Medvedev BBC Contracts

Wednesday 30 December 1953

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London) “Music in the Home”

£44.10.0d. Broadcast and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other reproduction

Monday 10 August 1953

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

£44.10.0d Broadcast and recording

£10.3.9d. Overseas use

£41.9.0d. Other reproduction

Tuesday 17 February 1953

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedev conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£44.10.0d Broadcast and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other reproduction

3rd November 10th 1952

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedev conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme

“Music in the Home” [My comment – the title of this programme for late night broadcast]

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Wednesday 28 May 1952

Light Programme (London)

“Brightly Shines the Moon”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and Recording

£10.3.9d Overseas Use

£41.9.0d Other use

Wednesday 21 May 1952

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedev conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Brightly Shines the Moon

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and Recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Wednesday 14 May 1952

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedev conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

“Brightly Shines the Moon”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use.

£41.9.0d Other use

Wednesday 2 April 1952

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Monday 13 August 1952

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Monday 18th June 1951

Mr Medvedeff and his balalaika orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music for the Housewife”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Monday 26 February 1951

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£50.16.0d (to include attendance before 9 am) Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

Saturday 26 August 1950

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£41.9.0d Other use

On 9 January 1950 Medvedeff suggested in a letter to Mr Kenneth Baynes, organiser of the programme “Music While You Work” that the balalaika orchestra could form part of a programme series “Music while you work”.

Medvedeff’s letter included his programmes, and was sent while he was performing in Summer Season. He indicates that he was performing with 24 musicians (woodwind, strings, and balalaikas). “These are only a part of my huge repertoire which I could perform either by Balalaika Orchestra or by an Ensemble of 12 or more musicians consisting of strings, woodwind and a few balalaikas.” Mr Kenneth Baynes, Music While you Work Organiser, felt that it was not a good idea and upon consultation with Mr Douglas Lawrence rejected the idea in a letter to Medvedeff dated 27 January 1950.

Saturday 14 January 1950

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika orchestra

Medvedev conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

Light Music

£50.16.0d to include attendance before 9.00am. Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas Use

£40.9.0d Other use

**Contract indicates that 12 musicians got £6.6s.0d each**

Tuesday 28 June 1949

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in your Home” with Mr David Java

£50.16.0d Broadcasting and recording

£19.3.9d Overseas use

£40.8.0d Other use

**Contract indicates that 12 musicians got £6.6s.0d each**

Monday 23 May 1949

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London) “Music in your Home” with Mr Emilio

£50.16.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£40.8.0d Other use

**Contract indicates that 12 musicians got £6.6s.0d each**

For the above broadcast Medvedeff supplied a programme form:

1. Bright Sines the Moon – Signature Tune, arranged Medvedeff, ms, 30 secs
2. March “Boyets” composer Bryantsev, ms, 2m 30sec.
3. Valse “Enchanted Night” arranged Medvedeff, ms, 3 mins.
4. Kamarinskaya, arranged Medvedeff, ms, 2 mins
5. “Bandoura” fantaisie, Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 30 secs.
6. In Memoriam of Tchaikovsky, Fomin arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 30 secs
7. Valse Characteristique, Fomin arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2 mins.
8. Two songs a)The Road, b) Chastooshka, Novikov, Pub. Musgis, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2min 15secs
9. Troiki fantaisie, Medvedeff, ms, 3mins.
10. Bright Shines the Moon, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 30 secs
11. Extras: a) Smouglyanka, Novikov, Pub. Musgis, 2 mins

b) Komarik. Humorous. Medvedeff, ms, 2 mins.

Wednesday 27 April 1949

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music (London)

“Music for the Housewife”

£44.10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£10.3.9d Overseas use

£40.8.0d Other use

Tuesday 22 February 1949

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

“Music in your Home” with Mr David Perrin

£50.16.0d Broadcasting and Recording to include attendance before 9am

££10.3.9d Overseas use

£40.8.0d Other use

Each musician @10/6 each

Programme Note for the above broadcast

1. Bright Shines the Moon. Signature Tune. N. Medvedeff, ms, 30 secs
2. Raspasnol Gipsie’s Fantaisie, N. Medvedeff, ms, 2min 15secs
3. Butterfly (descriptive), Andreeff arr. Medvedeff, ms,2mins
4. Pedlars’ Song. Variations., Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 15secs
5. Spanish Dance, Andreeff arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 30secs
6. Keep Moving, Charrosin arr. Medvedeff. Pub. Bosworth. 2mins 30 secs
7. Mexican Minstrel. Norman Whiteley arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2 mins
8. “Troika” Gipsie’s Valse, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 45secs
9. Chastooshki, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 15secs
10. Bright Shines the Moon. Signature Tune, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 30 secs
11. Extras: Bareenia, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins
12. I’m Dancing with the Gnat, arr. Medvedeff, ms, 2mins 15secs

Wednesday 1st December 1948

The Medvedeff Balalaika Orchestra

Light Music Programme

**Contract Note**

**Minimum fees agreed between the BBC and the Musician’s’ Union for casual studio broadcasts increased from 1st December 1948.**

**Principals: new rate 60/-**

**Others: new rate 50/-**

**Overseas reproduction fees are calculated at 25% of the performance fee.**

**Fees for this contract were increased in line with the new agreement from**

**£39.0.0d to £44.10.0d**

**£10.3.9d Overseas Fee**

Wednesday 1 December 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

Light music with Mr David Java and Mr Sidney Davey

£- 10.0d Broadcasting and recording

£-.10.0dd Overseas use

Second Contract:

£44.16s.0d Broadcasting and recording

£8.13.9d Overseas use

£39.18.0d Other use

Tuesday 28 September 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Music Programme (London)

“Music in your Home” with Miss Kyra Vayne and Mr Arsene Kirilloff

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and Recording

£8.13.9d Overseas use

£39.18s.0d Other use

Thursday 2 September 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in your Home” with Arsene Kirilloff

£44.16.0d to include attendance before 9am

£8.13.9d Overseas use

£39.18.0d Other use

Wednesday 7th July 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme

“Music in Your Home” with Elton Hayes

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and Recording – to include attendance before 9am

£8.13.9d Overseas use

£39.18.0d Other use

Tuesday 26 May 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme

“Music in Your Home” with Eric Arden

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and recording

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Thursday 18th March 1948

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 11 Musicians

Light Programme

“Music in Your Home” with Miss Eugenie Saonova

£42.5.6d To include attendance before 9 am. Broadcasting and recording

£8.3.9d Overseas Use

£37.8.0d Other use

Monday 3 November 1947

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 11 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in Your Home” with Arsene Kirilloff and Bettie Bucknelle

£44.16.0d To include attendance before 9 am. Broadcasting and recording

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Monday 6 October 1947

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 11 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in Your Home” with Eugenie Safonova and Norman Whiteley and Bettie Bucknelle

£44.16.0d To include attendance before 9 am. Broadcasting and recording

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Tuesday 2 September 1947

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 11 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Café on the Corner”

£38 Broadcasting and recording

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.1.0d Other use

Wednesday 13 August 1947

Light Programme (London)

“Music in Your Home” with Eugenie Safonova, Renee Pougnet and Tony Fones.

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and recording To include attendance before 9 am

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Wednesday 9 July 1947

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in Your Home” with Arsene Kirilloff

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and recording To include attendance before 9 am

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Wednesday 25 June 1947

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in Your Home” with Eugenie Safanova

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and recording. To include attendance before 9 am

£8.13.9d Overseas Use

£39.18.0d Other use

Wednesday 28 May 1947

Light Programme London

Medvedev and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Music in the House with Eugenie Safanova

Broadcasting and Recording £44 16s 0d inclusive

£8.13s.9d Overseas inclusive

£39.18.0d Other reproduction inclusive

Includes 1 Musicians at 10/6d each

8 April 1947

Light Programme London

Medvedev and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

23 March 1947

Light Music Programme London (People’s Palace)

“Variety Band-Box”

£38.10s 0d Broadcasting and recording

£8 13s 9d Overseas

£39.18s.0dother reproduction

Light Programme London

Medvedev and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

Conductor: £4.4.0d

Leader: £4.4.0d

8 principals at 60/- each £24.0.0d

3 others at 50/- each £7.10.0d

14 February 1947

Light Programme London

“Music in the Home” with Len Fillis (guitar)

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and reproduction

£8.13.9d Overseas

£39.18.0d Other reproduction

12 musicians at 10/6 each

20 January 1947

Light Programme London

“Music in the Home” with Eugenie Safanova (Soprano)

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and reproduction

£8 13 9d Overseas

£35.18s 0d other reproduction

12 musicians at 10/6 each

20 January 1947

Light Programme London

“Music in the Home” with Eugenie Safanova (Soprano)

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

£44.16.0d Broadcasting and reproduction

£8 13 9d Overseas

£35.18s 0d other reproduction

12 musicians at 10/6 each

7 January 1947

Light Programme London

“Café on the Corner”

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor

£2.10.0d

This contract was for one extra player (Double Bass) over and above their usual contract which follows.

7 January 1947

Light Programme London

“Café on the Corner”

Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Medvedeff conductor and 12 musicians

£38.10.0d Broadcasting and reproduction

Conductor £4.4.0d

Leader £4.4.0d

8 Prins. 60/- each

3 others 50/-each

4th September 1958

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Afternoon in Russia”

£62.0.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.13.8d Overseas Use

£56.8.0d Other use

20 June 1958

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Morning Music”

£62.0.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.13.8d Overseas Use

£56.8.0d Other use

10 April 1957

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Home Service (London)

“Light Music”

£62.0.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.13.8d Overseas Use

£56.8.0d Other use

07 August 1956

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Home Service (London)

“Light Music”

£74.0.0d Broadcasting and recording. To include attendance before 9 am.

£10.13.8d Overseas Use

£56.8.0d Other use

31 October 1955

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£45.10.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.01.0d Overseas Use

£53.5.0d Other use

Wednesday 24 August 1955

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£45.10.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.01.0d Overseas Use

£53.5.0d Other use

Tuesday 19 October 1954

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£51.16.9d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.3.9d Overseas Use

£41.9.0d Other use

Wednesday 18 August 1954

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Music in the Home”

£45.10.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.3.9d Overseas Use

£41.9.0d Other use

Saturday 10 July 1954

Mr Medvedeff and his Balalaika Orchestra

Conductor Medvedeff and 12 Musicians

Light Programme (London)

“Light Music”

£45.10.0d Broadcasting and recording.

£10.3.9d Overseas Use

£41.9.0d Other use

Letter dated 5th April 1947

Medvedeff addresses the letter to The Programme Arranging Department for Russia. Medvedeff offers the orchestra as he feels it would be interesting to Russian listeners – hearing Balalaika music played in the UK. He offers an orchestra comprising English players only and the repertoire to include modern as well as old music, Russian pieces but also English works/songs played on Russian instruments (Russian instruments - balalaikas). The BBC response noted on the letter asks whether the orchestra should not supply the Light Music Programme “…or is their standard now too low?”

Letter dated 17 May 1946

Medvedeff to Mr Lawrence

Medvedeff offers his orchestra of ‘Folk national instruments of Russia) and singers’ after his work with ENSA came to a close. On the letter in pencil is a note

Conductor (17 all together)

Instrumentation

3 Prima Dombra (sic)

2 Viola Dombra

1 Bass Dombra

3 Balalaikas

1 Secunda Balalaika

1 Alto Balalaika

2 Basses

Piano

2 Singers

In a letter to Mr Wynn at the BBC He offers a band of 12 instruments and three singers: Leila Nlada (soprano), Paul Fedoroff (basso)and Max Turganoff (tenor)

28 November 1942(?)

BBC Programme Form

1. Tachanka Listov ms 2min
2. “Dreams” Valse Andreev ms 3min
3. “Balalaika” Polka Medvedeff Paxton 2min 30 sec
4. By the willows (Ukrainian Song) Trad arr. Medvedeff Paxton 1min 30sec
5. Choumak (Ukrainian song) Trad arr. Medvedeff Paxton 1min 30 sec
6. Old English Songs arr. Medvedeff Paxton 3 min
7. March of the Boyets 1941-1942 Bryantsev ms 3 min

Alternative Items

1. The Cossacks Medvedeff Paxton 2 min
2. Partisans Song Trad ms 2 min

All music arranged by Medvedeff

BBC Contract

London Home Service (S.B. Forces)

Light Music

The Medvedeff Balalaika Orchestra (Conductor and Musicians)

17 minute programme (usual style and extras)

£23.2.0d Broadcasting and recording

£12.10.0d Mechanical reproduction and overseas

£5.10.0d Overseas

£10.15.0d Subsequent reproduction

The contract states: This contract is issued on the understanding that there are no enemy aliens in your combination. If any members of your combination are in H.M. Forces we should be glad to have your assurance that they have obtained the permission of their Commanding Officer to accept this engagement at the fee offered.

BBC Contract

20 October 1942

London. Home Service

“They Shall Rise Again” – (Novgorod)

Traditional Russian Balalaika Music

£5.5.0d Performance

£1.6.3dBroadcasting and Reproduction

£1.15.0d Mechanical Repro and overseas

£3.10.0d Other reproduction

BBC Contract

28 October 1942

London Home Service

“Freedom Club”

Medvedeff and his orchestra to accompany Fedoroff Pole

£5.5.0d Performance

£1.6.3d Mechanical repro and overseas

£1.15.0d overseas

£3.10.0d Other reproduction

BBC Contract

14th September 1942

Medvedeff and the Russian Balalaika Orchestra augmented with singers (17 musicians)

Home Service

Light Music

17 Minutes and Extras

The contract states: This contract is issued on the understanding that there are no enemy aliens in your combination. If any members of your combination are in H.M. Forces we should be glad to have your assurance that they have obtained the permission of their Commanding Officer to accept this engagement at the fee offered.

££45.7.6d Broadcast and repro

£23.15.0d Mechanical repro

£11.6.11d Overseas

£23.1.1d Subsequent repro

BBC Programme form for the above

1. Tachanka Listov ms
2. Kalinka Bryantsev ms
3. Volga, Volga Dunaevsky ms
4. Humorous Chastooshka Bryantsev ms
5. To a Maiden Blanter ms
6. Koroboushka Trad ms
7. Partisan Chapaev Novikov ms
8. Song of the Youth Dunaevsky ms
9. Who doesn’t he tell her Kuzitsk ms
10. Tractor Song Dunaevsky ms

Extras

1. Bright Shines the Moon Medvedeff Paxton
2. Cossacks Song Dzerjinsky ms

All arrangements by Medvedeff

BBC Contract

21 October 1942

London Light Music - Forces

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

£47.5.0d Broadcasting and repro

£25.0.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£11.16.3d Overseas

£24.0.9d subsequent repro

BBC Contract

14 September 1942

London Home Service

Light Music

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

17 minute programme

£47.5.0d Broadcasting and repro

£25.0.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£11.16.3d Overseas

£24.0.9d subsequent repro

BBC Contract

16 September 1942

Overseas – European Transmission

Light Music

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra (9 Musicians)

No enemy aliens in the combination

17 minute programme

£25.19.0d Broadcasting and repro

£13.15.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£5.19.3d Overseas

£11.14.9d subsequent repro

Conductor £36.6.0

3 musicians at 42/- £6.6.0

6 musicians at 37/6 each

Arrangements £2.2.0

Letter to Mr Wyman at the BBC dated 17 March 1942

Medvedeff invited Mr Wyman to see a performance of his orchestra at the Royal Theatre Marble Arch. Performances 1.45, 4.50 and 7.58 daily

The company consists of 27 members including a male sextett,2 sopranos and an orchestra of 19 (String, wood and balalaikas). “The programme consists of the most favourite music played in Soviet Russia at present time and of about 40 minutes duration.

BBC Contract

15 July 1942

London Forces

Light Music

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

26 minute programme

£47.5.0d Broadcasting and repro

£25.0.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£11.16.3d Overseas

£24.0.9d subsequent repro

Conductor £2.10.0d

16 Musicians 22.10.0d

BBC Contract

20 April 1942

London Forces

Light Music

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

26 minute programme

£39.3.0d Broadcasting and repro

£20.0.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£9.15.9d Overseas

£16.8.9d subsequent repro

Conductor £2.10.0d

14 Musicians 17.10.0d

BBC Contract

29 January 1942

London Forces

Light Music

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

26 minute programme

£39.3.0d Broadcasting and repro

£20.0.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£9.15.9d Overseas

£16.8.9d subsequent repro

Conductor £2.10.0d

14 Musicians 17.10.0d

BBC Contract

28 January 1942

London Home Service

*Isbushka* programme

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

8 Players and a conductor

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

£23.15.6d Broadcasting and repro

£7.14.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£15.8.0d Overseas

£16.8.9d subsequent repro

Conductor £2.10.0d

14 Musicians 17.10.0d

BBC Programme Form for the Above

Programme called *Izboushka – A Russian Homestead Celebration with Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra*

1. Troikas Trad Paxton 1m15s
2. In the Garden Medvedeff ms 1min
3. Step it out Akulenko Women’s Music Association 1min 30sec
4. In Our Village Trad ms 1min
5. Along the Street Trad ms 1min 30sec
6. Warrior Chastooshka Bryantsev Paxton 1min
7. Shy fellow Trad ms 1min 15sec
8. Chastooshka Medvedeff Swan 1 min
9. Our Country Pokras Women’s Music Association 1 min
10. Masha Masha Medvedeff Swan 1 min
11. Polka Bryantsev ms 1 min

All music arranged by Medvedeff

Estras.

1. Seni ms 1min 30sec
2. Gopak ms 1min 30sec

A subsequent letter dated 27 Jan offers the following extras

1. Partisan’s Song Alexandroff ms 2 min
2. Platov’s Song arr. Medvedeff ms 2min

Letter to Mr Dunn (Dated 22 Jan 1942)

“Regarding the number of members of the Balalaika Orchestra usually it was A) 12 and a conductor or B) 12 players, conductor and 2 singers. C) Isboushka performances required a Quarttet (sic) of singers and one or two specialities as shepherd’s pipes and accordion.

Two, three months before the war I received proposition to reduce my group to the minimum with a promise to increase the number of engagements monthly. I gave the number 8, and for this figure I asked to deal with me directly not to pay the agent’s fee. Mr K Andrews was agreed not to claim any fees and not to be any kind of obstacle in this deal. As soon as this arrangement was done, the engagements instead of increasing came to 3 in the year (instead 20 to 35 during a year).

For “Isboushka” on the 28th inst. I shall bring 9 players conductor and singer on the fee of 8 players with conductor and one singer as “Izboushka” requires a volume for a party and not to be too weak.

I am looking forward to see you in London and to speak about our performing as I don’t feel being comfortable as I was before when I was giving full service of my orchestra.” (Etc etc)

A reply to this letter dated 6 Jan 1942 from Mr Dunn regrets that he cannot meet up with Medvedeff at present to discuss the new orchestra combination. He also requests a translation of *Isboushka*.

Letter from Medvedeff to Mr Dunn dated 30 Dec 1941

“I am very sorry we have not come to any arrangement regarding my new combination which is the only orchestra playing modern Russian music in England. Having a large collection of this music and understanding how to interpret in Russian way it is a pity not to spread it more widely than I am doing at my Sunday concerts in different towns in this country. I hope you will be in London ….”

BBC Contract

28 November 1941

London Forces

Light Music

17 minutes – usual style and extras

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra (8 Players)

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

26 minute programme

£22.0.0d Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Mechanical repro and overseas

£7.14.9d Overseas

£15.8.0d subsequent repro

Programme note from Medvedeff for above contract

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

Dated in red pencil 29 Nov (n.d. but 1941?)

1. Kazaki (Cossack’s melodies) Medvedeff Paxton 2m 15s
2. If tomorrow brings war ms 2m 15s
3. Two most favourite melodies in Russia today
   1. Suliko Georgian Song ms 1m 15s
   2. I have been all over the world Russian Song ms 1m 45s
4. Kamarinsky Peasant Dance ms 2min
5. Tulskaya Chastooshka Workman’s song ms 2min
6. Everything for our country Cavalry Song ms 2m 30s
7. A Village Quadrille Medvedeff Paxton 2.30sec

All arrangements by Medvedeff

Extras.

1. Nights on the Volga Medvedeff. Paxton 2m 30s
2. Katia Medvedeff Swan 2min

Flier (Headliner act)

Richmond Theatre

October 20 week 5.30 and 7.30

(Possibly 1941)

Important Attraction

The Only Russian Orchestra in the Country

CHASTOOSHKA

(Russian music while you work. Russian folk instruments. Singers and Dancers.

Nicholas Medvedeff and his Balalaika Players

Featuring Zoe Valevska The Russian Nightingale

Nina Bryianska Dancer

Youra Castooshka (sic) Singer

Ena The Compare

And company of 30 artistes.

BBC Contract

20 October 1941

OVERSEAS European Service. London

Light Music

Russian folk music and songs

Medvedeff and the Balalaika Orchestra

No enemy aliens in the combination

Commanding Officer permission

£31.10.0d Broadcasting and repro

£11.17.0d Mechanical repro and overseas

£10.10.0d Overseas

£21.0.0d subsequent repro

BBC CONTRACT

TUESDAY 30 SEPTMBER 1941

London Home Service

Light Music

17 minutes usual style and extra

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£23.2s Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

BBC Programme Note for 30 September 1941

1. Russian Parade Medvedeff Paxton 3 min
2. Kyra sings Lullaby Grechaninov ms 2m 30s. **Miss Kyra Wane (Vronska)**
3. Two soldier’s songs
   1. Chapaev Blanter ms 4 mins
   2. Schors
4. Caprice Dobroy ms 2 min
5. Novgorodska Chastooshka with Youra Swan Medvedeff ms 2 min
6. Bandoura Medvedeff. Paxton 3 min

Extras

1. Bright Shines the Moon Trad arr. Medvedeff ms 2min
2. Tzigane arr. Medvedeff 2min

All arrangements by Medvedeff

In a memo from Mr Dunn to Mr Wynn Mr Dunn makes no objection to the inclusion of Ms Kyra Wane (sic) (Vayne) in the programme (or in future programmes) but suggests that she be subjected to a broadcasting test in the usual way. Also she is not on the BBC books so her fee, it is suggested, should be inclusive rather than a separate artistes fee.

In a letter to Mr Dunn dated 13 Sept 1941

Medvedeff discusses Kyra Vayne in the programme for Victoria Park. Is this a misprint? Medvedeff in a letter dated 16 September 1941 refers to her as Wane. In this letter he also tells Mr Dunn that Miss Kyra Wane. She is British, being born in England, but her parents are Russians. She speaks English Russian and French equally and sings in Italian and German as well. She is just as Olga Alexeeva was 2 years ago. A season before the war Kyra sang in Belgium in place of Olga Alexeeva when later (sic) was not available. She had parts in Chauve Souris (Russian and English), broadcast with Evelyn Laye’s Party, ENSA’s party. Her style and richness of her voice are equal to Olga Alexeeva. That is chiefly why I would like to have her with my ensemble. She will broadcast with ENSA (Mr Williams party) in September again. I hope Mr Wynn will not object including her in the programme.) the singer. Mr Dunn obviously wants to hear her sing before she is included in the programme. Medvedeff takes pains to give Mr Dunn some background to Miss Kyra. “At present she is taking part in a new Russian opera which is going to begin at Savoy Theatre on 6th of October. The first opera will be Sorochinsky Fair by Mussorgsky. Miss Kyra and Oda Slobodskaya taking the same part in turns (different days).

A further note in this letter outlines his present formation of the orchestra: The whole ensemble consists of string instruments, woodwind and balalaikas with singers as:

Violins (This combination arranged as a sextet

1. Leader: First violin
2. Leader: First violin
3. Second violin
4. Second violin
5. Viola
6. Cello
7. Cello
8. Double Bass
9. Piano

Woodwind

1. Flute
2. Oboe
3. Clarinet
4. Bassoon

Balalaikas (arranged as accompaniment and effects)

1. Primas
2. Primas
3. Secunda
4. Alto
5. Contra Bass
6. Domra Bass
7. Drums

Vocal Quartet

First Tenor

2 Tenor

Baritone

Bass

Conductor (myself)

My idea was to introduce modern Russian Music which never was played in this country yet and also old Russian folk music revealed recently or played long ago. Mr Perry’s suggestion was not to emphasise on a certain time only but also to give effects on different instruments at the same time. I couldn’t produce many effects in the open air and also was bound to play music which people in the parks would understand easier than something new, but in the numbers below there are plenty. The programme (suggested) I could make as following:

1. Air Force. March by Schehter
2. Mass dances from “Chapaev by Koval
3. Salut to life. By Shostakovich
4. Chastooshka. By Tulin
5. Christmas Tree Waltz. Rebikov
6. Village Songs of XVIc
   1. Bridal Kiss
   2. I am sitting on a stone
   3. Princess in the Tavern
7. Military March. Gliere

(Second suggestion – my note)

1. March of the Army by Khachaturian
2. Moscow Dann and Pokrass mss. (Published in Russia only)
3. Gavotte Prokofiev
4. Workmen Choice from “Quiet flows the river Don”. By Dzerjinsky
5. Kanavka Trad song XVIIc
6. Haytarma Tartar Dance by Spendiasov
7. “Welcome” Valse Andreeff
8. Mass Dance Rjnousov

(Third suggestion – my note)

1. March of the Happiness Duejevsky
2. A Fairy Tale Arensky
3. Cavalry of the Steppe Knipper
4. Kolhoz Dances Zateplinsky
5. Partisan Songs
   1. Schors
   2. Chapaev
   3. Geleznjak
6. Waves of Amur Waltz Schorf
7. Harmonist (Accordion Players). Bely
8. The Steppe March Zatajevich

“Besides of those numbers I have many many more to make good amount of programmes. ….. As I thought to call this combination “Russian Ensemble” therefore I keep to the Russian music only, but if you would suggest any other kind I would gladly include it in the programme.

In case of trouble over the numbers of the artistes the quartet of the singers could be omitted as they were essential for two hours programmes in the parks and not so important for the broadcasting, duration of which is not so lengthy.”

PROGRAMME FORM

Contract for 10 September 1941

1. Worker’s Day Begins Shostakovich ms 2m
2. Ukrania Medvedeff Paxton 3m30s
3. Song of Happiness Dunaevsky ms 2min
4. Old English Songs arr. Medvedeff Paxton 3min
5. New Chastooshka Medvedeff Paxton 2min
6. Sledge Drive Trad ms. 2m 30sec
7. Poljusko. Cossack’s Patrol Trad ms 2min

Extras

1. Workmen March from Quiet Flows the River Don Dzerjinsky ms 2min
2. I went round the world Trad ms 2 min

BBC Internal Circulating Memo

Dated 2 September 1941

This orchestra consists of:

4 violins, Cello, Bass

Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bassoon

6 Balalaikas

Drums

Piano

4 singers (Soprano, Tenor, Baritone, Bass)

Medvedeff handles this combination well and gets good discipline in his quiet way. The music is characteristic and has quite a flavour. He played one or two of the suggested modern Russian melodies and they sounded very pleasant.

The addition of woodwind gives him more scope and I had to point out to him that he could use even more contrast than he was employing. He played a Russian Army march that was very effective. All arrangements are by Medvedeff.

Signed Andrew Perry

BBC CONTRACT

Wednesday 10 September 1941

London Home Service

Light Music

17 minutes usual style and extra

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£23.2s Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

BBC CONTRACT

Wednesday 6 September 1941

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

12 players and conductor

London Forces Programme

Light Music

17 minutes ‘Izboushka’ programme and extras

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£25.2s.0d Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

Programme for 6th September 1941

Memo Dated 17 August 1941

A Party in a Peasant’s Home with Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

Izboushka.

Including songs and dances from all parts of Russia

Our Country

Trepak

Kohanochka

Moscow

Workman Song

Lezginka (Caucasian Dance)

Cossack’s Songs

Plianski

Kobza (Ukrainian Songs)

Katia (Gypsies Song)

Peasant’s Quadrille

All Arrangements by Medvedeff

In a letter Dated 21st July 1941 Medvedeff writes to Mr Wynn

“I shall be glad if you could give me a possibility to introduce some modern Russian music to the listeners. It is light music by Shostakovich, Roval, Dunaevsky and others. Also would it interest you my combination of string wood and balalaika instruments as we are playing for LCC this season again. The orchestra consists of 25 artistes with the conductor. For references I am enclosing one of the programmes.

A memo on the letter to Mr Arnold Perry: Mr Wynn writes: I cannot imagine Medvedeff handling a larger orchestra with any results worthwhile. I would like to see this Modern Russian Light Music before agreeing to this proposal. Could Mr Perry be of service for both investigations!

BBC CONTRACT

Saturday 14 June 1941

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

8 players and conductor – no vocalist

London Home Service

Light Music

12 and a half minutes usual style and extras

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£23.2s.0d Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

Programme Note for the above Broadcast

1. Raspashol Gipsies Melody ms 2.30
2. The Dear Old Home Songs Bernard Russel Paxton 3min
3. Sun in the Sky Folk Dance ms 2min
4. Broken Heart Valse Medvedeff Paxton 3min
5. Nareenia Variations on Folk Dance ms 2min

Extras

1. Bandura Ukrainian Tunes Medvedeff ms 2min
2. Cavalry of Steppes Patrol ms 2min

Arnold (not Andrew) Perry? YES

Letter to Mr Wynn dated 25 April 1940

Mr Wynn has clearly requested that Mr Medvedeff reduce the number of his artists in his ensemble by a third down to 8. Medvedeff in other letters has suggested that the arrangement with the BBC should not include an agent’s fee and thereby the contract amount overall could be reduced – in this case by 3 guineas from £33.15.0d. Medvedeff states that he will pay his players the same wage but take a cut in his own remuneration and make up the shortfall with fewer rehearsals and the hope that Mr Wynn will increase the number of offers to broadcast “in accordance with the idea of reductions”.

In a letter to Medvedeff from Mr Wynn dated 9 April 1940 Mr Wynn thanks Medvedeff for the reduction of his ensemble from 12 to 8 players. “We also note that you would like the contract for this smaller combination to be sent direct to you and not to Mr Kenneth Bowker Andrews”. (Medvedeff’s agent) (In order to cut costs)

Medvedeff letter to Mr Wynn dated 3. Iv. 40

“Not having any dates for such a long time (only one since last August) and thinking as you mentioned to me at last interview, that my orchestra is still too expensive, I would like to suggest a reduced orchestra of eight (instead of twelve as at present) musicians as we were for many years from very beginning till 1934. Addition of three singers with very serious repertoire made increasing of my orchestra essential and that is not required any more now. The fee of 20 guineas would be sufficient if you would deal with me directly for this Combination, and through the agent (K. Andrews) if you would require again my whole orchestra of 12, as I cannot afford to pay Agent’s fees from 20 Guineas. Repertoire will be reduced to about 500 pieces and orchestra will consist of 3 Domras, 4 Balalaikas and a piano (exactly as we started Radio Performances). If you would desire to add a singer it would be an increase of two guineas extra. I hope that this suggestion will meet with your approval.

Etc etc

BBC CONTRACT

Wednesday 26 February 1941

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

8 players and conductor – no vocalist

London Home Service

Light Music

22 minutes programme and extras

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£23.2s.0d Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

Programme for the above broadcast

1. Nights on the Volga Medvedeff Paxton 3m 30sec
2. Angel’s Serenade Braga 3 Paxton
3. Two Chastooshkas Medvedeff
   1. Galka Swan 2 min
   2. Tambov Paxton 2 min
4. Cavalry of the Steppe Trad ms 2 min
5. Toska-Valse Medvedeff ms 2min 30sec
6. Two Melodies
   1. Sweet and Low Barnby ms 2 min
   2. Masha Medvedeff ms 2min

Extras

1. In the Sky Trad ms 2min
2. Peasant’s Quadrille Medvedeff Paxton 2 min

All Arrangements by Medvedeff

Letter dated 17 December 1940

To Mr Wynn

Medvedeff replies to Mr Wynn who has had to cancel a broadcast date. Medvedeff complains: “…you mentioned you would give another date instead. I shall be glad if you would find a possibility to fix the date for the orchestra. This year I had two broadcasts only.”

Letter dated 1 July 1940

To Mr Wynn

“With reference to your enquiry today I am a stateless person under protection of British Government. All members of the orchestra are British. This summer I am engaged by LCC to play in parks. For this I have an augmented orchestra of 20 musicians (strings, woodwind and balalaikas) and four singers. I wonder if there would be a possibility to be broadcasted from the bandstand of Clapham Common (21st July) or other places.”

An internal memo from Mr Ian Thomas dated 10 July 1940

“I cannot think we can justify the expense of putting the lines to the bandstand at Clapham Common or other parks for an occasional broadcast by this orchestra. Surely, it would be cheaper to bring them to the studio” Ian Thomas (Outside Broadcasting Executive)

BBC CONTRACT

Monday 20 May 1940

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra

8 players and conductor and singer

London For the Forces

Light Music

17 minutes programme usual style and extras

No aliens, and Commanding officer permission for armed forces

£23.2s.0d Broadcasting and repro

£5.15.6d Reproduction

£7.14.0d Overseas

£15.8.0d Other repro

Programme Note

Medvedeff’s Balalaika orchestra with Max Turganoff (Tenor)

1. Nights on the Volga Medvedeff Paxton 4.15
2. La Spagnola di Chara ms 2min
3. Until Sanderson Boosey 2m 15sec
4. Two Soldiers Songs
   1. Warriors Chastooshka Medvedeff Swan 3min
   2. Cossack Platov Trad ms
5. Waltz Dream Andreeff ms 2min 30sec
6. There’s a boy coming home on leave Kennedy-Fraser Peter Maurice 2 min

Extras

A Peasants Quadrille Medvedeff Paxton 2 min

B. Cossacks Medvedeff Paxton 2 min

All arrangements by Medvedeff

A note about Copyright.

In a letter to Mr Dunn dated 25 April 1940 Medvedeff writes:

“I shall follow your correction about Ms. I thought I was right to mark Ms in cases where I rearranged pieces entirely and used only manuscripts”.

The Bowker Andrews Concert Direction Letter March 7th 1940

Mr Andrews enquires whether a number of artists’ programmes were recorded and used in overseas broadcast. One of which is Medvedeff’s.

In reply to Mr Bowker-Andrews a letter from the BBC (unsigned in copy)

“… none of the programmes you mention… were recorded.

We may add that cheques are dispatched automatically as soon as recorded programmes have been transmitted once round the Empire. If no cheque is received it means that the programme has not been recorded, or, if recorded, not used.

2nd January 1940 the BBC is sending details of Medvedeff’s broadcast to Mr Bowker-Andrews

CONTRACT (it appears this programme did not get recorded – the payment is ex gratia and half of the set fee of £33.15.0d)

8 January 1940

Light Music

Medvedeff’s Balalaika Orchestra (12 players and a conductor)

£16.17.6 Performance

£8.8.9 Mechanical Reproduction

Programme for the 8 January 1940 above

1. Novgorodskaya Chastooshka Medvedeff Swan 2min
2. Angels Serenade Braga Ms 3 min
3. Wish Me Luck Parr Davis Chappell 2 min
4. Train in Motion Baver ms 3 min
5. Cavalry of Steppe Trad ms 2min
6. Russian Dance Trad ms 2min
7. Cossacks Medvedeff Paxton 3min

Extras

1. Katia Medvedeff Swan 2.00
2. From Border to Border ms 2 min