

Flight of *Golden Bee* in land of childhood

13th International Children's Art Festival, held in Mogilev, gathers over 600 children from 12 countries

By Lyudmila Frolova

When the streets of the small town of Klimovichi become crowded with girls and boys speaking different languages, and the central park turns into a huge trade fair, the *Golden Bee* festival of young musicians, artists and craftsmen must be underway. Held for the thirteenth time, this prestigious competition began as a regional concert for young singers and dancers. Now, it's an international event gathering representatives from 20 countries.

"While most towns mark the years from one New Year to another, we count our 'Bee' festivals," smiles Klimovichi District Executive Committee Chairman Vasily Zakharenko. "We're already planning next year's event."

The festival's logo features

a lyre, a *Golden Bee* and 'cells', in which are written the names of country-participants. It even takes the form of a sculpture in town, drawing those seeking a souvenir photo. Most guests remark on the wonderful hospitality they enjoy in the Dnieper River area, which boasts a great many attractive towns and villages, as well as clubs to encourage children's creativity.

"We're attending the festival for the first time and are happy to have the opportunity to find out more about your culture, while showing ours," noted the head of *Daryn* choir, from Kazakhstan, Altyn Zhumatina. The girls from Ukrainian *Wreath* were clear about their goal: winning a prize. However, competition was great, and standards extremely



Festival has brought its participants lots of joyful emotions

high. The eventual Grand Prix winners were folk singer Yegor Sharankov, from Svetlogorsk's *Lira* Studio, Vilnius'

Mini Jazz group, Moldova's *Busuioc Moldovenesc* group, from the town of Singerei, and Nizhny Novgorod's *Rock-*

et group. Dozens received diplomas of the first, second and third degree while others took home special awards.

Friend-uniting accords

Postavy hosts 16th International Festival of Folk Music — *Cembalo* and Accordion Playing

The musical forum opened with the National Academic Folk Orchestra (named after Zhinovich) and the wonderful Belarusian State *Khoroshki* Choreographic Ensemble.

A contest of bands and individual folk instrument performers crowned the event, gathering musicians from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania, Latvia, Slovakia and Venezuela. In addition, an open-air exhibition of Belarusian painters opened, dedicated to the 180th anniversary of the birth of Alfred Romer (a Belarusian, Lithuanian and Polish artist, sculptor, portraitist, art expert and ethnographer). The House of Culture organised an exhibition of folk instruments, while a craft village occupied courtyards around Postavy's central square. The second day of the festival ended with a youth programme and an evening disco.

The festival closed on June 9th, with a concert of classical music, a performance by a military wind band, a theatrical parade of participants and guests, fireworks, the unveiling of a plaque in the city park — dedicated to the folk music festival — and a final gala-concert.

Awards inspire future efforts

Candidates for Union State Award in field of literature and art for 2013-2014 are named in Minsk



National Academic Choir (named after G. Tsitovich) performs

By Valentina Matusevich

The award was first given in 2002, received by Russian actor Alexey Petrenko, Belarusian playwright Alexey Dudarev and People's Writer of Belarus Ivan Shamyakin. Since then, the prize has been awarded every two years. Laureates have included artists Mikhail Savitsky and Valentin Sidorov, the Tkachev brothers and Leonid Shchemelev, actors Alexander Kalyagin and Rostislav Yankovsky, composer Alexandra Pakhmutova and conductor Mikhail Finberg. In the opinion of the Expert Council, all have made a major contribution to strengthening

brotherhood, friendship and co-operation between Union State members.

This year, eleven candidates have been announced. Those from Belarus are sculptor Ivan Misko, People's Artist of Belarus Gavriil Vashchenko — for his *Courage* series of paintings, and the National Academic Folk Chorus of Belarus (named after Tsitovich and headed by People's Artist Mikhail Drinevsky).

Mr. Misko admits, "I was nominated once before but didn't win. Maybe this time, I'll be lucky." He loves to take part in competitions, although winning is not most important to him. He simply

loves to try something new and move forward, although he certainly knows how he'd spend his prize money: on furthering his work. Not a day goes by without him sculpting. His personal exhibition launches soon, so he's working on new projects. He also tells us, "We're planning to install a relief sculpture depicting astronauts Piotr Klimuk, Vladimir Kovalenok and Oleg Novitsky: all of Belarusian origin. It would be placed on the end of a building on Kosmonavtov Street, in Minsk. Oleg Novitsky learnt of the project on returning recently from his space mission, when he visited his homeland."

Of the current candidates, Ivan Misko is the only sculptor. He comments, "I'm not familiar with the other contenders for the award but I know that there are no other sculptors. I will hope for good luck. In any case, the rest of my life lies ahead so I'll keep moving forward, studying the unknown. The award is another source of inspiration, giving me strength to work, work and work."

All of the projects and candidates will soon be submitted for public discussion, going on show at the 22nd International *Slavianski Bazaar in Vitebsk* Arts Festival. The final decision will be made in November.

Adventures for children and adults

By Nadezhda Silvestrova

Belarusfilm National Film Studio shooting two-part children's adventure *Polesie Robinsons*, or *Wonder-Island*, based on Yanka Mavr's famous *Polesie Robinsons*

Polesie Robinsons, or *Wonder-Island*, tells of the adventures of Ilya, Miron and his sister Julia, who set off in search of an island. They're joined by journalist Vasily and treasure hunter Yuri, seeking news sensations and wealth respectively. Miron's grandfather, Vladlen, wants to guard the children against dangers so acts as their guide through Polesie's marshes. The children learn to overcome all obstacles, using courage and brains and, importantly, friendship. Belarusian schoolchildren play the main roles: Alexander Talako, Mikhail Karenetsky, Yegor Rozsudovsky and Yegor Shik from Minsk, alongside Anastasia Kravchenya from Gomel (the Laureate of the Audience Favourite Prize in *I am Singing* 2011).

People's Artist of the USSR Gennady Ovsyannikov joins People's Artist of Belarus Alexander Tkachenok and Sergey Vlasov, Igor Denisov and Vladimir Ivanov in the film scripted by Fiodor Konev and Yegor Konev. Produced by Sergey Sychev, the two hour film is being shot in Berezinsky Biosphere Reserve, Nesvizh and Mir, as well as at the Belarusfilm Studio.

Uninvited alchemist to appear from the past

Belarusfilm National Film Studio starts shooting *Incredible Movement* children's adventurous comedy by debutant director Alexander Anismov

The *Incredible Movement* is also the first fiction full-length work by script writer Rita Shagrai — the author of the Fear short-length film (part of the *Territory of Opposition* war almanac) and plays for children.

The character of the film is a fourth grade pupil Vanya Fiodorov who dreams of a computer programme which is able to fulfil home tasks instead of him. However, the experiment of the young genius leads to a completely unexpected result — the appearance of uninvited guests from the past in the face of famous alchemist, as well as a couple of furious inquisitors who prosecute him. Now, the task of the heroes is to change the situation and return everything to their places.