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TUVAN THROAT SINGERS MAKE THEIR US DEBUT

Khogzhumchu, an ensemble of traditional throat singers and musicians from Tuva, will perform at the Kennedy Center, the Richmond Folk Festival, and the Rubin Museum of Art.

The Khogzhumchu Ensemble will be in the US October 1st – 15th to share their unique cultural heritage with American music lovers, as part of a program to encourage cross-cultural communication through the arts. The ensemble consists of four masters of Tuva's ancient throat-singing tradition: artistic leader and founder Andrei Mongush, Aykhan Oorzhak, Evgeny Saryglar, and Kan-Khuler Saaya. Formed in 2007, Khogzhumchu has performed across Russia as well as abroad, including a concert in India attended by the Dalai Lama in 2007. This will be their first visit to the US.

Khogzhumchu's residency, co-hosted by [CEC ArtsLink](#) and the [National Council for the Traditional Arts](#) as part of the [Open World Cultural Leaders Program](#), will begin in the Washington, DC area. The musicians will visit the area's cultural institutions, give lectures and demonstrations to university students, and perform at the [Kennedy Center Millennium Stage](#) on **October 7th at 6:00pm**. From there, the ensemble will continue on to the [Richmond Folk Festival](#) in Richmond, VA, where they will give several performances at the festival and at local schools, interact with other musicians, and learn about American folk traditions. The residency will conclude in New York City, where Khogzhumchu will perform at the [Rubin Museum of Art](#) on **October 14th at 7:00p**.

The ancient tradition and techniques of throat singing were developed by Central Asian nomad tribes, who assigned great spiritual value to the sounds of the natural environment and man's ability to replicate them. The autonomous republic of Tuva in the Russian Federation is home to a particularly rich throat singing culture, known there as Xöömei. The other-worldly sounds produced by throat singers are a result of their ability to emit two or more notes simultaneously. Overtones are created by varying the shape of the singer's mouth and pharynx. As a result, two, three, or even four distinct tones can be heard at once. As the fundamental tone remains constant, melodies are sung with the highest overtone, resembling the sound of a flute.

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CEC ArtsLink, through a multi-faceted program of cultural exchange, serves to create and sustain constructive, mutually beneficial relationships in the arts between the United States and Eastern and Central Europe, Russia, Central Asia and the Caucasus. Working with artists, arts

organizations and community-based groups, CEC ArtsLink provides an essential structure for ongoing dialogue, contributing to a culture of openness and trust between nations.

With years of experience as a leader in cultural exchange between the United States and Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, CEC ArtsLink has long been a behind-the-scenes player in numerous esteemed cultural events, as a supporter and facilitator of residencies, projects, and networks for artists and art managers at venues across the U.S. and around the world. Today, we are pleased to bring an on-going series of cultural events to the public through our partnerships in New York, around the United States, and abroad. Visit our [homepage](#) for more about upcoming events and on-going projects.

Open World's Cultural Leaders Program aims to forge better understanding between the United States and Russia by enabling emerging Russian leaders in the arts to experience America's cultural and community life, and to work with their American counterparts. Support for the cultural program is provided through partnership and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Open World is a unique, nonpartisan initiative of the U.S. Congress. Delegates range from judges to mayors, from innovative nonprofit directors to experienced journalists, and from political party activists to regional administrators. Over 11,000 Open World participants have been hosted in all 50 U.S. states since the program's inception in 1999.

Founded in 1933, the **National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA)** is the nation's oldest folk arts organization. The NCTA stresses quality and authenticity in presenting traditional artists to the public in festivals, national and international tours, concerts, radio and television programs, films, recordings and other programs. In the 1930's the NCTA broke ground by inventing the multi-ethnic folk festival, a radical innovation for presenting the arts of many nations in one event. NCTA's work has grown to include a nationwide touring program, the creation and programming of large-scale festivals and special events, the planning of cultural programs in National Parks, and numerous other activities. In the past five years, the NCTA has presented 13 major multi-day festivals, 81 traditional arts concerts and 5 national tours with 146 performances, reaching 26 states, and produced 24 nationally distributed compact disc recordings. While it emphasizes the presentation of live events, NCTA also produces national radio and television programming, CD recordings and maintains an audio archive of original traditional music recordings.

The **Richmond Folk Festival** continues the three-year tradition established by the hugely successful National Folk Festival in Richmond, Virginia, celebrating the roots, richness and variety of American culture. In the exact likeness of the National Folk Festival, the Richmond Folk Festival features more than 30 performing groups on seven live music stages with continuous music and dance performances, along with a Virginia Folklife demonstration area, children's activities, a folk arts marketplace, regional and ethnic foods and more. The Richmond Folk Festival is produced by Venture Richmond in partnership with the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA). The three-day event is one of the largest events in Virginia, drawing visitors from across the country.

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