

**Abstract: On the Economics of the Performing Arts in the USSR and the USA: A  
Preliminary Comparison of the Data**

For the first time, roughly comparable data on the finances of the performing arts in the USSR and the U.S.A. have become available. This paper provides the data, offers some analysis and provides some background material on the economic organization of the art forms in the two countries. It is shown that, calculated at purchasing power parity exchange rates, the real costs of the activities are considerably lower in the USSR than the U.S.A., and while costs in both countries are rising in real terms, those in the USSR are increasing far more slowly. In the USSR administrative costs are a much smaller proportion of total expenditure and, until recently, musical performance has received a far smaller share of its income from government subsidy. It is also reported that in recent years more of these activities in the Soviet Union are provided on a profit-making basis, and that some of them are even financed with the aid of profits from investment in unrelated enterprises.