

НОВОСТИ «КАЛИНКА»

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Привет!

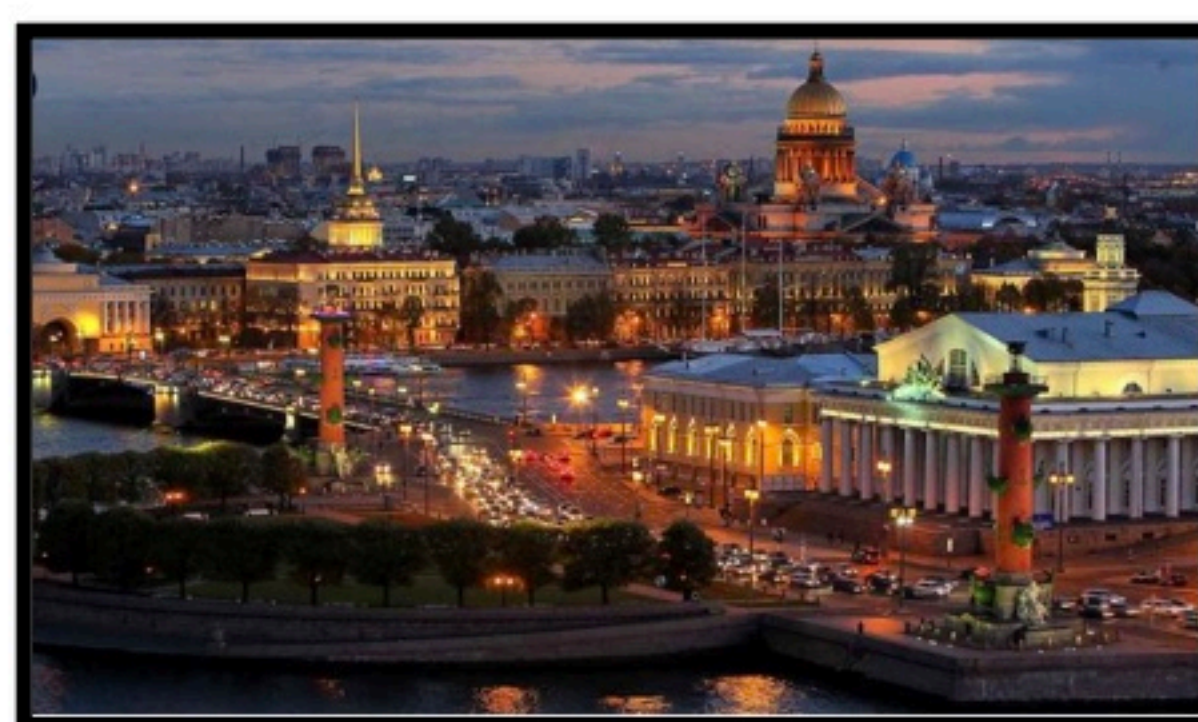
Well, here it is - issue 5. Can you believe that it is June already? I hope you are all keeping well and practising your instruments, of course. In this issue, we continue to learn about the history of the balalaika and domra.

Don't forget to try our new Russian Words too. We would love to hear about what you have been up to during lockdown - please send in your pictures and stories to kalinka84@live.com

Learning Resources

Have you had a look at our videos yet? You can play along with Sam to some of our repertoire, and our beginners have their own videos with Brian demonstrating some basic techniques.

If you are having any problems in accessing the resources, then please do get in touch.



This is a picture of St Petersburg in Russia - isn't it beautiful? Did you know that St Petersburg is one of Manchester's twin cities? St Petersburg is Russia's second largest city with around 4.6 million residents. This is Manchester's oldest formal international link and dates back to a friendship agreement signed in 1962, with a strong focus on cultural exchange throughout the relationship.

Things to try this week!

- With your parents, look up St Petersburg on Google and see what else you can find out about this beautiful city.
- Check out the play along videos
- Practice writing the Russian words that we have been learning
- Keep practising your instrument
- Remember to keep smiling 😊

Something you need to know

- In Russian and English, words of more than one syllable have one syllable stressed, while the unstressed vowels tend to lose their full value. To pronounce the words, you have to know where the stress is. This can be shown by adding an accent over the stressed syllable, e.g.
- “sófa”, sounds like “só-fer”, not like “só-fah”; in the word “próblem,” you don’t pronounce the “lem” part as you would in the word “lémon”.
- In Russian, that’s why the unstressed “o” in “пока́” and “бы́стро” sounds more like “a”, but the stressed “o” in “до́мра” keeps its full sound.

Words you’ve already met:

Привéт
Да
Кали́нка
Пока́
Бы́стро

Try pronouncing these words. What do you think they mean?

Careful! – Russian letter “e” is pronounced like “yeh” in our (Latin) letters, e.g.

- нет! Pronounced “nyet!”
- комéта – This word has all the letters which are common to the Russian alphabet and ours.
- му́зыка
- лимона́д
- до́мра
- гита́ра
- рестора́н

Letters

П – p	Д – d
И – i	е – yeh
В – v	Л – L
Р – r	Г – g
б – b	З – z
Ы – like the “i” in “pig”	С – s
Н – n	У – oo

а т м к о – same as in English

After the tsar’s Great Edict of 1648, his soldiers and agents set about confiscating all the musical instruments they could find, and targeted the Skomorokhi – the wandering entertainers - in particular. In Moscow, on the banks of the river Moskva, they lit three huge bonfires of these “devilish” instruments.

Not surprisingly, after this date, little is known about the balalaika, except that it was a popular instrument among the peasant classes; there are no more references at all to the domra. This painting “The Boy and the Balalaika” dates from 1835 (notice the shape of the body of the instrument).



Next we have a central figure in the story – the peasant Antip, who in 1883 was living on the estate of the family of V. V. Andreev (remember him?)

Notice anything unusual about his technique?



Пока!