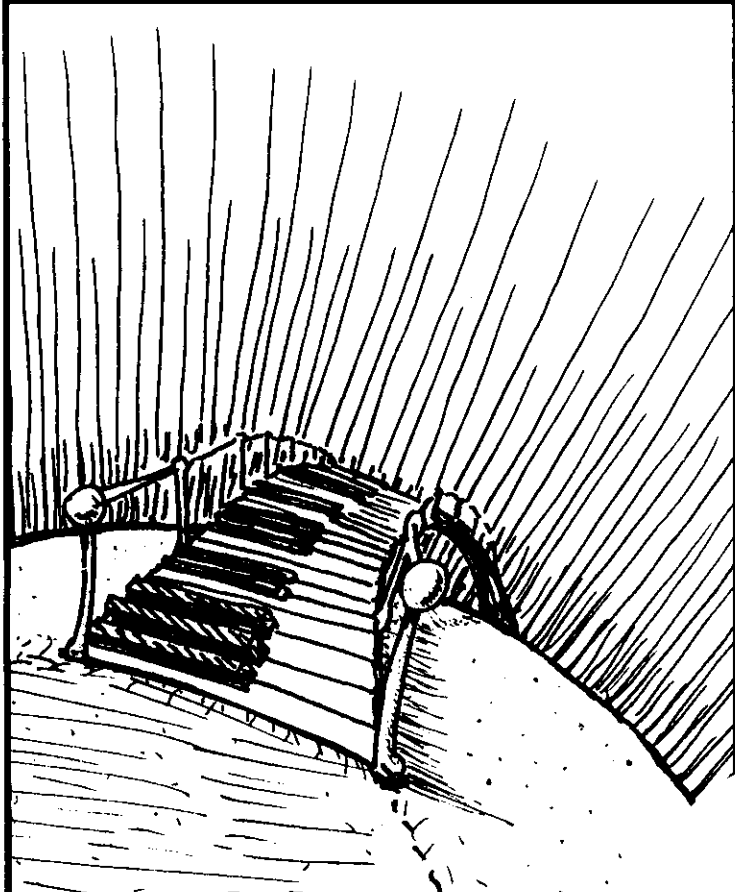


# MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

Route 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, Vermont 05679  
41 North Lake Drive, Hamden, Connecticut 06517



*Access, opportunity and good neighbors  
through cultural exchange*

## My Visit to the United States

by Oleg Gotlib

Head, Department of Humanities

Chita State Technical University

**"It's happening!"** said Tom, when he met me at JFK airport in New York on September 18, 1996. "We did it!" we said together on the 9th of October when he, Eileen Ogle and I shook hands back at the airport for my return flight

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# Executive Director's Report

We are pleased to announce three exchanges in 1997:

- On June 10, 1997 **Tatiana Sukhanova**, Head of the English Department, Foreign Languages Faculty, Chita State Pedagogical Institute (CSPI), will arrive for an eight-week "ESL" (English as a Second Language) teacher's course at St. Michael's College, Colchester, Vermont. St. Michael's has graciously offered a full tuition scholarship. Musical Bridges will provide hospitality and help Tanya say "Hello!" (see cover article!) to find ways to help her institution. Expenses will be shared by Musical Bridges and CSPI. Tanya was my boss when I was teaching in Chita, and I'm thrilled to have the chance to try to reciprocate her generosity and friendship in the United States.
- In August Musical Bridges will send **Stacy Neterer** to teach English at CSPI for a year. Stacy is a May graduate of Kalamazoo College where she majored in International Studies. She spent a semester studying in St. Petersburg and has a deep interest in the current situation in Russia. Upon returning in 1999 she will begin a Master's program in International Affairs with a concentration on International Law and Organizations at George Washington University Elliott School of International Affairs.
- In September the SCSU-CSTU relationship will bear its first fruits. **Professor Olga Fleshler**, of Chita State Technical University will come to Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven to teach a one semester course on the history, politics and culture of Siberia.

Professor Paul Best, SCSU's coordinator of the CSTU-SCSU relationship traveled to Chita in April to meet with officials and learn more about the university in Chita. He plans to return in August with a delegation from SCSU bringing plans for cooperation based on his April findings.

Musical Bridges grant-seeking efforts continue vigorously. While we are unable to accomplish some projects according to our original timetable due to lack of funds, we are confident that the value of our work will be recognized soon by foundations.

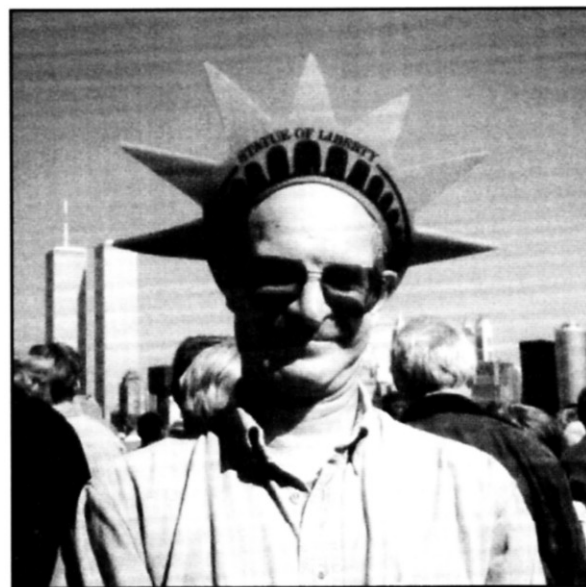
As you can see in Oleg Gotlib's article, Chita's has serious needs for contact and cooperation with the West,

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to Moscow.

The idea of my visit to the US was born in autumn 1995 during our talks with Thomas Dickinson, when he was on his third visit to Chita as a lecturer in the English Department of Chita State Pedagogical Institute and a piano teacher at Chita Musical College. By that time he already had organized Musical Bridges, Inc., and the main goal of this organization is to help cultural, educational and scientific institutions in Chita make relations with their American counterparts. It happens that Chita, maybe because of the great distances in the central part of Russia, maybe our being closed for more than 50 years, maybe because of stereotypes that our region is only interested in mining, but there is,



Oleg in New York City

and has been, little real contact between Chita and the "Western" world.

Our first plan was to help the newly

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opened Humanities Department of Chita State Technical University. In the winter of 1996 we got several parcels with books and magazines from US. It was a gift from Musical Bridges and Paul Best, professor of Southern



Olga Fleshler and Tanya Sukhanova with a smiling Eileen Ogle, Musical Bridges Board member, at a party in Chita, summer 1995

Connecticut State University (SCSU) in New Haven, Connecticut. Then in March of 1996 I suddenly got an invitation to visit SCSU in autumn 1996...and it happened!

"The idea is to say 'Hello' as many times as possible," said Tom on the road from New York to New Haven just after our meeting at the airport. It was true: it was nonstop "Hello" for three weeks. When we returned to New Haven just before going back to the airport for my departure, Tom said that we traveled 2000 miles, nearly the half the distance between Chita and

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## Return Mailer

please fill out, detach and mail to:  
Musical Bridges, Inc.  
Rt. 1 Box 1484, Williamstown, VT 05679

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Zipcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Bridges, Inc. is recognized as a not-for-profit charitable organization by the Federal Government, and your contributions to it are tax-deductible.

Please check this box if you would like your contribution to remain anonymous.

If your contribution is \$50 or more you will receive the "Recipes from Chita" booklet. At \$100 or more you may choose to receive one of the following as well. Check the box next to your choice. Please note: the value of the tape or t-shirt cannot be counted as tax-deductible according to Federal law.

Musical Bridges T-shirt Check size:  Medium  Large  X-Large

Tape 1  Tape 2  Tape 3

**Musical Bridges T-shirt (\$15.00)**

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Sizes (M.L.XL) \_\_\_\_\_

**Tape 1 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tape 2 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Tape 3 (\$15.00)** Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cassette total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please add \$3.00 postage and handling for the first two items and \$1.00 for each additional \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to  
"Musical Bridges, Inc."

**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions or comments? Please write them on additional sheets and include with this mailer.

Do you know anyone who would like to hear about our activities?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Moscow.

And what was the result? First and foremost, an agreement for cooperation was signed between our university and SCSU. In addition, there were four lectures about Chita and Chita Region, two articles in newspapers, one radio interview and many, many meetings and talks in Washington, DC, New Haven, New Britain and Southbury, Connecticut, Newton, Massachusetts, Middlebury and Montpelier, Vermont and New York City.

Summing up all this, I must say that it was only first step on the long and difficult road to real results, but a couple of days ago a chief of one of the mines came to me ask if it is possible to make some relation with us. And I said "Yes!" Hi, Tom! One more problem for you and Musical Bridges! Because, to say the truth, it's only Musical Bridges who pays real attention our plans and ideas about relations with US.



Executive Director's Report--Continued from page 1

and Musical Bridges is the only Western outreach organization currently addressing those needs in a directed and long term way. We address tangible needs like books, teachers and arranging exchanges.

We also address the intangible--but no less important--needs of introducing and informing Americans to and about Chita, and Siberians about America, opening channels of communication, and fostering goodwill and friendship--all of which enrich our lives and bind our worlds together.



## Musical Bridges Gifts

**Recipes from Chita** — Hospitality is one thing for which Siberians are justly famed and it all centers on food. The cuisine is simple country-style cooking and it should solve any dietary shortages of salt and fat you may be suffering. This amusing collection was gathered by Tom Dickinson during his stay there in 1995. It contains not only recipes, but also articles on how to entertain Russian-style, picking berries and, of course, the Russian banya (bathhouse). *Receive the "Recipes from Chita" as a thank you gift for a contribution of \$50 or more.*

*Receive the following items as premiums for contributions of \$100, or more or purchase them separately.*

*Net proceeds go to Musical Bridges, Inc.*

**The Musical Bridges T-Shirt** — The t-shirts are silk-screened, with the Musical Bridges bridge (see front cover) in classic black ink on white, heavyweight, 100% cotton and look darn classy! (Value: \$15.00)

### Three Cassette Offerings!

**Tape 1. Budashkin Russian Folk Instrument Ensemble of Chita, Russia**

— Founded in 1984, the Budashkin Ensemble has performed all over Russia. This tape exhibits their virtuosity, broad range and high spirits. Musical Bridges will bring them on tour in the United States in October 1997. (Value: \$15.00)

**Tape 2. Thomas Dickinson, Pianist** — A one-hour showcase of Tom at his other job, featuring works by Beethoven, Schumann, Brahms, Debussy and Gershwin.

(Value: \$15.00)

**Tape 3. Twelve Pieces by Tom Dickinson** — A one-hour cassette of lively and melodic original compositions, not quite pop, not really New Age, but always utterly appealing. He uses his computer and synthesizer to recreate familiar and friendly sounds in a new context. (Value: \$15.00)

## MUSICAL BRIDGES, INC.

Thomas G. Dickinson, Executive Director

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