For immediate release: January 17, 2024 Contact: Frank Conlon at 202-441-7678

MUSALLIANCE Peter Omelchenko, Domra and Mandolin Anna Kusner, Guitar Luda Bard, Narrator with guest artists Brian Quenton Thorne, Tenor Frank Conlon, Piano

The Catherine and Mary Roth Concert Series presents Musalliance – Peter Omelchenko, Domra and Mandolin, Anna Kusner, Guitar, Luda Bard, Narrator, with Brian Quenton Thorne, Tenor and Frank Conlon, Piano on Sunday, February 11th, at 5:00 P.M. at Annunciation Catholic Church, 3810 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20016 (one block west of Wisconsin Avenue). There is plenty of free parking and the church has an elevator and an entrance ramp. A reception will follow the concert. There is no admission charge, but free-will offerings will be received. For further information, please call 202-441-7678

Peter Omelchenko has quickly established himself as one of the most promising folk musicians of his generation, starting his career as a featured domra player with Moscow's Nekrasov Balalaika Orchestra and then the world-famous Osipov Balalaika Orchestra, and he plays and appears regularly as soloist with the Washington Balalaika Society Orchestra. His musical talents include singing, arranging, composing, and teaching.

Anna Kusner, in a duo with a Bolshoi Theater singer, performed Russian art songs for several years with the Moscow Philharmonic Society. After graduating from the Academy of Music in Jerusalem in 1995, Anna performed with chamber orchestras and ensembles on Israeli television, radio, and at music festivals. She has taught classical guitar widely, and has found time to record 16 CDs.

Both natives of Russia and graduates of Moscow's prestigious Gnessin Academy of Music, Anna and Peter formed **Musalliance** shortly after Peter's emigration to the Washington, D.C. area. Together they bring the unique background of a rigorous Russian music education, extraordinary virtuosity, and a broad and eclectic repertoire drawn from both traditional and contemporary sources. While each is an extremely talented soloist in his or her own right, it is when they come together in a meeting of musical minds that the sparks really fly, and the whole becomes greater than the sum of the parts. In providing a unique and thrilling musical experience, Musalliance has delighted audiences on both coasts of the United States and brings new excitement to Washington's musical scene.

Brian Quenton Thorne has played major roles with the Miami Shores Theatre, the Woolley Mammoth Theatre, Studio Theatre, Actor's Playhouse, and Signature Theatre, and he has sung concerts at the Kennedy Center and Smithsonian's Baird Auditorium. His play "Holding Court: Why Black Men Play Basketball" won the Chicago Black Theatre Excellence Award.