



Above is one of Moscow's wide avenues which lead into Red Square. Majestic St. Basil's Cathedral is at far end with its nine varicolored onion domes shadowing the Kremlin. The Cathedral was built by Ivan the Terrible in the 16th Century to commemorate his military defeat of the Kazan Tartars.

A Russian Tapestry

The Russian Composer Peter Ilich Tchaikovsky once commented, "Life is music, flowers and children." And it is precisely these three items which are the important threads of a Russian's existence.

Great music has a share in Russian heritage not only because of artists like Tchaikovsky and Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov but also because of the individual and colorful folk music of the Soviet Union's numerous republics.

In a country which is in the struggle of mastering modern technology and science, ballet is still king. People throng to the theaters to see the famous Bolshoi Ballet of Moscow and the equally expert Kirov Company of Leningrad.

Theater going is more than an evening of music and dance. It's an enjoyable interlude of camaraderie. Whether performances are held in the elegantly huge Palace of Congresses, which seats 6000 inside the Moscow Kremlin, or in one of the smaller, more intimate baroque theaters in Leningrad,

during intermission, audiences promenade. Everyone mingles and chatters while sipping champagne and eating caviar.

On the modern musical scene Russia's sound and beat is that of the 1960s. Hard rock is discouraged by the government and this curtailment has produced an inevitable rock underground movement. Though Russian musicians may lag behind the West in this particular field they certainly are equal in the volume they produce through their booming amplifiers, turning dinner conversations into shouting matches.

Flowers are a Russian's delight and a common sight is that of airline pilots, militiamen and just ordinary workers stopping at flower kiosks to purchase bouquets. Political, historical and military monuments are never without their flower remembrances, whether a solitary bloom or a wreath.

Child raising is a serious business in the Soviet Union with the task shared by both parents and the State. This concerted effort is the

reason for Russia's claim that the country is not beleaguered with a juvenile delinquency problem. A valid claim in view of the fact people can walk the streets, ride the subways, and stroll through parks after dark without the menace of youth gangs.

Russian fathers are more involved with the early tasks of child care than their western counterparts. A normal sight is that of Russian men wheeling prams or overseeing their off-spring's playtime in parks. They are comfortable with this situation and tend to radiate a sense of pride in their child-rearing duties.

Most married couples have one child who is pampered and never neglected. In most cases both parents work. The State, however, has supplied all-day and week kindergartens for children aged three to seven.

The key words in the Soviet system of handling children are "care and activity" which has induced the government to create a huge network of youth

organizations such as the Young Pioneers and the Komsomol. There are also the sport clubs evident in every city which gives young adults a chance to pursue their interests in sports and achieve an athletic career.

If there is one other important factor in a Russian's life it is that he exists in two worlds. Along side the space-age construction of Olympic complexes (the 1980 Summer Olympics are to be held in Moscow) and enormous apartment units there is the reconstruction of czarist palaces, and ancient churches.

The once powerful Russian Orthodox Church along with its philosophy has been eclipsed by an anti-religious system; yet it is this system which is retaining through meticulous restoration and maintenance the symbols of Orthodoxy. So, while today's Russian lives under the Red Flag and Lenin's dicta, he also exists in the shadow of his religious past as cast by the mystic "onion domes" crowned with the crosses of Christianity.



A stained glass portrait of Lenin decorates a hall of the Lenin Museum in Moscow where memorabilia of the founder of the Soviet State is kept. Other of Lenin's items include his "Silver Shadow" Rolls Royce and the coat he wore when an assassination attempt was made on his life.



Lenin's Mausoleum was arrayed with red and white floral arrangements in honor of Russia's May 1 celebration. The great military parade in honor of the Bolshevik Revolution, however, takes place on Oct. 7 in Moscow.