

## DOSTOEVSKY, JEWS, AND GYPSIES IARMAC TRAVELS SOUTH

February 2008-- IARMAC board member Ciuin-Ferrin and Artistic Director Dr. Oleg Timofeyev traveled to the University of North Carolina – Charlotte (UNCC) to join forces with Vadim Kolpakov, one of IARMAC's sponsored musicians and artist-in-residence at UNCC to perform Dostoevsky, Jews, and Gypsies, and conduct classes.

On February 20th at 8:00 PM, the curtain rose for Dostoevsky, Jews, and Gypsies to a full house. Guest artists included Petra Gelbart, Alex Gorodezky, Bob Parker, Alex Bouriak, Rodrigo A. Jimenez, and Marina Shanefelter.

Dr. Timofeyev wrote Dostoevsky, Jews, and Gypsies based on Book VIII, Part 3, Chapter 8, titled "Delerium", of the Brothers Karamazov. It caught Mr. Kolpakov's attention and, with the help of Dr. Timofeyev, took Dostoevsky, Jews, and Gypsies to the stage for an evening of authentic Russian-Jewish, Russian-Romani, Russian-Folk, and Russian-Classical music.

The story takes place in a provincial Russian tavern in Morkoe, circa 1880. Mitya, one of the brothers, arrives at the tavern to see his beautiful love, Grushenka. He wishes to throw a great party and invite everyone, but, as all Russian parties need, he must invite the "Gypsies."

*Mitya:* Listen, Trifon Borisovitch, listen, my good soul, Now answer the most important question. Can we bring the Gypsies here?

*Trifon:* You can't get the Gypsies anymore, Dmitri Fyodorvitch. The authorities have sent them away. But we've Jews that play fiddles, clarinets, and cymbalom in the village, so I can send for them. They'd come.

This performance imagines what the party would be like if the Gypsies were able to make it to the party. The music flows from the instruments creates a wild party. The story has a cliffhanger for an ending and if you want to know more, you'll need to read the book.

On February 23rd, Timofeyev, Kolpakov, Gelbart, Gorodezky, Bouriak, Gipps, and Shanefelter took to the road and headed south to Raleigh, North Carolina to perform as VIA Romen. The concert was a great success with over 200 in attendance.

In addition to this exciting performance, two lectures and musicians' master classes were held in both Charlotte and Raleigh. The first presentation was held for the students in Masterpieces of Russian Literature in English. Dr. Timofeyev, joined by Roma musician Petra Gelbart and violinist Arkadiy Gipps, spoke on Dostoevsky and gave a brief musical performance of from the Dostoevsky, Jews, and Gypsies. The second class was Russian Civilization and Culture in English. The two main speakers were Petra Gelbart and Ciuin-Ferrin. Both spoke of the Romani Holocaust and the effect it still has on the Romani to this day.