

Russian Fireworks

Gary Lucas Live in St. Petersburg

Recorded Live at the SKIF Festival, Baltiskey Dom, St. Petersburg Russia, 4/25/04 -- absolutely no overdubs
Gary Lucas -- '66 Fender Stratocaster, '46 Gibson J-45 acoustic, '27 National steel guitar, vocals

1. **Bra Joe From Kilimanjaro** (Abdullah Ibrahim)
2. **String Quartet in F Major aka "The American"** (Dvorak)
3. **Ghosts** (Albert Ayler) / **Let's Go Swimming** (Arthur Russell)
4. **Fata Morgana** (Lucas)
5. **Rise Up To Be** (Lucas)
6. **Medley: The Nightmare of History / Hugh's Graveyard Stomp** (Lucas)
7. **Poison Tree** (Lucas)
8. **Medley: Volga Boatman** (traditional) / **Hellhound on My Trail** (Robert Johnson) / **One Man's Meat** (Lucas/Johnansen)
9. **a democracy**
10. **Medley: Level the Playing Field** (Lucas) / **Amazing Grace** (traditional) / **It's Like A Wheel** (Lucas)
11. **epilogue / credits**

"This DVD documents my solo guitar performance at SKIF 8, the eighth annual Sergei Kuryokhin International Festival of music, held pretty much annually since his death in 1996.

Sergey Kuryokhin was a seminal Russian avant-garde keyboards player and composer who was originally a member of the Russian band Aquarium along with Boris Grebenschikov, and later a leader of his own ever-changing ensemble Pop Mechanika Orchestra who toured extensively internationally.

The annual SKIF festival held in his name brings together a fantastic assortment of avant-garde jazz, rock, classical, folk and world music acts from everywhere for a long festival weekend in Saint Petersburg, and in 2004 I was honored to be invited to perform there by music madman/bongos player extraordinaire Sasha Cheparukhin and SKIF artistic director Alexei Pliousnine. It was my second time playing in St. Petersburg, one of my favorite cities for sure! There is something about the intense, non-jaded enthusiasm of Russian music fans that always inspires me (not to mention the beautiful city and countryside vistas of Russia).

After an endless endless procession of groups had warmed up the crowd in the main theater in the old Baltiskey Dom (including Christian Vander and his band Magma, who had a prolonged contretemps with the organizers over the equipment provided him before taking the stage), I set up very quickly around 2am with the help of my friend Henry Kaiser (whose ensemble with John Oswald and Lukas Ligeti I had sat in with earlier in the Festival)--and with absolutely no soundcheck, just plugged in and played.

Inspired to the max by the Russian fans and the fact of being in such a cool old theater in SP, I cranked up, and went for it-- giving what I consider to be one of my best, most inspired solo performances ever.

The sound is not perfect by any means, as it is the audio track taken directly off the video camera recording the show, not a board mix. But I don't think this matters at all (unless you're an audiophile snob!). As a verite recording of a really wonderful night -- I am very very happy to be able to share this with you.

--Gary Lucas, NYC, Valentine's Day 2006

Special thanks to Sasha Cheparukhin and the Green Wave crew, Andrey Borisov, Alexei Pliousnine, Alex Kan, Henry Kaiser, Boris Grebenschikov, and all the super Russian fans.

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DVD All Region NTSC

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