

# Stars named by jury and audience

Dmitry Koldun's *Ships* acknowledged song of the year, TEO recognised as musical discovery of the year and J:Mors' *Electrification of the Whole Country* named most successful tour

By Lyudmila Minakova

Over 20 singers, composers, music arrangers, producers and musical journalists have been recognised at the National Pop Music Award, hosted by the Palace of the Republic.

Ordinary fans and professionals alike have been eagerly awaiting the ceremony. It was organised by the STV TV Channel two years ago but has only just received the status of a national award, thanks to the Culture Ministry, bringing a whole new level of importance to the ceremony.

The organising committee received around 600 applications from those wishing to conquer the musical Olympus but there were only 16 nominations. The small number of prizes lends them even more significance.

"It doesn't matter whether you're a nominee or a winner," muses Honoured Artiste of Belarus, Irina Dorofeeva. "The vital thing is that the contest inspires creative competition, showing everyone that they aren't alone in this world and that we share a desire to create music, write beautiful songs, release CDs and tour."

According to the jury, which assessed the achievements of musical figures over the past year, Inna Afanasieva is the best female singer and Alexey Khlestov the best male singer. Nina Bogdanova has been recognised as the



Inna Afanasieva wins 'Best Female Vocal Performance'

most interesting lyrics writer while Leonid Shirin is the best composer (he writes for *Da Vinci* band, Alexander Tikhanovich and Yadviga Poplavskaya, as well as Irina Dorofeeva and others). Maxim Aleinikov has been acknowledged as the best producer (working with such bands as *Topless* and *E.V.A.*).

Oleg Klimov, working for *SB Belarus Segodnya* newspaper, has won the nomination for best musical journalist, while *Troitsa* is the best musical band. Meanwhile, the best album of the year is *Volume First*, by Anna Khitrik and *S'unduk*. The jury declared the *Love-Destiny* concert, by Al-



TEO recognised 'Discovery of the Year'

exander Tikhanovich and Yadviga Poplavskaya, to be the most compelling of 2011 while *Electrification of the Whole Country* by J:Mors was named as the most successful tour. *Litesound's See You In Vegas* video was recognised as the best. The members of the band admit that they created it completely by their

own efforts.

Alena Lanskaya won the title of best song for *White Swallow* and Dmitry Koldun's *Ships* won the 'Song of the Year' nomination. Irina Vidova was awarded the People's Choice Award (a public vote) for *For the Last Time*. Both maestros and newcomers were recognised at the



ALEXANDER RUIZHECHKA

ceremony, with TEO named as the discovery of the year. Lidia Zablotskaya, who recently returned from *Junior Eurovision*, was named the best young performer.

The winners have been given diplomas, money prizes and a statuette in the form of a star. Moreover, special prizes were given to Sasha Nemo for best musical acoustics, to Venera for best stage image, to Vadim Galygin and Ilya Mitko for best duo and to *ProSSpekt* for best writing debut.

From now on, the National Pop Music Award will include recognition of those who have given dozens of years to their profession. The first award 'For the Development of Traditions of Belarusian Song' has been given to Prof. Mikhail Finberg, who heads the National Concert Orchestra of Belarus and is a People's Artist of Belarus. The jury awarded People's Artist of Belarus Vladimir Mulyavin a prize 'For Contributions to the Development of Belarusian Pop Art'. Without his songs, the musical culture of the country would be hard to imagine. His compositions are the basis for the *Golden Fund of 20th-21st Century Belarusian Songs* — another project organised by STV TV Channel and the Culture Ministry. The top thirty five songs in Belarusian were chosen by cultural experts and the STV TV Channel audience on the eve of the National Pop Music Award.

## Heritage of past times shifts to cultural treasure

By Semen Kulagin

**Three Mogilev Region customs become known as intangible historical and cultural treasures: lapti weaving in Dribin District, 'Bryazgun' ritual in Cherikov District and traditional wedding and baptismal songs in Gorki District**

The Belarusian Republican Scientific Methodical Council on Cultural and Historical Heritage at the Culture Ministry has acknowledged the new treasures on the list, each being unique. Lapti (footwear

woven with bast or birch bark) weaving in the Dribin District is being passed on to masters at the local crafts house by women from the village of Korovchino. Singing traditions from the Gorki District's Parshino village are unique in their manner of performance and in their content, being performed in local dialect, with a repetitive melodic tone. The 'Bryazgun' custom, from the Cherikov District's Narki village, combines pagan and Christian elements (worshipping the gods of spring fertility and the icon of St. Peter and Paul). Remarkably,

spring arrives on the same day as that honouring these saints and is considered to be a talisman of the village.

All the mentioned customs continue to be observed today. Moreover, children and youngsters are learning the art of lapti weaving, while learning to sing songs and take part in the custom. It's vital to preserve our intangible cultural heritage," stresses the leading editor of the Mogilev Regional Methodical Centre on Folk Creativity and Cultural-Enlightening Work, Olga Semchenko.

Efforts to preserve in-



'Sulla' holiday in the Gomel Region's Markovichi

tangible cultural heritage in the region are to continue, with customs, songs, dances and crafts being supported in the Mogilev Region. Next year, specialists from the Folk Creativity Centre are to begin preparing materi-

als for UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List. At present, nine customs in the Mogilev Region possess the status of intangible historical and cultural treasures, making it a leader among other Republican regions.

**Artists and sculptors make their proposals**

**City hosts first contest to develop memorable plaques for sites of ancient churches**

The second stage of the competition has finished, with Grodno sculptor Sergey Bildyuk's proposal chosen. His plaque is dedicated to Vytautas' Fara (church), destroyed in the city's historical centre some fifty years ago. Another famous artist — monumental master Vladimir Kachan — has also been chosen, for his plaque for St. Boris and Gleb's Monastery.