Written in 1941 when the Soviet composer was 35 years old, Shostakovich's Symphony No. 7 instantly became known as the *Leningrad Symphony* and deservedly received worldwide acclaim as a masterpiece commemoration of current historic events.

*Sergei Prokofiev and Dmitri Shostakovich*

**RUSSIAN CONNECTION / RUSSIAN CLUB @ MIT & EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT**

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2009-2010

*RUSSIAN CONNECTION / RUSSIAN CLUB @ MIT & EDUCATIONAL BRIDGE PROJECT*

offers this academic year
“Conversations on Russian Music,”

four evenings of performances and discussions on musical masterpieces written by the Russian composers, from Mussorgsky and Tchaikovsky to Prokofiev and Shostakovich.

Fourth evening, the concluding Part of the 2009-2010 "Conversations on Russian Music", on Thursday, March 11th, 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Killian Hall,

will summarize the series and concentrate on the historic performance of the "Leningrad Symphony" by Dmitri Shostakovich. The Symphony's music will be played from two rare archival recordings by American and Russian orchestras.

Live performances by the young musicians from the Longy School of Music will include two movements from Shostakovich's Quartet No. 8 and one movement of the Piano Trio No. 2.

Ludmilla Leibman who lived in Leningrad and matriculated from the Leningrad Conservatory will lead the listeners through the journey of the life and music of one of the most famous Soviet composers and will offer an analysis of Shostakovich's very special, perhaps unique approach to creating a war symphony.
**Ludmilla Leibman** – pianist, music theorist, and lecturer – developed her teaching career in two countries. In Russia she taught for thirteen years in the theory/composition department of her alma mater, the Saint Petersburg (Leningrad) Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory. In the United States, after receiving her doctorate from Boston University, she taught music theory there from 1998 to 2006. In addition, Dr. Leibman is the Executive Director of The Educational Bridge Project, an organization she founded in 1997 with the goal of providing forums for cultural exchanges between United States and Russia. The Educational Bridge Project was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in 2006.

**Simona Talberga** from Latvia, is a first year Master’s student at the Longy School of Music in Cambridge, MA. In May, 2009 she received her Bachelor’s degree from Biola University Conservatory of Music in violin performance program. She has had the opportunity to take part in many chamber music festivals in Latvia, Germany, Switzerland, and the United States. Simona enjoys playing chamber music and teaching violin.

**Angel Hernandez** was born in Cuba and moved to Mexico at the age of 16 where he commenced his career as a professional musician. During his time in Mexico, he held positions in the Aguascalientes Symphony Orchestra, Queretaro Philharmonic, and most recently the OFUNAM Philharmonic. Parallel to his career as a violist, Hernandez honed his skills as a violoncettist at the Luthiers School of the National Institute of Fine Arts in Queretaro. He currently runs a violoncettist shop in Worcester, MA, where he makes and repairs instruments, and continues to perform actively as a member of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra and the Nashaway Piano Trio. Hernandez is also on the music faculty at the Brooks School in North Andover, MA.

**Caroline Reiner-Williams** earned her Master’s degree in cello performance from the Longy School of Music, where she attended on a full scholarship. Hand in hand with her performance career, she chose to minor in string pedagogy in graduate school and maintains an active teaching studio in both the Greater Boston and Worcester areas. Ms. Williams currently serves on the faculty of the Joy of Music Program in Worcester, MA, Pakachoag Community Music School in Auburn, MA, and the Brooks School in North Andover, MA. She performs regularly as a member of the Bangor Symphony Orchestra (ME) and the Nashaway Piano Trio.

**Bios of the Quartet musicians:**

Originally from Saint Petersburg, Russia, **Olga Kradenova** studied at St. Petersburg Conservatory and received her BMus with distinction from Royal Northern College of Music (England). Olga has taken part in such festivals as Fondazione Musicale S. Cecilia in Portogruaro, Marktoberdorf Music Academia, Manchester Music Festival, Atlantic Music Festival in Maine. As a chamber music performer and soloist Olga toured throughout Europe. Recipient of a grant from the Philharmonic Society in St. Petersburg, Olga has soloed with the Wroclaw Chamber Orchestra (Poland), and “Congress-orchestra”(St. Petersburg) and performed in such concert halls as St. Petersburg Philharmonic Shostakovich Hall, Glinka Hall, and State Academic Capella of St. Petersburg. Olga is now pursuing a Master’s Degree at the Longy School of Music under the tutelage of Sophie Vilk. She is a member of Atlantic Symphony Orchestra, Cape Ann’s Orchestra and Longitude Ensemble which is committed to performing new music.