From 2/4 to 15/16: The Complex Rhythms and Development of Bulgarian Folk Music
Lecture and Dance Workshop

Friday, January 18, 2019
4-6 pm, GISB/HLS 1060

Petur Iliev will present the tremendous variety of regular and irregular measures in the Bulgarian folk music (from 2/4 and 5/8 to 15/16), as well as all the mixtures between them (from 18/16 to 25/16), addressing their historical roots and regional specificity, as well as their present day popularity and importance. His lecture will also address the dramatic evolution of Bulgarian folk music in the past 70 years—from stagnation during the decades of totalitarian rule to the creative explosion and unprecedented flourishing of folk genres experienced in the past 30 years of democracy. In the second part of the event, members of Bloomington’s own Eastern European Ensemble will provide live music to a dance workshop, in which Petur Iliev will introduce participants to some of the most popular Bulgarian dances. Light refreshments will be served.

Petur Iliev is a Bulgarian-born dance teacher and choreographer whose career is deeply steeped in the rich folk dance traditions of his family. He started dancing at the age of five in his father’s ensemble. A graduate of the Bulgarian National School of Dance Art and the Bulgarian National Institute of Choreography, he began his professional career as a Principal Dancer of the Kutev National Dance and Music Ensemble before training further at the National Dance Institute in New York under the supervision of Jacques d’Amboise. Besides teaching in the US K-12 educational system, Iliev has conducted master classes in Character and Bulgarian folk dances at many colleges and universities in different parts of the US and created choreographies for professional and non-professional dance companies throughout North America. In 2003 he joined the faculty of the renowned School of Pacific Northwest Ballet and two years later he was hired by the School of Ballet Chicago.

The Eastern European Ensemble is based in Bloomington and performs unique renditions of folk music from the Balkans. From slow love songs to fast and furious dance tunes, their repertoire includes music from Bulgaria, Serbia, Macedonia, and more.

Sponsors: Russian and East European Institute, Institute for European Studies, Department of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures