

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION  
MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTRE INC.**

Services to our Multicultural Community

Reply to:



St. Kilda Branch Office  
161 - 163 Fitzroy Street, St. Kilda  
P.O. Box 2299, St. Kilda West 3182  
Phone: 9525 4622 Fax: 9525 4673



Oakleigh Branch Office  
6 Atherton Road  
Oakleigh 3166  
Phone: 9563 4130 Fax: 9563 4131



Prahran Branch Office  
24 Victoria Street  
Windsor 3181  
Phone: 9510 5877

18 January, 1996

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

I have known Alex Barbakh for nearly three years and recommend his musical talents and skills highly. Apart from his piano-accordion skills which he utilises in a popular five-piece band, he is also a fine conductor and leads a strong, emerging chamber orchestra called The Melbourne Russian Strings.

The M.R.C. Gallery has employed the five-piece band for several functions, including a concert in the Great Hall at the National Gallery of Victoria as part of the Native Exhibition in September 1995. We have also employed them in local festivals and are proud to include them in the Alfred Square Stage at the St. Kilda Festival this year. They come highly recommended when we are approached for cultural groups by outside community and commercial arts organisations.

The Melbourne Russian Strings is primarily made up of professional musicians from Eastern Europe who are striving to resume their professional status in Australia. Their high level of skill is evident in their concert performances which have recieved great audience appreciation. Their performance venues include the Caulfield Town Hall, B'nai B'rith in Elsternwick and the Caulfield Herzl and Rotary Clubs. This year they will perform as part of the St. Kilda Festival Finale on St. Kilda Beach. Their repertoire includes popular classics as well as challenging Australian contemporary pieces.

Alex Barbakh's contribution to the local contemporary cultural industry needs fostering and encouragement and his enthusiasm and passion for his craft is unwavering. I therefore urge that due consideration be given to Alex's pursuits and objectives.

I wish him every success for the future.

Sincerely,



Joseph Spano  
Art & Cultural Development Officer