

## **In Memory of Vassil Bebelev (1960 – 2016)**

Vassil Bebelev, beloved husband, adoring father, cherished son, loving brother, gracious friend, generous teacher, and master musician passed away suddenly on July 31, 2016 in Mendocino, CA, where he was performing and teaching at Lark Camp. Always loving, encouraging, supporting, and challenging his family, friends, students, and colleagues, Bati Vasko brought out the best in us. The songs in this booklet are a small part of Vassil's wonderful legacy to the community.



### **In honor of Vassil, here is a glimpse into his life and legacy:**

A pillar of the global Bulgarian community and true bearer of the living Bulgarian heritage, his musical legacy impacted countless students and peers. Born in the Rhodope mountain town of Devin, he was inspired to a life of folk music by village traditions and his grandfather, who played kaba gajda, a low pitched majestic sounding bagpipe specific to his home region in southern Bulgaria. Vassil joined Sto Kaba Gaida, an ensemble of 100 bagpipes, at age 11. He went on to graduate from the folk music school in Shiroka Luka, a special high school dedicated to preserving traditional music, songs, and dance. Vassil continued his musical education and graduated with honors from the Plovdiv Folk Music Conservatory, the highest level of traditional music education obtainable in Bulgaria.

Vassil toured with the well-known Ensemble Trakia throughout Europe, Asia, and the Middle East, appearing in more than 300 performances. He also performed and produced records, cassettes, and CDs during three seasons with the Philipopolis Ensemble and recorded extensively for National Radio Sofia and Radio Plovdiv. He taught at the Shiroka Luka Music School for many years, before immigrating to the United States.

Once in America, he served as a visiting professor in the Ethnomusicology Department at UCLA. He was a frequent teacher at the Eastern European Folklife Center's Balkan Music and Dance Workshops, on both the East and West coasts. Always a performer, he continued to participate in traditional Bulgarian music tours throughout the Americas with Sredets, Kef Orchestra, Bebelevi Family, Trio Zulum, Bulgarika, and Grupa Maistori ensembles.

His consummate musicianship shown ceaselessly through his open heart and open mind, not to mention his exquisite playing. One of the greatest musicians many of us have ever met in any genre, he embodied his tradition with respect, bravery, innovation, humor, and inimitable soul. His work as a performer and educator brought Bulgarian traditional music into the hearts, souls, and hands of countless people, both in Bulgaria and in his adopted home here in the United States.

# CHETVORNO

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

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# DULGOPOLSKA DEVIATKA

MUZIKA: VASSIL BEBELEKOV

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 2/4 time signature. It consists of eight systems of music, labeled A through G. System A (measures 1-4) features chords Em, Am (with x210), G6 (with x430), and Em. System B (measures 5-8) features Em, Am (with x210), G6 (with x430), and Em. System C (measures 9-12) features G OPEN, a WALK sequence (D, E, F#, G, C#G, Gm), and Gm. System D (measures 13-16) features D7, Gm, Am, A7, D, Em, and Gm. System E (measures 17-20) features D7, Gm, Am, A7, D, Em, D, Em, Am, and Em. System F (measures 21-24) features Em, Am (with x210), G6 (with x430), and Em. System G (measures 25-28) features E, E, Dm, and E. System H (measures 29-32) features D. System I (measures 33-36) features A, Gm, and A. Measure numbers 5, 9, 13, 17, 21, 25, 29, and 35 are indicated at the start of their respective systems.

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