

**Newsletter  
of the  
Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia**

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**Vancouver, Canada  
[www.bcsbc.ca](http://www.bcsbc.ca)**

**This issue is dedicated to May 24,  
The Day of the Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture,  
and of the Slavonic Alphabet**

**Happy May 24!**



**AGB**

# Happy Holiday!

The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia congratulates all Bulgarians on the occasion of Mays 24, the Day of the Bulgarian Enlightenment and Culture, and of the Slavonic Alphabet!

One of the most exciting holidays of our people, this day in the beautiful month of May fills us every year with a grandiose sense of pride, patriotism, and national dignity. It gives us a feeling of enlightenment and hope for spiritual strength, for light and uplifting in harmony with the unique colors and happy sounds of spring. Man and nature look up to new heights and start dreaming of something endless, magnetic, and stronger than themselves. Nature turns to the sun, and we turn to the inner light in our lives - speech, knowledge, science, and culture.

Let us have a happy holiday and let this magnificent day continue to charge us with energy, love for the word, faith in its strength and intuition how we can use it to make our days brighter and worthier.

Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.

Director in the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia and editor in chief of the BCSBC Newsletter



## Successful Bulgarians in Vancouver: Anna Levy – a piano player, a teacher, and a patriot

The first impression Anna Levy leaves in people is “genuine, warm, down-to-earth”. Before one knows her, one may think that musicians of her caliber are more haughty and inaccessible, but I did not find anything of this stereotype in the Bulgarian virtuoso. “Back in school I was quite bad”, says Anna - mother of two sons and a proud grandmother of an eight-month old grandson. “I moved the hands of the clock ahead and lied to my grandma how long I had played the piano”, she shares with a smile. In response to my question, she says that what she misses most about Bulgaria is “the friends, the warmth and the coziness”. When I first talked to her on the phone to set up a time for our meeting, she surprised me by asking why I had chosen her for an interview, and in order to avoid trite compliments I said that she was my first choice from the list of successful musicians I have because she is the most educated!



Anna Levy and her grandson Victor in Bulgaria  
The photos in the article are courtesy of Anna Levy  
and Gregory Myers

A graduate of the National Academy of Music “Professor Pantcho Vladigerov” in Sofia,



Anna Levy rehearsing at home

Anna acquires a Doctoral of Musical Arts Degree at the State Conservatory in Moscow, where she works with Margarita Fyodorova (a student of the legendary Henry Neuhaus), and completes her doctoral studies in both Piano and Musicology in 1991. Her interests as a scientist and as a performer focus on the music of Eastern

Europe, contemporary music in particular. Her publications range from contributions for the prestigious multi-volume dictionary *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* to an interview in which she talks with the internationally-renowned composer Karlheinz Stockhausen. Together with her husband, Gregory Myers, who also holds a Doctoral degree in Musicology, she has presented papers at numerous musicological meetings in Canada and around the world.

In Canada where she has been living since 1994, Anna Levy continues her career as a soloist and chamber musician. She performs primarily modern music – “the classical music of the 20<sup>th</sup> C.”: Skriabin, Alfred Schnittke, Nikolai Korndorf. “Modern music is for people who want to develop their intellect”, Anna explains her choice with a smile. With the support of the Canada Council for the Arts (the Canadian equivalent of the Ministry of Culture), she organizes and performs a concert of music by Russian composers in Reykjavik, Iceland. She has had solo performances at Kwantlen College, Douglas College, and Capilano College, as well as at Simon Fraser University. She records her first CD in 2002. She modestly attributes her success as a piano player to the



Anna Levy (right) and Jane Hayes (left) in concert  
Vancouver 2006

opportunity to work with the best: the fellow piano player Jane Hayes, the composer Rusi Tarmakov, the percussionist Salvador Ferreras.

Her prominent teaching career starts in Bulgaria where she teaches piano at the State Music Preparatory School and at the State Academy for nearly 10 years. In Canada, she teaches in Place des Arts in Coquitlam, British Columbia, and in her own studio where she prepares students for the prestigious certificate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto, ARCT, which completes a 12-year cycle of musical education and enables students to pursue careers as qualified soloists and teachers of music. Many of Anna’s students get admitted as music majors at the University of British Columbia, University of Victoria, and McGill University. Anna says about herself that she is an old-fashioned type of teacher so that I can infer how much passion and dedication she puts into her work with her students. “I treat my students as my own children”, she says. “I scold them, I expect a lot from them but I also love them as my own kids!”

At the moment Anna Levy is organizing another concert with Bulgarian music. She wants to make it even bigger and to generate greater publicity for it than for concert she organized in December of 2005, where for the first time the Canadian national radio, CBC Radio, commissioned a Bulgarian composer - Rusi Tarmakov - to create a musical piece for the radio and recorded the concert. Anna plans the next concert to be with music by Georgi Arnaudov and to take place in June 2008. She also plans for the concert



Anna Levy  
Vancouver 2006

to be in Christ Church in downtown Vancouver, so that its more central location can attract more people. Like every other cultural event, this one requires substantial funding, and Anna works hard to find sponsors. “If we want people to hear about Bulgaria”, she says, “we have to do something. We may be poor but if everyone gives a little, we’ll get enough... Look how hundreds of thousands of people in the USA now have donated a little and they’ve managed to collect millions of dollars for the campaign of the presidential candidate Barack Obama from the democratic party. We, Bulgarians, should also start thinking this way and everyone should help as much as they can, as their resources allow.”

In the meantime, Anna Levy is getting ready for a series of other exciting events. She treats every concert in the same way – professionally, and she takes it seriously. “I have to learn my piece and rehearse until it is perfect”, she says. First she will participate in the holiday concert for May 24, organized by the conductor of the

Bulgarian chamber choir in Vancouver, Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov, with the help of the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia. On June 2, Anna Levy will have a solo concert with Bulgarian music accompanied by a lecture by Gregory Myers, at the International Festival for Modern Music in Benaroya Hall in Seattle. On July 1, Anna Levy and Jane Hayes will have a concert for two pianos in Bulgaria. With every note and every chord, perhaps without realizing it, the talented musician spreads the fame of Bulgaria among students, fellow-musicians and audience from different continents, musical traditions, tastes and schools. Anna, we thank you for making the word “patriotism” sound so good!

Ivelina Tchizmarova, Ph.D.  
editor in chief of the Newsletter of the Bulgarian-  
Canadian Society of British Columbia

Announcements from the Bulgarian-Canadian  
Society of British Columbia

**May 24 Concert**

**Ars Musica  
and**



**The Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia**

cordially invite you to "The Joy of Spring" concert  
on the occasion of the Day of the Bulgarian Enlightenment  
and Culture



**from 7:30 p.m.**

**on May 26, 2007, Saturday**

**in Grace Lutheran Church  
7283 Nelson Ave, Burnaby**



**Participants:**

The Bulgarian Folk Dance Group in Vancouver  
Varna Chamber Choir

Konstantin Bozhinov - accordion and guitar

Cvetozar Vutev - violin

Antonia Daskalova - piano

Dina Kholina - piano

Olga Kholina - soprano

Anna Levy - piano

Wera Streck - harp

Dimitar Terziev - piano



tickets: \$15.00 adults  
(\$13.50 for BCSBC members),  
free for children



# Varna Chamber Choir

**invites**

**new members – all voices**



The Varna Chamber Choir is a diverse chorus comprised of committed singers who are dedicated to excellence and expressiveness in the study and performance of a variety of choral works of all periods.

Rehearsals are held most Fridays 7:00-9:00 pm at Douglas College, New Westminster.

Last season we celebrated Mozart's birthday performing "Requiem" with Kamloops Symphony Orchestra.

The choir is developing constantly and is looking for new singers. Join us if you wish to develop your talent and meet people with your interests!

For more information contact Music Director Natalia Alexandrova-Manolov at (604)-294-1212, e-mail: [nataliesong@hotmail.com](mailto:nataliesong@hotmail.com)

**The Bulgarian Soccer society of Lower Mainland & the Bulgarian-Canadian Society of British Columbia** invite all who are addicted to the Big Game to join us at the “green carpet” and chase the “leather ball”...

**Day:** every Sunday from 10:30 a.m.

**Place:** Hume Park (or Sapperton)

As usual, there won't be disappointed or turned down enthusiasts.

**For more information,** call or e-mail:

Plamen Velikov cell: (604)-992-3503,  
e-mail: plamvel@yahoo.com

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e-mail: info@peter-homes.com

Deyan Dyakov cell: (778)-238-2929,  
e-mail: deyan.dyakov@gmail.com



**The soccer team “Bulgarian Lions” 2003**

Photo courtesy of Pepi Kiriakov

p.s. This is another opportunity to get away from ... Sunday household chores;)



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The job will allow you to set your own working hours and will give you an opportunity to gather useful Canadian experience, enhance your resume, and receive valuable references for work. For information, write to [ivelina@bcsbc.ca](mailto:ivelina@bcsbc.ca).

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**Would like to  
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