

GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

I was born and raised in St. Petersburg (at that time it was still called Leningrad), Russia. Since a very early age, I have been involved in the study of music and pretty much all of my hobbies have developed around music-making or music-listening. I also enjoy mini travels. Being on the road alone gives me not just a sense of physical movement, but it helps to get some ideas flowing in my head.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

Currently, I am working on my dissertation, which examines the transnational life of the domra & balalaika (Russian plucked lutes) music brought by Russian émigrés to the United States in the early twentieth century. My project involves historical research, ethnography as well as music and sound analysis. One of the most exciting (and challenging) things that got me interested in this topic is the lack of previous research on these music communities and their role in the formation of Russian national sonic identity in the West.

WHAT SONG HAS BEEN STUCK IN YOUR HEAD LATELY?

"On ne change pas" by Céline Dion.

WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE WESLEYAN EXPERIENCE?

Lunch time on zoom with the film director Paul Verhoeven.

WHAT SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

I already have one 😊

WHAT BOOK DO YOU RECOMMEND?

Judith Brown's book *Immodest Acts: The Life of a Lesbian Nun in Renaissance Italy* (1986).