

Yuri Bashmet supports young talents

CIS Youth Music Academy gathers students from ten countries

By Olga Prokhorchenko

Over 30 of the best music students from Belarus, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have taken part in the 3rd CIS Youth Music Academy. The eight-day training course concluded with a concert by students and professors at the Belarusian State Philharmonic.

The forum featured laureates and prize holders of the Special Fund of the President of Belarus

for Support of the Talented Youth, as well as the CIS' top young performers. The Music Academy was segmented into academic singing, violin, alto, cello, clarinet, percussion and piano.

"Our Academy 'baby' has just turned three, now standing on both feet and starting to move forward. It allows young artists to meet renowned performers of today, learning through master classes, individual classes, artistic meetings and joint performances," explained People's Artiste of Russia Yuri Bashmet before the concert.



Yuri Bashmet appreciates live communication of CIS Youth Music Academy, headquartered in Minsk

The Academy is part of the 6th International Yuri Bashmet Festival, held in Minsk, aiming to preserve and promote classical art, find and support young talent, encourage new ideas

and strengthen cultural links between CIS member states.

Mr. Bashmet notes that the 3rd CIS Youth Music Academy 'has gone beyond Minsk's borders', as its concert was hosted by Gomel's

Palace and Park Estate. Gomel is this year's Cultural Capital of Belarus and the CIS. Young performers and prominent musicians demonstrated their artistry at the Palace's White Hall.

The 3rd CIS Youth Music Academy was held under the auspices of the CIS Interstate Humanitarian Co-operation Fund and the Culture Ministry of Belarus.

Red carpet unrolled for theatre trendsetters with huge success

Theatre Academy chooses best theatrical figures for first time

Despite its many years of existence, the Belarusian theatre has been long in gaining its own 'Oscar' ceremony; the need for a special award has been acute. The 'Crystal Paulinka' is traditionally awarded to recognise the work of famous masters or newcomers but fails to reflect current trends. However, the new, annual National Theatre Award is making amends.

The first awards ceremony has taken place at the National Academic Bolshoi Opera and Ballet Theatre, gathering the elite of Belarusian theatre. Twelve troupes presented performances to a Theatre Academy jury of 112 people, who cast their votes by secret ballot. Jurors were from various schools and generations, ensuring a diverse range of views, and resulting in hot debate.

"It was a complete surprise for me to see Alexey Lelyavsky and his puppet show win 'Best Stage Work,'" notes the artistic director of the Republican Theatre of Belarusian Drama, Valery Anisenko. "The puppet genre is quite alien to me, although I admit that it's justified in its existence: it enjoys many fans. The prize shows that winners are chosen without bias."

The Yanka Kupala Academic Theatre's production of *Not Mine*,



Red carpet takes artistes to theatrical Olympus

based on Ales Adamovich's novel *Nemko*—staged by Alena Kolyunova and Alexander Gartsuev—claimed the greatest number of awards: 'Best Modern Belarusian Production'; 'Best Production Design' (artist — Boris Gerlovan, costumes and set — Yelena Igrusha); 'Best Music' (composer Oleg Khodosko); and 'Best Female Role' (actress Svetlana Anikey). The performance shared 'Best Belarusian Performance' with the National Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre's *Nabucco* — by Verdi and staged by chief director Mikhail Pandzhavidze. "No doubt, this is a shared victory," admits Mr. Gartsuev. "In honesty, I felt slightly

awkward sitting in the audience, as I never expected to see so many awards."

Director Boris Lutsenko notes with satisfaction, "It's wonderful that this award ceremony has been launched. I think that, next year, we'll see it held on a new level. Teams will plan their projects ahead of time, advancing our professional state of mind and stimulating creativity."

We are now entering a new phase for Belarusian theatre, analysing today's trends countrywide and recognising excellence. A new level of competitiveness is to be expected, to the benefit of all parties.

From the point of view of young journalists

Children's Internet television appears in Vitebsk

The VDV — Vitebsk Children's Television project has been implemented by the Vitebsk and Company Information-Consulting Association and gorod.vitebsk.by Internet portal. Sonya, aged 10, and Lera, 6, who already have television experience, are its first stars.

"With the help of adult professional colleagues, editors and cameramen, the girls will be making reports

on the city and its events, on interesting personalities and on various topics dealing with culture and trade — of interest to children and adults alike," explains Andrey Lapin, the Director of the gorod.vitebsk.by Internet portal.

"This is our first step. In future, we plan to attract a greater number of children and teenagers who are keen on journalism. VDV will help them develop their creativity, while implementing various international projects. It will arouse greater interest in Vitebsk among our Internet audience too," he notes.

Beauty under scrutiny

Artist Andrey Krylov and photographer Sergey Kholodilin present *Not All Roads Lead to Home to Gomel* audience, aiming to show that photography and painting perfectly complement one another

The exhibition of artworks by the two masters has opened at Gavriil Vashchenko's Picture Gallery, demonstrating 40 works in various styles. Andrey Krylov's pictures and Sergey Kholodilin's photos are united by the common theme of our external and inner beauty.

The exhibition will move from Gomel in mid-November to Mozyr and Zhlobin, before heading for Latvia. Gomel is hosting the exhibition as part of its role

as Cultural Capital of Belarus and the CIS for 2011.

Mr. Krylov works in monumental painting and is a member of the Artists' Union of Belarus. He has presented over 40 personal exhibitions throughout the CIS and beyond and his works are also kept by Belarusian museums and in private collections. Mr. Kholodilin worked as a BELTA photographer for over twenty years in the Gomel Region, while presenting photo exhibitions in Gomel, Moscow, Germany, France and Poland. He holds the 'For Spiritual Revival' Presidential Award in the 'Pictorial Art' nomination and was named 'Best Photojournalist' at the 3rd *Golden Letter (Zolotaya Litera)* National Contest for the Printed Media.