

## Abram Bashmet With His Grandchildren: Ksenia, Alexandr And Aria Bashmet



I, Abram Bashmet, a happy grandfather surrounded by my grandchildren. From left to right: Ksenia and Alexandr - Yuri's children, Aria - Yevgeniy's daughter. This photo was taken in my apartment in Lvov in 1992.

In the seventh grade my son Yuri started to play the viola. He played drills from morning till night and our neighbors were crazy about it, but he liked it and he was responsible. Other people paid their attention to Yuri and serious musicians took part in arranging his future. So he's become the number one viola player in the world and an outstanding musician, and there have been about 50 pieces written for viola and for him, Yuri Bashmet.

He is very fond of playing the piano and plays it wonderfully. Yuri is also known as an outstanding conductor now. His wife Nathalia is a violinist. Their daughter Ksenia, born in 1980, is a pianist. She is married to Dmitriy Bulgakov, an oboe player. Their son Alexandr, born in 1986, declared there were too many musicians in the family already. He studies at the College of International Relations.

I've traveled to Israel three times. My son Yuri paid for my trips. This is a wonderful country, exotic, but still it is not mine. I don't remember my reaction when Israel was established – it was far away from me, but now that I've been there, I understand how wonderful it is that there is this country, there is the land and the state.

However, I live my life here. I don't even want to move to Moscow, though Yuri has a nice house out of the city and a nice five-bedroom apartment in the center of Moscow with all comforts, etc. Why would I need it? I have my friends and I am at home here. I meet with my old friends. I have a

woman friend here, we see each other, she has a daughter and a family, but we meet when we can and go to theaters or listen to music.