

Litesound going now to Baku

This band has won the national selective *EuroFest* contest, with their *We Are the Heroes* song. In line with the rules, the winner — who occupies first place as a result of voting by a professional jury and TV viewers — represents the country at *Eurovision-2012*, in Baku

By Viktor Korbut

Litesound, who conquered the public with their bulky car racer costumes, are now to go to Baku. They seem to have an intuitive sense of what will prove popular, even though their song may appear commonplace. Foreign journalists have proclaimed: "There is no other choice: *Litesound* was the only contestant with a good song!"

"Of course, we're pleased. We've been moving towards this all our life. This is a new era for us. We're happy and, naturally, will do everything possible to worthily represent our country in Baku," promise Dmitry and Vladimir Karyakiny, from *Litesound*.

Dmitry's social network page has seen fans requesting that the musicians leave their *We Are the Heroes* song unchanged (in line with the contest's rules, it can be changed until mid-March). Fans proclaim: "We've won *EuroFest* with this song and shall do so at *Eurovision!*" Nobody doubts that the musicians could compose an even better song but Dmitry Karyakin assures fans that their song has been chosen by Fate, so he has no plans to change it.

The musicians are to perform in Baku alongside Italian Jacopo Massa, who is known to Belarusians via the Festival Internazionale di Maiori in Italy — won by *Litesound*. In 2009, the popular young singer came to Minsk, recording *Solo Per Te* with the group; it later became a hit in Belarus and Italy. The move could encourage the Italians to award maximum points to the Belarusian band.

Dmitry Karyakin tells us how



Litesound band members during press conference

he became involved in music and shares his recipe for success at the national contest, alongside plans for the Baku show.

When did you begin studying music?

I loved the humanities: geography, history and literature — wishing to become either a writer or an artist. I was romantic and artistic, always feeling love. I often gave performances, dancing and singing, but eventually chose singing.

What inspired you to name the band Litesound?

I had a dream that the band would be successful under this name; I have no idea what guided me. How-

ever, I decided to let the dream come true.

What are your successes to date, besides your win in Italy and at EuroFest?

We wanted to record an album to worthily rival that of western singers. In 2008, our band recorded its debut: 'Going to Hollywood'. The album was the third bestselling in Belarus within just 25 days. Meanwhile, in 2011, our 'See You in Vegas' was given 'Best Video of the Year' at the National Music Award.

Litesound was founded in 2004 but only appeared in public in 2006 — during a selective round for Eurovision. Since then, you've par-

icipated in EuroFest four times. How did you succeed in winning this time?

In 2006, we were inspired by the idea after Belarusian TV announced the conditions of the contest. However, we endured long debate on whether it was a good move for the band. We decided to enter our song at the last minute — an hour before the application closing time. Ever since, we've been steadily moving towards victory in the national selective round. We're not used to losing.

Your victory in this year's EuroFest was announced some time later. When did you realise that you were placed first?

The Internet vote — held on the eve of 'EuroFest' — indicated that we were the winners, so we naturally had high hopes. Five thousand people were present in the audience at the contest and only 40-50 were from our fan-club: just 1 percent of those present. However, the whole audience supported us. Even 'Eurovision' winner Alexander Rybak admitted, "I'm a fan of 'Litesound'."

What will change if you win Eurovision?

It's most important that we worthily represent Belarus in Baku. We'll prove that our music is the equal of that in Western Europe and the USA.

Cembalo to sound at classical Eurovision

Cembalo player Alexandra Denisena to represent Belarus at Eurovision Young Musicians contest, held in Vienna in May

Belarus' representative has been announced after five finalists performed at the Bela-

rusian State Academy of Music, judged by a professional jury.

Alexandra Denisena was born 1994 in Minsk and has been attending the Republican Musical Gymnasium-College since her first year at school. She has been twice awarded with scholarships and has

been given three grand awards from the Special Fund of the President of Belarus to Support Talented Youth. The forum of young 'classical' musicians is held every two years. As is traditional, its final concert will launch the globally famous Vienna Festival.

Historical memory of humanity never fades

International conference on legal protection of world cultural heritage hosted by Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History

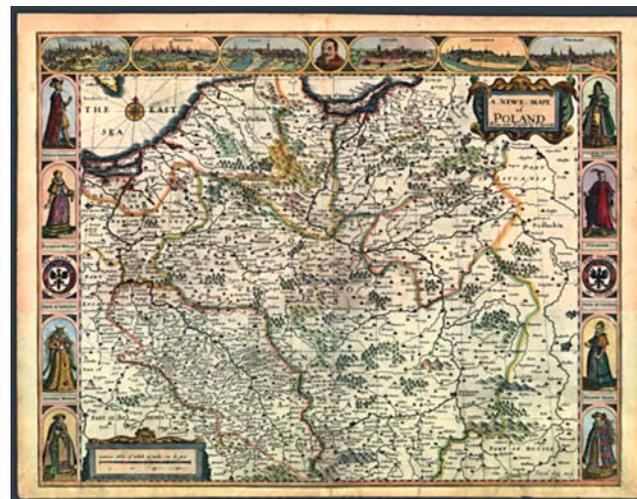
The conference has been held as part of the Days of Culture Protection, attended by scientists, university lecturers, post-graduate students, museum curators and representatives

of public organisations from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and India. They discussed the legal protection of world cultural heritage, in line with the Roerich Pact and the Hague Convention. The goal is to raise awareness of preservation, restoration and the legal protection of cultural heritage.

"The event aims to influence public consciousness regarding

the preservation of historical treasures which determine our national-cultural identity," notes the MITSO International University — one of the organisers of the event. Others include the Belarusian State Museum of Great Patriotic War History, the Belarusian Department of the Roerich International Centre and the Belarusian Roerich Fund public association.

Exhibition shows early mapmaking



By Nadezhda Radionova

Nesvizh museum hosts Belarus: 16th-18th Century Cartographic Sources exhibition of maps

The exhibition is being organised as part of the *Nesvizh:*

Cultural Capital of Belarus 2012 Republican campaign. It showcases original exhibits, as well as digital copies, and features 15 maps. The most interesting is the first large-scale map of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, called the 'Radziwiłł map', dating from 1613 and

commissioned by one of the richest magnates of the time — Mikołaj Krzysztof Radziwiłł (Sierotka). Its information was collated in the late 16th-early 17th century, in Nesvizh.

The full version of the map comprises two parts: the map of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania itself and that of the lower course of the River Dnieper, with rifts. In total, it indicates 1,039 settlements, including 544 in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania; 342 of these are on Belarusian territory. All inscriptions are in Latin — referring to historical data, or making comments on settlements or giving other information.

The 'Radziwiłł map' represents a momentous step in European mapmaking and was the most popular source on the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in European mapmaking for two centuries.