

Hosting Corner

CHICAGO – Four exciting Russian composers ranging in age from 24 to 39 brought a wealth of musical talent and curiosity about contemporary trends in film-music scoring to Chicago June 4–18. Hosted by **Columbia College Chicago's graduate music program**, **Aleksandr Manotskov**, **Anna Mikhailova**, **Dmitriy Ryabtsev**, and **Anton Silayev** spent two weeks immersed in the global language, theory and practice of film-music composition, a modern form of artistic expression first articulated in Russia by the likes of Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich. The Russians' residency was conducted for the Open World Cultural Leaders Program by **Andy Hill**, a Grammy-winning film-music producer who directs Columbia's Music Composition for the Screen MFA program; distinguished composer **Ilya**

Levinson, a senior member of the music faculty; and **Charlie Williams**, composer, pianist and manager of the school's film music lab. Presenters included New Line Cinema President of Music **Paul Broucek** and Emmy-winning composer **Blake Neely**. The program culminated in a live orchestral scoring session for films by Chicagoan **Dalila Droege** conducted at the Chicago Recording Company by Chicago Symphony Orchestra (CSO) associate music director **Cliff Colnot**. The delegates also attended CSO and **Steppenwolf Theater** performances and the **Chicago Blues Festival**. The final presentation reception for the composers was attended by Illinois Rep. **Danny K. Davis's** district director, **F. Daniel Cantrell**. Host coordination was provided by **Jeanne Whitney Smith Consulting**.



Cultural delegate Aleksandr Manotskov, shown here during a June 15 orchestral scoring session in Chicago, has composed music for drama productions, films, TV series, and documentaries.

In the Field



Open World Board Chairman James Billington, right, confers with Solovki Mayor and alumnus Dmitriy Lugovoy near a monument to the victims of the gulag once located on Solovki.

SOLOVKI ISLANDS, RUSSIA – Despite their remoteness, the White Sea's Solovki Islands are a place of pilgrimage, as they house both a legendary monastery and the remains of the first Soviet gulag—where

Open World's Russian co-founder, the great cultural scholar **Dmitriy Likhachev**, was a prisoner. Open World Board Chairman **James Billington** made his own pilgrimage to the islands on June 16, meeting with the small but active group of Open World alumni there, including Mayor **Dmitriy Lugovoy** (pictured). The alumni all updated Dr. Billington on how they had applied their Open World experiences; for example, Solovki Botanic Gardens Director **Olga Grishanova** showed him on-site how her 2005 exchange (hosted by the **Tahoe-Baikal Institute**) had inspired her to partner with local businesses and NGOs on marketing and product development.

En route to Solovki, Dr. Billington stopped in Arkhangelsk, where he was met by local alumni and visiting Portland, ME host **Neale Duffett**. The group updated Dr. Billington on

Open World's contributions to Maine/Arkhangelsk sister-state relations.

Also on Dr. Billington's Russian itinerary was a meeting in Moscow with one of Open World's most influential alumni, Russian Supreme Court Justice **Yuriy Sidorenko**, chair of the Council of Judges, who presented Dr. Billington with the Russian judiciary's highest honor—the **Za Sluzheniye Pravosudiyu** award—on behalf of the Russian Federation.

Also in Moscow, Center Executive Director **John O'Keefe** joined Dr. Billington for a meeting with **Vladimir Kozhin**, head of the Kremlin Office of Management and Administrative Services. Among the topics discussed was the Presidential Administration's plan to establish a mirror exchange program to Open World.

Making a Difference

MADISON, WI – "Radiation and Health" was the subject of a June 25 roundtable organized by Madison, WI host **Norma Berkowitz** for an Open World delegation of five Ukrainian local and NGO officials from cities especially hard-hit by the 1986 Chernobyl disaster. Three U.S. radiation experts affiliated with the **University of Wisconsin** participated as panelists in the free-flowing discussion: radiation biologist **Kelly Clifton**, geneticist **Michael Patrick**, and soil scientist

Phillip Barak. The session gave the delegates the opportunity to get authoritative answers to their questions about radiation in children, children's thyroid issues, cancer, and the impact of radiation levels in the soil on vegetables. When the delegates were asked in turn by the panelists about the day-to-day effect of the Chernobyl disaster on themselves, one of the delegates, a psychologist at a community center for Chernobyl-affected populations, said

"I have to live with this reality – when I eat foods from my garden I am calculating radiation levels instead of calories." Other sessions held for the delegates included "Public Health and Long Range Planning" and "Working With Children in a Hospital Setting."

Local Host Organization: Friends of Chernobyl Centers, US (FOCCUS); National Grantee: National Peace Foundation