

Boulder International Folk Dancers

Community Party with Bulgarika

October 7, 2016, at the Avalon, Sodal Hall, Boulder, Colorado

\$500 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - August 2016

On October 7, 2016, Boulder International Folk Dancers held a community folk dance party with live music provided by the Bulgarian band Bulgarika.

The leaders of Bulgarika, Nikolay and Donka Kolev, are Bulgarian-born virtuoso folk musicians who live in the United States. For the past many years, they have toured the U.S. annually, bringing over for the tour musicians still living in Bulgaria—often different musicians from year to year, with a corresponding change in band identity. The Kolevi and their various ensembles have visited Boulder many times and have well-established friendships in the local community. In past years, Donald Vukovic has sponsored many of their Boulder appearances and offered to share contact information with BIFD so that we could continue the tradition.

In 2016 the Kolevi were here with their ensemble Bulgarika. The members were: Nikolay Kolev on gadulka (Bulgarian folk fiddle); Donka Koleva on vocals; Temelko Ivanov on kaval (Bulgarian wooden flute) and Nikolay Kodzhabashev on tambura (Bulgarian long-necked lute). They are all masters of their instruments, Bulgarian regional folk styles, and the ability to get people dancing.

Folk dancers from Boulder, Denver and Fort Collins came to the party, as did Bulgarian people living in the Denver-Boulder area. It was an opportunity for local ethnic Bulgarian community and the recreational folk dance community to merge, mingle and share culture.

The music was steaming hot, the dances energetic, and everyone was having too much fun to take photographs, so instead of an event photo we are sharing this promotional photo of Bulgarika. We can attest that the party was wonderful. Many thanks to the Alex Wilson Fund for the grant.

