

# SONGS *of the* SOUL

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF SRI CHINMOY

**For Immediate Release**  
**July 11, 2011**

**Boris Purushottama Grebenshikov In Concert in NEW YORK**  
**At NYU Skirball Center for the Performing Arts**  
**Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm**  
**With Tabla virtuoso Pdt. Samir Chatterjee**

Music legend and “Poet Laureate of Russia” [Boris Purushottama Grebenshikov](#) will give a special one-night-only concert in New York, with Tabla virtuoso [Pundit Samir Chatterjee](#), as a soulful tribute to Indian spiritual teacher and composer Sri Chinmoy, in honour of his 80<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary. Featuring guest musicians from diverse musical traditions, the concert will be held on Friday September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 pm at NYU, Skirball Center for the Performing Arts, hosted by [Songs of the Soul](#). For more information and tickets please call 212-380-8153 or visit <http://www.Grebenshikovconcert.com>.



**Boris Purushottama Grebenshikov**

Boris Purushottama Grebenshikov hails from St Petersburg, Russia. In a career spanning four decades, Grebenshikov has produced more than 50 albums. Often referred to as ‘Russia’s Bob Dylan’ his music has incorporated a range of styles, from folk and blues to translucent acoustics merging Eastern philosophies and traditional Russian themes—capturing the hearts of listeners within and beyond the borders of his homeland.

In February 2006 Grebenshikov met the Indian spiritual teacher Sri Chinmoy who offered him the name *Purushottama*, which relates to the one who is beyond all limitations. He believes that inside each human being resides an ‘infinite silence’ which is the source of creativity, and it is from this source that he continues to enchant audiences the world over.

Boris Purushottama Grebenshikov is shown above playing live at the Royal Albert Hall in 2007. With his smoky tenor voice he continues to ‘express the inexpressible’ in a lyrical language that has earned him the affectionate title, “Poet Laureate of Russia.” When he performs to non-Russian speaking audiences he says, “There are things that are universal enough that they resonate with every person who listens.”

In 2006 and 2007 he performed with his celebrated band Aquarium at the Royal Albert Hall—a landmark in his music career. In August 2007 he was invited to play at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

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Photo by Dibyarka Chatterjee

Samir Chatterjee is a virtuoso Tabla player from India. He travels widely across the world throughout the year performing in numerous festivals as a soloist or with other outstanding musicians from both Indian and western musical traditions. Samir performed at the Nobel Peace Prize ceremony in 2007 and a few times at the UNO. He recently produced a collection of Sri Chinmoy's compositions on an album titled Guru Pranam.

Samir Chatterjee lives in the New York-New Jersey area, where he has become a catalyst in the fusion of Indian and Western music, performing with Pauline Oliveros, William Parker, Branford Marsalis, Ravi Coltrane, Dave Douglas, Dance Theater of Harlem, Boston Philharmonic and several other jazz, classical and avant guard musicians and ensembles. His compositions are widely acclaimed.

Samir Chatterjee has been teaching for the last 35 years and many of his students are established performers. He is the Founder-Director of Chhandayan, one of the leading organizations promoting and preserving Indian music and culture in the west. He is the author of two comprehensive books on Indian music entitled 'A Study of Tabla' and 'Music of India'. He is on the faculty at Yale University, Manhattan School of Music, University of Pittsburgh and New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music.

Since June 2008 Samir has been working in Afghanistan helping them in their musical revival. For more information about Samir Chatterjee please visit <http://www.tabla.org/samir-chatterjee-bio>.



The Jack H. Skirball Center for the Performing Arts is the premier venue for the presentation of cultural and performing arts events for New York University and lower Manhattan. Led by executive producer Jay Oliva (President Emeritus, NYU) and senior director Michael Harrington, the programs of the Skirball Center reflect NYU's mission as an international center of scholarship, defined by excellence and innovation and shaped by an intellectually rich and diverse environment. A vital aspect of the Center's mission is to build young adult audiences for the future of live performance. For more information, including a complete calendar of the Skirball Center's 2010/2011 season, please visit <http://www.skirballcenter.nyu.edu/>.

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