

# OLEG KIREYEV

## and Feng Shui Jazz Theatre

Russian jazz saxophonist, **Oleg Kireyev**, presents his surpassingly diverse jazz/world music quartet to the worldwide audience. Titled **The Feng Shui Jazz Theatre**, Kireyev's band members include **Valery Panfilov** on guitar; **Victor Matouhin** on bass; **Ildar Nafigov** on drums; and Kireyev himself on tenor and soprano saxophones, keyboards and vocals. All members of the band come from different corners of the former USSR and multinational Russia.

Kireyev grew up in **Bashkiria** near the European/Asian border. His interest in Asian culture and music have greatly influenced his musical style — an exquisite combination of **Moldavian** and **Asian** melodies, richest heritage of bebop and mainstream jazz, bottomless African rhythms and folk music from all over the world.

**The Feng Shui Jazz Theater** celebrates the rich diversity of musical styles and instrumentation brought to the stage by Kireyev and his band members. *"Often our music on stage comes from folk songs or a sudden mood we get after reading a French sonnet,"* says Kireyev. *"Sometimes we will combine an opera singer and vanguard jazz on the same stage for an interesting Italian opera affect."* The live performance thoroughly engages the audience in its energy and creativity.

In the 1980's, Kireyev was the leader of an extremely popular and at the same time pathbreaking Russian group, **Orlan**, which was positively the first to fuse jazz with Russian folk music in the former USSR using some unusual folk instruments such as the "**kurai**," a wind instrument, and the "**kubyz**," a juice harp. Orlan's popularity grew quickly as the global music scene was exploding.

With the unconditional success of Orlan and performances in Russia and abroad, Kireyev traveled to **Poland** where he spent three busy years in the early 1990's playing in the country's best jazz clubs with Poland's most popular jazz artists.

In 1994, Kireyev won a scholarship to study with jazz legend, **Bud Shank**, and traveled to the US. As soon as Kireyev came in sight on the American stage he got almost immediately invited to perform at the **Montreux Jazz Festival** in Switzerland where he was awarded a diploma for outstanding performance and has performed at the **Birmingham Jazz Festival** and the **Earling Jazz Festival** in England, where he continues to tour. His 2000 recording, "*Love Letters*," had strong sales in the U.K. Although Kireyev entered the European jazz community as a mainstream saxophonist, a strong incentive to fuse styles and mould them into the world chime gradually prevailed.

Incorporating traditional swing, mindbending Moldavian tunes, otherworldly African rhythm and jazz into a distinctive and exciting artform, Kireyev recorded his latest CD, "*Mandala*," in 2004 with percussionist **Njaga Sambe** (Senegal); guitarist **Valery Panfilov** (Moldova); bassist **Victor Matiukhin** (Ukraine); drummer **Ildar Nafigov** (Tatarstan); keyboardist **Valery Belikov** (Ukraine) and Kireyev on saxophones (Bashkiria). The result is a mix of ancient tunes of Asia with a striking contemporary sound, very high energy and exceptional musicianship. The CD was released in the U.S. in April 2008 on Jazzheads Records. The release was marked with a first night performance at Symphony Space, a popular NYC venue, critics and journalists responding enthusiastically on both events.

For more information on Oleg Kireyev, please visit [www.kireyev.ru](http://www.kireyev.ru) or [www.miras-art.com](http://www.miras-art.com).  
JPEGs available.