

# **An inspiring experience - Kazan 2017**

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We first came into contact with the international activity of ESTA at the conference in 2016. As the project that we presented together with our pupils in our home town Ljubljana, was well received, we were encouraged to think more seriously about participating in this year's conference in Kazan. Although at first it seemed unachievable, then also with the help of Esta Solidarity Fund in Memoriam Elspeth Iliffe, we finally managed to travel to the land with amazingly rich cultural in music tradition.

The announced programme of this year's conference was inspiring, rich in diverse content. We were impressed by various concerts, lectures and other interesting events that we had attended. Moreover, the organisers, the local people and other participants we met at the conference were incredibly kind. We encountered different pedagogical approaches; we met numerous outstanding performers and learned about different performing practices.

This event inspired us to continue our work at home. Unfortunately, in Kazan we were not able to present this year's project on Slovenian chamber music for strings in person; however the atmosphere at The ESTA Conference inspired us for a new project on art through Slovenian and Russian music for strings, which we shall realize together with our pupils in the forthcoming school year. We made a personal contact with numerous exceptional educators and outstanding performers.

The professional encounters of high quality, such as The ESTA International Conferences enable string teachers to get acquainted with diverse teaching practises and encourage the mutual understanding of different didactic approaches and traditions. We wish that every string teacher would have the opportunity to participate in such conference. We hope to be given the possibility to attend The ESTA Conference in the coming years.

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