

# Amazing vibrations on gentle guitar

Born in a village near Baranovich, Vladimir Maisyuk is an ordinary young man with a yearning to capture others' hearts with his music. Over time, he's become a skilled musician with his own unique style. A guitar is not merely a musical instrument to him but a living entity, allowing him to express his feelings imaginatively. It took 15 years for him to record his first CD and, on August 1st, he presented *Fretwalk* in Minsk.

By Yuliana Leonovich

Mr. Maisyuk tells us, "Fretwalk is an accumulation of many years of thoughts and ideas. Each song has its own history, filling me with happy recollections. Most are pleasant, mixed with a few sad memories. *Colombiana* is a song devoted to a girl I met from Columbia while *Rainy Forest* was composed on visiting my parents in their village. The latter recalls my childhood, filled with nature's scents and sounds. I don't tend to use vocals, having only one composition with some Indie-style singing.

**Does Belarus have its own guitar school?**

Such schools exist but aren't in-

dependent, so are strongly influenced by other traditions: mostly those from the USA and the UK. We lack our own path, sadly. Unlike the USA, we've never witnessed a general guitar glut.

**Does this mean that there's no demand for guitar music in our country?**

There's no mass market. Guitar music does not rival Lady GaGa or Beyoncé; it lacks the popularity of pop music. However, we occupy our own niche in the world of music and have quite a lot of fans. Steven Vai gathers audiences of thousands for his concerts although you very rarely hear him on the radio.

**Does it tend to be performed in small underground clubs and**



Vladimir Maisyuk eager to promote his creativity more widely

bars?

We don't need to gather a full hall at the Palace of the Republic since guitar lovers will come to listen at small bars as well as at huge sports-and-entertainment complexes. Our concerts differ from pop music, only attracting true lovers of guitar music rather than casual fans.

**Will instrumental music ever rival pop music?**

There's no need. My compositions aren't the kind you listen to while cooking an omelette. They're perfect for meditation and reflection. You can sit and relax while listening to them, musing on feelings, problems and human values. If you ask people whether they know any Belarusian guitarists, they might name DiDyuLya but probably couldn't hum one of his songs.

**DiDyuLya and Irina Ignatyuk are widely known to Belarusians after having conquered Moscow with their music. Is this the prerequisite for popularity in our homeland: becoming famous in Russia?**

It's showbiz... However, Moscow is not the sky and there's no need to head there alone. I look much farther and yet also believe it's unnecessary to leave the country to gain popularity. A guitar player can gain fame in Belarus.

**Why isn't it happening then?**

So far, nobody has persistently tackled the task. People tend to underestimate their strength and capabilities. They often lack faith that someone needs their artistry.

**The MT's reference:**

For over a decade, Vladimir Maisyuk has played for international projects: *Cinderella Rockefeller* (Canada) and *In-Tune* (Australia — New Zealand — Columbia). He enjoys the greatest number of international titles among Belarusian guitarists: in 2010, he was placed among the top 100 at the Guitar Idol World Competition and took first place at the Fusion Funk Guitar contest.

## Putting Mel Gibson in the shade

**Belarusfilm National Film Studio begins shooting lyrical comedy entitled *Happy Women's Day, Men!* in cooperation with Russian Moskit Production Company**

The film's plot very much resembles the famous Hollywood comedy *What Women Want*, starring Mel Gibson, except that

the Belarusian variant shows a woman being privy to men's inner thoughts.

An international team from Belarus, Russia, France and the USA are working on the film, which is to feature Maria Berseneva, of the series *Margosha*. Supporting roles are being played by Belarusian Konstantin Lavysch (already

working in Hollywood), American Steven Nelson and Russian Vera Alentova and Maxim Vitorgan.

Artem Aksenenko is directing the film, with scenes shot in Belarus and in Russia, with a budget of about \$3 million. The film's premiere will take place next year, coinciding with International Women's Day.

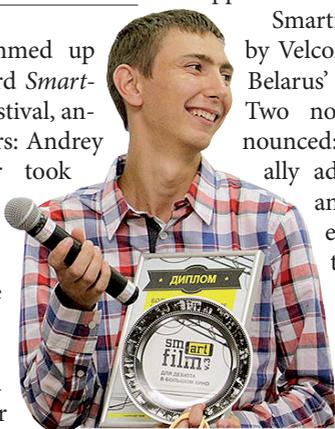
## Mirror going to Hollywood

Perfect film can be shot on smartphone camera

By Irina Maskevich

Apple iPad.

Minsk has summed up the results of the 3rd *Smartfilm* Mobile Film Festival, announcing its winners: Andrey Levkovich's *Mirror* took first place, followed by Yuri Kopotkov's *Cinema*. In line with the contest rules, the main victor travels to Los Angeles, visiting a Hollywood film studio; the latter is awarded with an



Yuri Kopotkov

Smartfilm was organised by Velcom, with support from Belarus' Culture Ministry. Two nominations were announced: PRO (for professionally advanced film makers) and LIGHT (for less experienced). The festival's creative concept reads: 'Great Cinema in Mobile Format!' Its organisers are convinced that worthy films can be shot on modest budgets —

even filmed on a smartphone.

The contest invited anyone to take part — directing and shooting their own short film on a smartphone camera. Many creative people entered, judged by an authoritative jury, headed by famous Russian film director Valeriya Gai Germanika.

Last year, the contest gathered 74 works but, this time, 113 films were presented — including 60 in the PRO nomination. These rising figures please the project organisers, indicating not merely increased interest but a higher quality of submissions.



Exhibition at Minsk church

## Colourful palette of photo vernisage

**Traditions of Orthodoxy in Poland on show at photo exhibition in one of Minsk's centres of spiritual education**

More than 200 photos by 57 photographers are on display, in black-and-white and colour, depicting religious traditions, Orthodox leaders and churches located in neighbouring Poland, taking us on

a delightful excursion.

The Belarusian Exarchate's Joy of All Who Sorrow Centre for Spiritual Education and Social Service is hosting the exhibition, entitled *Colours of Orthodoxy: Poland*, which will run for a month, and coincides with the 1,025th anniversary of the coming of Christianity to Kievan Rus.