

Dramatic developments in Russian literature of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, from revolution, through conformity, to the ironies and anxieties of the post-Stalin era. Comrades, iconoclasts, absurdists, proletarians and aesthetes; the Gulag, the literary café, the music of the spheres, the crumbling Russian village; the re-forging of humanity and the rediscovery of tradition.

## Some highlights:

- Bulgakov's *Master and Margarita* (the Devil, Pontius Pilate and a harried writer in Moscow of the 1930s).
- Venedikt Erofeev's Moscow to the End of The Line (cocktail recipes mixed in with Satan and more Pontius Pilate)
- the quiet despair of doubt, the innocent fool, the righteous woman, what replaces prayer in the Gulag ...

