



The **RUSSIAN DEBUTANTE BALL 2016**

- PATRON -

Princess Olga Romanoff

- GUESTS OF HONOUR -

Admiral the Rt Hon Baron West of Spithead

and the Lady West



With the centenary of the Russian Revolution and the tragic murder of the last tsar Nicholas II fast approaching, interest in Russian culture and history has never been greater. This year the Russian Debutante Ball returns to London for the fourth consecutive year, in celebration of the shared historical links and cultural traditions between these two great nations.

Our guests of honour **Admiral Lord West**, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the British Home Office, and his wife the **Lady West**, have kindly agreed to attend again this year, having enormously enjoyed the ball last year.

Taking place Saturday **19th November** at the five star **Grosvenor House** Hotel in Park Lane, London, the ball will be an even more spectacular event this year. We are delighted to have secured performances by such world class entertainers as award-winning Russian violinist **Yury Revich** - who'll be playing on a **Stradivarius** - one of the few surviving legendary 18th c violins worth well over £1 m - and who'll be accompanying the performance of **Maria Yakovleva**, prima ballerina of the **Vienna State Opera**.

Debutantes The most spectacular feature remains the opening ceremony performed by sixty carefully selected debutantes and their partners, introduced by violinist Yury Revich and ballerina Maria Yakovleva. The young debutantes will be allowed to take part in the ceremony once they have perfected their dancing skills and passed the test under the expert eye of choreographer **Leonid Pletnev**, honorary president of the International Dance Union, and former Russian dance master of *Strictly Come Dancing* star Kristina Rihanoff.

Entertainment



Yulia Mazurova, mezzo-soprano and soloist at the world famous Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow, will be another star performer - accompanied by highly-acclaimed Russian pianist **Alexander Pokidchenko**.

Chamber orchestra **Russian Virtuosi of Europe**, under the baton of conductor **Andrey Lebedev**, will provide further musical entertainment. And catering to all tastes, **Len Phillips Big Band** and his 16 piece swing orchestra will take guests back to the jazz age, while accordionist and *BBC Introducing Classical Artist* **Iosif Purits** will add further variety to the world class musical programme.

Champagne & Caviar Reception and Gala Dinner

Before the much awaited opening ceremony, guests will be treated to Russian black caviar and French champagne during the glitzy reception. Menu for the gala dinner will be specially created by Grosvenor House's executive chef and will be accompanied by fine Bordeaux wines, while generous shots of Ivan the Terrible vodka will delight those with a taste for something stronger.

HH Princess Olga Romanoff - Patron

Great niece of Tsar Nicholas II, the last tsar of Russia executed with his family in 1918, HH Princess Olga Romanoff has kindly agreed to be patron again of this year's event. She's at present writing her memoirs scheduled to be published in 2017 to coincide with the centenary anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Charity Event

The Russian Debutante Ball supports the charity "*Chance For Life*" that provides care for disadvantaged children in Russian orphanages – www.chanceforlife.co.uk – Registration no 1142753

www.russianball.co.uk

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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Notes to Editors

The Russian Debutante Ball is organised by ESM Event Management. The company, founded by Dr Elisabeth Smagin-Melloni, has been staging the most glittering balls in Europe and Russia for the past twelve years. The Viennese Ball in Moscow and the Moscow Ball in Vienna are the longest established ones, and others followed in Kiev, Almaty, Rome, Montreux, Biarritz and more recently in Karlavy Vary in the Czech Republic.