

Intermediate Russian: Folk Songs, Romances, Opera, Bards.

Start date 7 October 2016**End date** 9 October 2016**Venue** Madingley Hall
Madingley
Cambridge**Tutor** Dr Vera Tsareva-Brauner**Course code** 1617NRX021**Director of Programmes**

Emma Jennings

**For further information on this
course, please contact**Public Programme Co-ordinator, Clare Kerr
clare.kerr@ice.cam.ac.uk or 01223 746237**To book** See: www.ice.cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 746262

Tutor biography:

Vera Tsareva-Brauner is a Coordinator of Cambridge University Russian Language Programmes (CULP) where she teaches a variety of Russian language courses from Ab Initio to Advanced and Russian Through Film and Culture to Cambridge undergraduates, post-graduates and post-doctoral students.

Vera is also an Affiliated Lecturer at the Department of Slavonic Studies, Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages where she teaches and examines a number of language papers. She is also an external examiner for Russian at Keele University, UCL and Eton.

Vera graduated from St Petersburg University with BA (Hons) and MA, and later did her post-graduate degree at Manchester University.

Course programme

Friday

Please plan to arrive between 16:30 and 18:30. You can meet other course members in the bar which opens at 18:15. Tea and coffee making facilities are available in the study bedrooms.

19:00 Dinner

20:30 – 22:00 ***Introduction to the course and Informal Quiz***

22:00 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Saturday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 ***Russian Folk Music Tradition***

Presentation, recordings, working with lyrics, singing.

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 ***The Great Russian Opera: Introduction***

13:00 Lunch

14:00 – 16:00 Free

16:00 Tea

16:30 – 18:00 ***Music and Poetry. Peter Tchaikovsky's 'Eugene Onegin' and 'Queen of Spades'***

Presentation, recordings, working with libretto and poetry of Alexander Pushkin

18:00 – 18:30 Free

18:30 Dinner

20:00 – 21:30 ***Music and History: Prince Igor by Alexander Borodin.***

Presentation, recordings, working with abridged libretto

21:30 Terrace bar open for informal discussion

Sunday

07:30 Breakfast

09:00 – 10:30 ***The USSR and Its Songs.***

10:30 Coffee

11:00 – 12:30 ***Bards and Rock: working with songs and lyrics, some performance (optional!)***

12:45 Lunch

The course will disperse after lunch

Aims:

1. To increase the students' linguistic confidence by giving them an opportunity to listen to and understand Russian folk and popular songs of various periods, as well as offer some insight into linguistic elements of Russian classical opera;
2. To encourage students to take part in group discussions at the level they feel comfortable with;
3. To enhance their understanding of Russian musical tradition from medieval folklore to classic opera to contemporary popular culture;

Content:

During the course of the weekend, which will, depending on participants' proficiency, be conducted mostly in Russian, students will be expected to read and understand Russian, to listen to and comprehend original audio-visual material, to take part in the discussions and to participate, individually or in small groups, in the language workshop part of the sessions, where they will be presented with tasks and engage in language activities at different levels of difficulty.

For the reading session, the students will be asked to study a text (with glossary) in advance. This will be an abridged libretto of Prince Igor, which will be sent to students a few weeks prior to the course taking place. The session will involve language analysis, translation of some difficult passages and a general discussion of the content.

The students will be encouraged to take part in some interactive language activities that are aimed at increasing their confidence in Russian of various registers.

While no specific section is allocated to grammar, we will discuss some grammar points (e.g. Subjunctive Mood) while working with songs.

Presentation of the course:

Activities will include presentations by the tutor, numerous video recordings of various genres of Russian music with transcripts, a quiz, as well as working with some texts (lyrics and extracts from librettos).

Outcomes:

As a result of the course, within the constraints of the time available, students should be able to:

1. Improve comprehension of Russian language of various registers within the context of musical tradition;
2. Get a better understanding of Russian musical tradition from folklore to opera to popular songs of various periods;
3. Communicate in Russian more confidently in a number of registers.

Reading and resources list

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| Vadim Prokhorov | Russian Folk Songs: Musical Genres and History. Scarecrow Press, Boston, 2002 (https://www.amazon.com/Russian-Folk-Songs-Musical-History/dp/0810841274) |
| Daniel Jaffe | Historical Dictionary of Russian Music. Scarecrow Press, Toronto, 2012 (https://books.google.co.uk/books?id=65ZrAwAAQBAJ&pg) |
| V. Cheshishin | The History of Russian Opera from 1674 to 1903. 2015 (https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/551944904X/ref=dp_bookdescription?encoding=UTF8&n=266239) |
| A. Ivanov | History of the First Russian Epic Opera: Prince Igor by Alexander Borodin (https://www.amazon.co.uk/dp/551944904X/ref=dp_bookdescription?encoding=UTF8&n=266239) |
| Inna Naroditskaya | Bewitching Russian Opera. Oxford University Press, 2012 (https://global.oup.com/academic/product/bewitching-russian-opera-9780195340587?cc=gb&lang=en&#) |
| Rachel Goff | The Role of Traditional Russian Folklore in Soviet Propaganda (PDF version http://germslav.byu.edu/perspectives/2004/Goff_R.pdf) |
| Elena Poluydova | Soviet War Songs in the Context of Russian Culture. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2016 (https://www.academia.edu/23408709/Soviet_War_Songs_in_the_Context_of_Russian_Culture) |

Web Resources:

Music of the Soviet Union. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Music_of_the_Soviet_Union

Note Students of the Institute of Continuing Education are entitled to 20% discount on books published by Cambridge University Press (CUP) which are purchased at the Press bookshop, 1 Trinity Street, Cambridge (Mon-Sat 9am – 5:30pm, Sun 11am – 5pm). A letter or email confirming acceptance on to a current Institute course should be taken as evidence of enrolment.