

DISCOVER BULGARIA FESTIVAL

The Festival

The festival will take place on March 8, 2014 from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. at the St. Archangel Michael's Serbian Orthodox Church in Burnaby. It will feature day and evening events.

Location

The Festival will be held at the St. Archangel Michael's – Serbian Orthodox Church at 7837 Canada Way, Burnaby, BC V3N 3K8 (nearest crossroad 10th Ave)

The Spirit of the Festival

The Festival will be a family-friendly event with multiple workshops and activities during the day and a sitdown dinner party (\$25) with dance music in the evening.

DISCOVER BULGARIA FESTIVAL - DAY PROGRAM

1:00 p.m. DOORS OPEN

Admission free, donations for the Bulgarian Heritage Language School and Folklore Society will be encouraged.

Traditional food and Arts & Crafts sales will be ongoing for the duration of the event. No ATM machine on the premises. Please bring cash.

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Bulgarian Traditional Costume in the Land of Totem Poles and Tattoos (stage)

2:00 - 3:00 p.m. Make your own Mask for the Bulgarian Procession of the Kukeri –prepare for the arrival of Spring!

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. Bulgarian 101 for beginning adults

2:30 - 3:30 p.m. Multicultural Performances (with the participation of Children's Folk Ensemble "Prolet")

3:00 - 4:00 p.m. Create a Bulgarian Martenica – make a Healing and Good Luck-Charms for the Spring

3:00 - 3:30 p.m. Bulgarian 101 for beginning adults (repeat)

- 3:30 - 4:30 p.m. Bulgarian Traditional Costume in the Land of Totem Poles and Tattoos cont.
- 4:00 - 4:45 p.m. Bulgarian Traditional Ethnic Dance Workshop – The Magic of the Circle Dance
- 4:45 p.m. Wine Tasting – Experience the Taste of Old World Wines
- 4:45 p.m. Tourism in Bulgaria – Introducing the Land of Breathtaking Beauty
- 4:45 p.m. Circle Time – Inviting the Little Ones to come and listen to Bulgarian Traditional Fairy Tales, Legends, Myths and Spells
- 5:00 p.m. Movie about Bulgarian History – courtesy of the Bulgarian Agency for Bulgarians Abroad – title TBA

WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS:

Make your own Mask for the Bulgarian Procession of the Kukeri – prepare for the arrival of Spring!

Participants will receive materials and step by step instructions to create their own mask in the ancient pagan tradition of the Kukeri Procession. To this day, during the last days of Winter, Bulgarians participate in the cleansing ritual of scaring away evil spirits and preparing for the arrival of spring. Masked men, called Kukeri roam in the streets of villages and towns wearing huge colourful costumes and sinister-looking masks featuring twisted horns and terrifying jaws. The Kukeri wear massive copper bells that create eerie and chaotic sounds meant to scare the evil spirits.

Bulgarian Traditional Costume in the Land of Totem Poles and Tattoos

Visitors will be invited to see an exhibition of authentic Bulgarian traditional costumes; a curator will lead a discussion on embroidery and historical fashion style as the visual language of ethos, social identity and status.

Bulgarian 101 for beginning adults

Join us for an interactive and easy workshop to learn basic phrases and expressions in this melodious language – a few words in Bulgarian can go a long way!

Make your own Martenica – make a Healing and Good Luck-Charm for the Spring

Make a Martenica and learn more about the delightful tradition of creating, wearing and gifting Martenici. The Martenica is a unique embellishment made with red and white yarn, beads and tassels. The white colour signifies purity, while the red is a symbol of rejuvenation and revival. Each year on March 1st Bulgarians give each other Martenici. A friend or relative would pin the Martenica to your sleeve or tie it around your wrist thereby wishing you good health and prosperity. People would wear the Martenici until they see the first sign of spring. This beautiful amulet is going to bring you good luck, harmony, sound health and longevity, and help you celebrate the change of seasons and the never-ending cycle of life.

Bulgarian Traditional Ethnic Dance Workshop – The Magic of the Circle Dance

Bulgarian traditional folk dances are renowned for their captivating choreography – a combination of quick and slow steps and moves embodying intricate complex asymmetrical rhythms and musical beats. Join this workshop to learn more about the tradition of the circle dance – horo – performed at weddings, feasts and family celebrations.

Wine Tasting – Experience the Taste of Old World Wines

Bulgaria is one of the most distinguished and prolific wine producing nations in Europe. In the 1980s, Bulgaria was the world's second largest wine producer. The long tradition of viticulture in this Eastern European country dates back to ancient times, and today features numerous celebrated varieties of Muscat Ottonel, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot, Chardonnay, Aligoté, Pamid and the local Gamza.

Tourism in Bulgaria – Introducing the Land of Breathtaking Beauty

Bulgaria is one of the most unique destinations in Europe offering incredible opportunities to enjoy the sandy beaches of the Black Sea, discover a haven for skiing and hiking along the majestic mountain ranges that criss-cross the country, and experience history spanning over 15 centuries. Bulgaria's historical heritage includes artefacts and sites from the three major ethnic groups that formed the nation – Thracians, Slavs and Proto-Bulgarians. Learn more about the magnificent landscape and natural wonders of Bulgaria, and discover the breathtaking beauty of the seaside and mountain resorts; explore unique historical monuments, monasteries, cultural treasures and the unsurpassed...nightlife of Bulgaria.

Circle Time – Inviting the Little Ones to come and listen to Bulgarian Traditional Fairy Tales, Legends, Myths and Spells

Bulgarian story-telling includes a wealth of oral and written tradition, a rich literary heritage that encompasses ancient and medieval myths and legends. Travel back to magical times full

of unique and intriguing tales of stark poetic beauty, brave and courageous heroes, enigmatic symbols and historic myths.

DISCOVER BULGARIA FESTIVAL – EVENING PROGRAM (7p.m. – 10 p.m.)

6:30 p.m.	DOORS OPEN
7:00 p.m.	Folklore music and dance performances
7:00 p.m.	Dinner served

TICKETS:

\$25 adults(dinner included)

\$30 adults (dinner, cut flowers bouquet and greeting card celebrating International Woman's Day included)

\$12 children aged 6 to 12 (kids menu dinner included)

Children up to age 5 – free admission (no dinner included)

LIQUOR cash bar will offer:

- Bulgarian Wine
- Traditional Grappa
- Beer
- Pop

TABLES set up:

Round tables for 8-10 people are available first come - first serve

Parties of 10 people or more, you can reserve in advance a table of your choice

PROGRAM:

Grupa Dunbarov

The founding members of Grupa Dunbarov got together to start playing folk music from the Balkans a little over 20 years ago. They were all involved in International Folk Dancing and were particularly drawn to the music and dances of the Balkans and particularly of Bulgaria. Iona Whishaw had already been singing Balkan folk songs and had previously led a singing group in Vancouver. After Kate, Iona and Erika began attending the Balkan Music and Dance

Seminars held annually in Mendocino California they decided to start a band in Vancouver so that they could provide some live music for the folk dancers here. Since then various other members have come and gone from the group but those three have remained and brought in new people who had also fallen in love with the music of the area. The group plays both traditional and more contemporary styles. They have always concentrated mostly on playing music for dancing and hope you will enjoy dancing to their music this evening.

Children's Folk Group "Prolet" (youth ensemble)

The Children's folk ensemble "Prolet" led by Snejana Ignatova was founded in 2009 as part of the Bulgarian school. The participants are children between the ages of 5 and 17. In spite of its brief existence, the group has already performed at numerous festivals and concerts including The Serbian, The Greek and European festivals and the International Children's festival.

Bulgarian Folk Dance Group "Kitka"

The folk dance group "Kitka" led by Violeta Ruseva is one of a kind group for Bulgarian folk dances in the Great Vancouver region. It was formed in 2003 and has been performing on stage for the last 6 years. Each season the group comes out with new choreographed dances based on traditional folklore from different regions of Bulgaria.