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**Phoenix Center for the Arts and the Balkan Community Culture and Heritage Organization  
Announce 2nd Eastern European Folk Festival at Phoenix Center for the Arts**

*Sponsored by Phoenix Center for the Arts as part of its 2026 cultural initiatives*

**PHOENIX, AZ – May 14, 2026** – Phoenix Center for the Arts (PCA) and the Balkan Community Culture and Heritage Organization (BCCHO) are honored to announce the 2nd Eastern European Folk Festival, taking place on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 12:00 PM to 8:30 PM at Phoenix Center for the Arts. The festival is hosted on The Center's campus and sponsored by Phoenix Center for the Arts as part of its ongoing commitment to expanding cultural experiences and partnerships across Phoenix.

As a resident organization at Phoenix Center for the Arts, BCCHO leads this vibrant and immersive celebration, bringing together artists, scholars, and community members to showcase the rich traditions, music, and dance of Eastern Europe and the Balkans.

The Eastern European Folk Festival offers an engaging, family-friendly experience designed to foster cultural understanding and connection. Festival programming includes a dynamic mix of live music, dance, workshops, and cultural storytelling, highlighting the richness and diversity of Eastern European traditions.

Highlights include:

- Month-long Eastern European and Balkan cultural exhibition featuring traditional costumes, instruments, and artifacts
- Special musical lecture, *Echoes of Tradition*, led by acclaimed conductor Vanja Gjumar Nikolovski
- Interactive Roma and Balkan music workshop led by internationally performing musician Nicolas Adams.

Participants can also experience hands-on folk dance workshops spanning Polish, Serbian, Bulgarian, and Klezmer traditions—welcoming all skill levels—and enjoy live performances from groups such as the Little Chef Klezmer Band, whose vibrant sound brings Eastern European musical heritage to life.

Complementing the festival, a curated Eastern European and Balkan cultural exhibition will be on view in the Larry Wilson Gallery at Phoenix Center for the Arts. Part of a broader, multi-week installation, the exhibition highlights traditional costumes, musical instruments, and cultural artifacts—offering an immersive look into the region's artistic heritage.

Phoenix Center for the Arts' sponsorship of the Eastern European Folk Festival reflects a broader 2026 initiative to elevate culturally rooted, community-driven experiences across its campus. By supporting resident organizations like BCCHO, The Center is expanding opportunities for audiences to engage with global traditions in authentic and meaningful ways.

This work builds on a growing portfolio of cultural collaborations, including the Living Black Worlds exhibition in partnership with Black River Life and ongoing engagement with the Spirits of Mexico Festival—initiatives that center cultural expression, storytelling, and community voice.

“Supporting events like the Eastern European Folk Festival is part of our commitment to ensuring Phoenix Center for the Arts is a platform where community-led cultural experiences can thrive,” said Angelique Kane, Executive Director, Phoenix Center for the Arts. “We are proud to sponsor and uplift the work of the Balkan Community Culture and Heritage Organization as they bring this important celebration to our campus.”

### **Event Details**

2nd Annual Eastern European Folk Festival  
Saturday, May 16, 2026 | 12:00 PM – 8:30 PM  
Phoenix Center for the Arts, 1202 N. 3rd St., Phoenix, AZ  
Admission: Open to the public; registration available online

For full program details and registration, visit the [Eastern European Folk Festival Website](#).

### **About Phoenix Center for the Arts:**

*Phoenix Center for the Arts provides arts and culture opportunities for all through education, programming, and advocacy. The Center strives to be the premier provider of arts and cultural experiences that improve, stimulate, and unite the communities we serve.*

### **About Balkan Community Culture and Heritage Organization:**

*The Balkan Community Culture and Heritage Organization is dedicated to preserving, celebrating, and sharing the traditions, music, dance, and cultural heritage of Eastern Europe and the Balkans. As a resident organization at Phoenix Center for the Arts, BCCHO fosters cultural exchange and community connection through educational programming and public events.*

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