

Belorusskie Pesnyary ensemble conquers Kremlin audience

This year, *Pesnyary* decided to remind the Russian public of its founder, Vladimir Mulyavin, giving a concert in his memory not just anywhere but at the illustrious Kremlin: a special honour!

By Victoria Popova

Kremlin concerts in Russia offer the ultimate recognition for artists. Although Vladimir Mulyavin never performed at the Kremlin himself, his group was welcomed with standing ovations. Many famous artists sang duets with the much-loved band: Oleg Gazmanov, Alexander Marshall, Larisa Dolina, Iosif Kobzon and Tamara Gverdtsiteli. *Buranovskije Babushki* perhaps received the most applause for their duet of *Mowed Yas Clover* — in Belarusian, Udmurt and Russian language. *Belorusskie Pesnyary* jokes, “We wanted to sing with *Viagra* but were told that, being Belarusian grandfathers, *Buranovskije Babushki* were more suitable!”

Vladislav Misevich, who helped found the ensemble in 1969, joined composer and singer Oleg Averin in sharing his emotions with us immediately after the concert.

Vlad, who had the idea of such a magnificent programme?

Mr. Shchelokov, the former director of *Pesnyary*, who has always stood out from the crowd and remains a jazz musician at heart, is a big businessman. He came to us, offering to organise the



Belorusskie Pesnyary concert proves success at Moscow's Kremlin

concert to mark the tenth anniversary of the death of Mr. Mulyavin. Playing with *Pesnyary* and all with which it's associated have been the best years of our lives and, as it turns out, the same is true for the wonderful artists who agreed to duet our golden hits with us. Some top performers were unable to join us due to prior commitments.

Unfortunately, these days,

show business in Moscow is crazy; everything is done quickly, which often results in loss of quality.

What are the main advantages of having played the Kremlin concert?

Mr. Averin: Of course, there are some. I'm always looking ahead, planning tomorrow's achievements.

Mr. Misevich: I don't like to do this, preferring to see

the concert as purely an event to remember Mr. Mulyavin. We seek to unite rather than divide and view friendly relations between our two countries as more than an empty phrase.

Oleg, I know that you arranged some of the duets. Was it easy for you to work with *Buranovskije Babushki*?

They are a very disci-

plined group. We met to discuss which parts they'd sing in *'Mowed Yas Clover'*. They're lovely grandmothers and have much to offer creatively, so we agreed on everything quite quickly. On stage, they were very shy, so we had to rehearse a lot... but it worked!

As the concert was successful, can it be repeated? Are the songs of Vladimir Mulyavin in demand today?

What do you think?

Mr. Misevich: Nothing is eternal and today's young people, to whom we'd like to pass our heritage, have very different musical tastes. Some young artists have begun singing in English but, often, so badly that it's uncomfortable to listen to them. Most importantly, it becomes unclear which national culture they represent.

Mr. Averin: There was a time when the whole great country of the USSR listened to the songs of Vladimir Mulyavin, so they were known by the majority. Today, his songs are remembered only by those who love them. Those who don't know them have no idea. In my opinion, in Belarus, people treat good songs with respect. If a young artist performs them, they may be reborn for a new generation, living on.

Mr. Misevich: Our concert programme included Luchenok's *'Cranes fly to Polesie'* — performed perfectly by Ruslan Alekhno. Larisa Dolina was also inspired by the programme and has promised to take several *'Pesnyary'* songs into her repertoire. So, I think, this will help sustain our songs' popularity. Actually, the organisers have suggested that we repeat the concert. God willing, we'll certainly organise another.

Guests to be welcomed at January Music Evenings

35th International Classical Music Festival to be held in Brest from 8-12th January

The city on the River Bug is to welcome musicians and vocalists from 25 countries across Europe and the CIS, as well as those from the USA, China and Japan. It is the largest representation in the history of the festival, with over 700 musicians and singers expected. More than 60

leading singers are set to attend, while those from Denmark, Sweden and Jamaica are coming for the first time.

The Brest Academic Drama and Music Theatre (named after Lenin) will be hosting such world celebrities as People's Artist of Russia Zakhar Bron (violin), People's Artist of the Georgian SSR and People's Artist of the USSR Liana Isakadze (violin), and Peo-

ple's Artist of Kyrgyzstan Vladislav Piavko (tenor). According to the Chair of the Regional Public Association Brest Music Society, Lilia Batyreva, other 'firsts' include a major children's event, featuring international talent from Moldova, Poland, Kazakhstan, Ukraine, Lithuania and Belarus; children aged 7 are to perform in a joint programme on the festival opening day.

Winged car for Hollywood action film

Emergency Situations Ministry of Belarus helicopter in *Die Hard-5*

The Press Secretary of the Emergency Situations Ministry, Vitaly Novitsky, notes that the helicopter was repainted and given a red five-pointed star, transforming the ordinary white Mi-26 into a military helicopter. Only its origi-

nal tail number revealed its 'normal life'. The terms of the film contract prevent Mr. Novitsky from saying more but, now that the shoot is over, the paint has been washed off.

Until the premiere is screen in February 2013, none of those taking part can reveal anything about their roles. However, the rescuers

who participated have been left with some wonderful memories. Besides 'acting' in the film, the helicopter was used to transport aircraft fuselage to the next shooting location, about 70-80 km away. According to Mr. Novitsky, such operations have been performed only once before.

Eurovision sings its songs

By Yelena Mikhailovskaya

Belarusian Yegor Zheshko has come ninth at the 10th Junior Eurovision Song Contest

The winner was Ukraine's charming Anastasia Petrik, aged ten, whose surprisingly mature, strong voice brought her 138 points. Belarus was among those countries giving her the maximum 12 points for her rendition of *Sky* in Ukrainian and English. Second place went to Georgia's *Funkids* band, with Armenia's *Compass Band* coming third.

Anastasia's victory is the first for Ukraine at the children's contest in its seven years of participation. She sings with the Interior Ministry choir and has already taken part in the Children's *New Wave Song Contest*. Her elder sister, Victoria, came second at *Junior Eurovision-2008*. The Petrik family lives in the suburbs of Odessa, in the village of Nerubaiskoe.



Yegor Zheshko performs

Immediately after the competition, Anastasia admitted that she would love a new dog and hopes that her father will give her a puppy in honour of her victory in Amsterdam.

The head of the Belarusian delegation, Lyudmila Borodina, was delighted by the performance of our team, saying, “Yegor has done well. As far as the voting results are concerned, they are always unpredictable.”

The favourite with bookmakers and journalists was Russia's Lerika singing her *Sensation*. She finished in

fourth place but promises to reach the adult *Eurovision Song Contest*.

Yegor Zheshko brings home many impressions and new friends from Amsterdam and believes that Anastasia Petrik's win is deserved. He admits, “She sung best of all.” The vote took place in two stages, with the jury's decision announced almost immediately after the first round of performances. The second round saw an audience vote, with Anastasia proving the most popular over the two rounds.