

All muses fly to Nesvizh

Musicians of famous orchestra visit 'little Paris' once more

By Irina Savelieva

The *Muses of Nesvizh-2013* Chamber Music Festival was hosted on May 17th and 18th, being held for 18th time in the ancient city: known as 'little Paris'. The event was a combined effort by the National Academic Concert Orchestra of Belarus and the Ministry of Culture, Minsk Regional Executive Committee and the Nesvizh District Executive Committee.

"Eighteen years ago, the Nesvizh festival was the first, becoming a model for another 16 small towns countrywide, including cultural and historical centres of Belarus such as Zaslavl, Turov Mstislavl, Chechersk and Mir. This year, Lyuban and Gorky joined the list. The residents of these festival towns know more about the musical art of Belarus than most of the citizens of Minsk. Those who came to those early Nesvizh concerts now return with their children and grandchildren. Over the years, we've studied the history of Belarusian national music, restoring the popularity of composers who lived and worked in the territory of Belarus. They're known and appreciated all over Europe, so it's an artistic heritage of which we can be proud," emphasises the Artistic Director of the National Academic Concert Orchestra, People's Artist of Belarus Mikhail Finberg.



Classical music under open sky at ancient Ratushnaya Square in Nesvizh

The famous orchestra takes part in many educational concerts, helped by art historians and musical experts. In fact, the Nesvizh festivals are annually accompanied by conferences, with the participation of leading Belarusian scientists. So far, 17 books on the history of Nesvizh and its artis-

tic heritage have been published. *Muses of Nesvizh-2013* kicked off with a conference and book launch: *Through Exploration and Discovery*. The orchestra then presented five different genres of concert programme: all premieres.

A string quartet played at the district library while the town hall

hosted an assembly of wind instruments for the first time. String music opened the festival ancient Belarusian compositions resounded through the Radziwill Castle. The two-day festival ended with a concert of popular songs featuring top pop artists, crowning a wealth of successful events. There were

even two art exhibitions and the presentation of a play entitled *God is Love*, by Alexey Dudarev. Staged by the honoured amateur theatre group named after Ursula Radziwill, from the Nesvizh District Centre of Culture and Leisure, it complemented the other entertainments perfectly.

New face for museum

By Victoria Popova

National Art Museum sums up results of recent open design contest to create entry ticket

Anna Melnichuk, a student of the Vitebsk State Technological University, has claimed the main prize, with her design depicting *To Kupalle*, by Minsk artist Mikhail Filippovich (1896-1947). The new tickets may be ready by next year.

Ms. Melnichuk's work was chosen from 62 sketches by the jury of nine, under her anony-

mous entry number of 36, having claimed the highest number of points.

Juror Irina Skvortsova — who heads the National Art Museum's Department for Educational Activity — believes Anna's work to be perfect 'in its compositional structure, colour choice and many other professional aspects'. She adds, "The museum places high demands on this contest, as the ticket becomes a 'calling card for the year'; I'm pleased that the winning ticket depicts a fragment of a picture held by our museum."

Word of honour of well-known Moniuszko

Minsk hosts Stanisław Moniuszko's *Verbum Nobile* opera — staged for the first time

The homeland of the outstanding Belarusian composer is staging his opera for the first time: 150 years after its premiere in Poland. The landmark lyrical comedy opera is being presented by the Gallery Chamber Music Theatre, with support from the Classics Music House, staged at the Palace of Trade Unions. In late June, the play will be shown at the Grodno Region Puppet Theatre.

The world premiere of *Verbum Nobile* took place in 1861, in Warsaw, where Stanisław Moniuszko

lived and worked. Its slick comedic plot, bright characters and wealth of melodies brought deserved success and marked the opera as among the best works of the composer.

The plot tackles the eternal theme of love and details the tradition of noble families allying through marriage: children were 'promised' (in *verbum nobile* — the word of honour of a gentleman). Young nobleman Stanislav falls victim to an accident and finds shelter at the house of landowner Lagoda. There, he is cared for by Zosya, the landowner's daughter, and they fall in love. However, Zosya is already promised to the son of her father's friend...

Office to be shown in Moscow



Belarusian performance is acute in Russia

Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre performance being presented at Chekhov International Theatre Festival

The Moscow Drama Theatre

(named after A.S. Pushkin) will be hosting the performance of *Office* in late May. The tour will then go on to Riga in early July.

The contemporary play is by Ger-

many's Ingrid Lausund and has been directed by Yekaterina Averkova for the past three years, starring Mikhail Zuy, Sergey Rudenya, Olga Skvortsova, Pavel Kharlanchuk-Yuzhakov and Victoria Chavlytko. It shows the lives of five office employees and is billed as 'spinelessness in one act', detailing how we can lose our individuality when part of the corporate system.

The festival is to feature another performance by the Kupala Theatre: *The Wedding*, based on Chekhov's play, staged by Vladimir Pankov. It took part in the forum three years ago and, this year, the performance is being staged jointly by the Culture Ministry of Belarus, the Yanka Kupala National Academic Theatre and the International Confederation of Theatre Unions, for the Chekhov International Theatre Festival. It will be shown in late May at the Mossovet State Academic Theatre.

Traces of Apostles TV drama

National Belarusfilm Cinema Studio completes four-part television drama by director Sergey Talybov

The thrilling adventure series is set on the family estate of the Radziwill Dukes, in Nesvizh, combining all the elements of 'must see' television. Underground tunnels are depicted as hosting the countless treasures of their former owners. Myth and reality, mystery and mys-

ticism, murders and love intertwine for the characters as they search for the hidden treasures, while caught between Soviet and German intelligence services and members of occulted societies.

The series stars Belarusian Veronika Plyashkevich, Pavel Kharlanchuk-Yuzhakov, Igor Sigov, Dmitry Mukhin, Oleg Garbuz and Tatiana Markhel and is a joint venture by the National Belarusfilm Cinema

Studio, PervayaKinoVideoKompaniya and the Second National TV Channel.

It is the first series to be created under the new system of cinema production financing, having been chosen via a national contest, conducted by the Belarusian Culture Ministry last spring.

The National Belarusfilm Cinema Studio is now working on a film version of the drama series.