

## **Fort Worth Fly-In Musicfest to Benefit Sultanov Foundation**

The Flying Musicians Association, Inc. Announces Partnership with Alexei Sultanov Foundation for the Fort Worth Spinks Fly-In Musicfest

Fort Worth, Texas, September 21, 2009: For Immediate Release: The Flying Musicians Association, Inc. today announced its partnership with Alexei Sultanov Foundation (<http://alexeisultanov.org> - <http://alexeisultanov.org/alexeisultanovfoundation.htm>) for the Fort Worth Spinks Fly-In Musicfest on November 7, 2009. John Zapp, co-founder of the FMA, said, "We are excited to have the Alexei Sultanov Foundation on board and look forward to being able to raise extra funds to help them achieve their goal."

**Alexei Sultanov (1969-2005) was the gold medalist of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition in 1989.**

Alexei inspired many people in his short years. When he was healthy, his brilliant talent for performing was applauded by millions, and his own fierce dedication inspired others to devote themselves to a pursuit of excellence in performance. In the last two years of his life, Alexei sat in his wheelchair, paralyzed on the left side. Despite his physical impairment, Alexei began performing again -- with his right hand only -- at colleges, nursing homes, hospitals, offices and churches. People were amazed and inspired by Alexei's determination to keep going, no matter what, never giving up. Alexei's greatest joy was found in performing for people and in encouraging and inspiring them. He passed away in his sleep on June 30, 2005.

The spirit of Alexei - a colorful fountain in Fort Worth with water splashing eternally to the accompaniment of Alexei's beautiful music - will represent inspiration, strength and courage. Alexei would be proud. "Alexei - a comet that raced across this planet during his 35 years, touching the hearts and minds of everyone in his path. Like a comet's tail, the Alexei Sultanov Foundation will continue the dazzling influence of that very special human being," said Alexei's wife, Dace.

*The Alexei Sultanov Foundation's mission is to provide financial, emotional and psychological support to musicians and other performing artists who are no longer able to perform and make a living due to severe illness or injury. This Foundation encourages families who are facing such monumental challenges to never give up, never let go, and to stand by their loved ones, providing compassionate support and care during devastating times.*

*The Flying Musicians Association, Inc. was formed in 2009 by blending two passions, flying and music. Founded by two pilot/musicians, John Zapp and Aileen Hummel who have made it their quest to encourage, promote, educate and support these two passions, and especially to encourage adventure, awe, and experience through flying and music, generating and fostering the yearning for both amongst young people. To join please visit <http://FlyingMusicians.org>.*

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Alexei Sultanov 1989 Gold Medalist  
*Van Cliburn International Piano Competition*  
<http://vanc liburn.com>

Unvetted Biography of Alexei Sultanov:  
<http://alexeisultanov.org/aboutalexei.htm>