

Donald Vukovic - for Bulgaria in Boulder 2014

October 3, 2014 at the Avalon Ballroom in Boulder, Colorado

\$1000 Grant from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund - September 2014

On October 3, the regular Friday dance night of Boulder International Folk Dancers (BIFD) was given over to a dance party with the world-class traditional Bulgarian band "Bulgarika."

Bulgarian master gdulka (Bulgarian folk fiddle) player [Nikolay Kolev](#) and his wife, prizewinning singer [Donka Koleva](#), have been the centerpiece of Donald Vukovic's "Bulgaria in Boulder" celebration for several years. Nikolay and Donka live in New York, and each year they have brought a different combination of musicians, most of them still living in Bulgaria, on a U.S. tour, representing different styles of Bulgarian music.



This time the band emphasized traditional folk music. Players were Nikolay and Donka plus Vassil Bebelev (gaida/Bulgarian bagpipe) and Dragni Dragnev (tapan/drum; kaval / Bulgarian flute; gaida, and keyboards). Their 2014 US tour was dubbed "Horoto e Vечно - The Dance is Eternal."



Donald Vukovic, [The Baklava Guy](#), teamed with [Boulder International Folk Dancers \(BIFD\)](#), with partial funding from the Alex "Tink" Wilson Legacy Fund, to present the evening. Running the event with BIFD was beneficial in that the date of the band's availability conflicted with Donald's original plans to have the party on a Saturday night. Also, the partnership with BIFD and the support of the Alex "Tink" Wilson Folklore Fund allowed for a very affordable admission price and may have encouraged some to attend who might not have otherwise.

The event drew between 80 and 100 people—a good many more than attend the usual Friday night dance. It was a high-energy event with wonderful dancing to superb music. To quote the producers, "A good time was had by all."

The entire grant funding went to the five members of the band; door receipts went to pay for the hall rental and to reimburse Donald for his expenses, and the remaining profits went to the BIFD general fund.