yaneva

- Many Bulgarians rediscover our music only when they start missing Bulgaria. It is something on a mass scale. Bulgarian people don't evaluate what he has got. He starts to do it when he loses it.

Title – Boryana Velichkova, chairman of choir “Berlin’s Bulgarian voices”

- I feel as an ambassador and for me it is a big honor and pride I can somehow to touch the hearts of the foreigners and to show them Bulgarian people are worthy and proud people with rich history, culture and traditions, beautiful nature and music.

Natural sound – a song

Title – Ralf Iverson

- I am Ralf Iverson from Boston. I am a composer. I have grown up in Washington State but I love those mountains here. The sky here is somehow bluer. It is marvelous to see all that.
- How do you feel playing this music?
- I feel like a hero.

Natural sound – a song

Title – Tatiana Surbinska

- Our folklore is much more evaluated in America than here in Bulgaria. Bulgarians come in America on our organized folk nights there. All Americans start singing and dancing. Bulgarians come to working-bees and stay aside. First they don't know how to dance, don't know the texts of the songs. Americans know our rhythms. Americans dance and this is not only here – it is the same in Switzerland, in Germany, in Belgium...

TITLE – VOCAL ENSEMBLE “SVITANIA”, PHILADELPHIA

Natural sound

Title – Petja

- Hello, we are “Svitania” from Philadelphia. I am the only Bulgarian in the ensemble. American influenced me about that music. The first time I went to

rehearsal with them was in one of the women's houses. Susan took a bagpipe; Kim took a mandolin and drum, which isn't here now. At a moment I wasn't sure if I am in Philadelphia or in a small Bulgarian town. It was absolutely wonderful to listening them.

Natural sound

Title – Kayla

- When we sing with this music we feel we are moving the world and live in harmony. This is very special feeling – to be connected with so rich cultural heritage. It is great honor for us to be involved in it.

Natural sound

Title – Kimberly Dimatta, leader of ensemble “Svitania”

- Many thanks, we are very happy to be here. For some of us this is the first visit in Bulgaria. Some of us play that music almost 20 years and we are very happy to be here.

Title – Svitania /girs say Bulgarian words they know/

- “Perfect”, “Banitca”, “Brandy”, “Wine”, “Grilled rissole”. All say: “Grilled rissole”

TITLE – VOIVODINOVO VILLAGE, PLOVDIV REGION
RUMJANA AND RANGEL KOSTADINOVI'S HOUSE

Natural sound

/Owner of one of the houses - Rangel Kostadinov - knows some German words like "cheers", "brandy" and "please". The only word one of the guests - 84-year-old Hans-Martin Byoyhler knows is "sega-sega" (meaning "Wait a minute"). The reply is essential for this part of Europe, where Swiss accuracy is not valid and people are always late .

Title –HANS-MARTIN BOYHLER, AGE 84, man from Switzerland

- I believe that your music and folk dances are made by the rule of a very specific mathematical formula. they seem to be complicated, but at the same time, they are so simple and harmonic. I am absolutely sure that the heart of

the bulgarian beats in the rhythm of this particular formula but – at the same time – the soul flies free and does whatever it wants...

/"Nazdrave!", says the Bulgarian host. "Zum Wohl!", replies German guest.
"Cheers and welcome!" say the other guests
Glasses clink and the "conversation" goes on.../

Natural sound

Title – Tatiana Surbinska

- In many states and in many towns I have been, I have been everywhere in California, but at most I was at San Francisco, in Los Angelis I worked a lot, in Santa Cruz, Santa Fe, Santa Barbara, everywhere in California, in Colorado, in Denver, Alba, New Mexico, Texas, Arizona, Salt Lake City... my life is there, because I have created my own Bulgaria there. When I come with them here – they don't want to return back. They are crying before they leave Bulgaria. They love Bulgaria!

Natural sound – singing

\The two American choirs - performing Bulgarian song. This song has become an anthem for all the people who love their motherland "You are beautiful, my wood..."

People in the audience sing with the choirs and applaud...\