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## **Feature**

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### **The New Shostakovich Archive**

By Lewis Owens, President of the UK Shostakovich Society

The UK Shostakovich Society was established to promote the work of Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–75) through various concerts, recitals, publications, lectures and events across the UK. Previous events have included a Shostakovich Day in association with the Centre for Russian Music at Goldsmiths College, London; a weekend of concerts in Cambridge, Oxford and London dedicated to *Shostakovich and Jewish Music* and featuring the St Petersburg pianist Marina Primachenko; and the Western premiere of Shostakovich's *Symphony No 4* arranged by the composer for two pianos and performed by Rustem Hayroudinoff and Colin Stone with a pre-concert talk by Boris Tishchenko. Other recent events have included a concert featuring the music of Shostakovich and Pasternak, hosted by Evgeny Pasternak.

The Society is a registered charity and has close links with the Centre Chostakovitch in Paris and the Shostakovich family. It also has a wide membership consisting of people from all walks of life and, as a Society, it is our responsibility that all events and publications are accessible to all. Honorary members include Maxim Shostakovich, Boris Tishchenko, Lord Harewood, Vladimir Ashkenazy, Claudio Abbado, Rudolf Barshai, Alexander Lazarev and Sir Edward Downes. The Fitzwilliam String Quartet, whom Shostakovich gave personal permission to perform the UK premiere of his last three *String Quartets*, are the Society's affiliated Quartet. The composer's widow, Irina Antonovna Shostakovich, is fully aware of the appreciation that the British public has had towards her late husband's work, both now and in the past, and comments in a letter of support towards the UK Shostakovich Society that during the composer's life "the serious interest in and deep understanding of Shostakovich's music was an ever-present attribute of the British musical scene, notably thanks to many remarkable and enthusiastic performers".

The centenary celebrations for Shostakovich have been a fitting testament to the composer's life and work, and the UK Shostakovich Society continues to support as many projects as possible. Notable sponsorship and support include the UK tour of Scottish pianist Murray McLachlan, the highlight of which was a Wigmore Hall performance on 10 September, and the complete performance of Shostakovich's *24 Preludes and Fugues* by respected pianist Colin Stone at Cadogan Hall on 12 November. This event will be introduced by Vladimir Ashkenazy, whose recording of the cycle remains one of the most highly

acclaimed. Outside of the UK, the Society is delighted to be sponsoring the Fitzwilliam String Quartet for four concerts in St Petersburg at the end of October, culminating in a performance of Shostakovich's much loved *Piano Quintet* at the beautiful Sheremetyev Palace with Ukrainian pianist Tanya Ursova.



Kukryniksy cartoon of Shostakovich, 1942  
(SCRSS Library)

In early September the UK Shostakovich Society presented a large international conference, *Shostakovich: Centenary Reflections*, at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, which featured leading speakers and performers from Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan, the USA and Europe. The conference also previewed the documentary *The Unknown Shostakovich*, which will be shown at the Barbican on 1 October.

The UK Shostakovich Society will be moving to the Centre for Russian Music, Goldsmiths College, University of London, from 1 October. This relocation will coincide with the opening of the UK Shostakovich Society Archive, which will sit proudly next to similar collections dedicated to Prokofiev and Schnittke. The aim is, in time, to create a

substantial research base that will be accessible to all, including an on-line catalogue. The Archive is currently a mixture of various academic and personal contributions. Indeed, the UK Shostakovich Society is extremely grateful to the family of the late Andrew Mallows for assisting so generously with his wish that all his Shostakovich collection be left to the Archive. We also thank Derek Hulme for his generous donation. As a result of these and other donations, the Archive currently contains:

- Original letters from Shostakovich and various copies of correspondence
- Several editions of the *New Collected Works* (to be completed) and other scores
- Hundreds of academic books on Shostakovich and related subjects (English, Russian and other languages)
- Hundreds of CDs, LPs and tapes of various recordings and radio broadcasts
- A complete edition of the *DSCH Journal*
- Several films containing the music of Shostakovich
- Four boxes of press cuttings donated by Boosey and Hawkes
- Hundreds of programme booklets from the 1950s onwards
- Several signed scores of Boris Tishchenko dedicated to the UK Shostakovich Society

The Archive will be opened by Maxim Shostakovich on 5 October at the Deptford Town Hall Council Chamber, with a reception and display of some of the archive material from 6–7pm, followed by a recital at 7.30pm\*.

Contact details for the Society from 1 October 2006:

The UK Shostakovich Society  
21 Laurie Grove (Room 3)  
Goldsmiths College  
University of London  
New Cross  
London, SE14 6NW  
Email: [Shostakovich@gold.ac.uk](mailto:Shostakovich@gold.ac.uk)  
Web: [www.shostakovich-uk.com](http://www.shostakovich-uk.com)

Membership of the UK Shostakovich Society costs £20 per year and entitles members to the DSCH Journal, published twice a year, as well as reductions to various events and concerts throughout the UK.

*\* Admission to the official opening of the Archive is free, although numbers are restricted due to space considerations. Members of the UK Shostakovich Society are guaranteed admittance; non-members should contact the author if they wish to attend.*

## **SCRSS News**

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### **New Era Appeal**

In August 2005 the SCRSS launched its £25,000 New Era Appeal, aimed at helping us to modernise and develop our unique library and collections, upgrade our equipment and make further essential improvements to our premises. Up to August this year, members and friends have responded with a generous £10,850. The money donated has been used to upgrade our IT and telephone systems and to commence the digitisation of our very important photographic collection.

Below are details of recent and forthcoming activities, all indicating how vital the Society's work continues to be. But such activity requires finance: if you can contribute towards the remaining amount of the New Era Appeal, we urgently request that you do so now. In addition, if your membership subscription is overdue, please ensure that it is paid promptly at the correct 2006 subscription rate (please telephone John Cunningham at Head Office to check the current rate).

### **St Petersburg University Exchange Programme**

The Society arranged a full programme of lectures and visits for 15 professors and

students from St Petersburg University who visited London from 24–30 July. The programme included a visit to the SCRSS with talks on London by Jean Turner, on the SCRSS by Ralph Gibson and on Brixton by the Secretary of the Brixton Society; a one-day seminar at London South Bank University on British foreign policy and Britain's relationship with Russia; a tour of the Houses of Parliament, hosted by Bob Wareing MP; an afternoon at the Greater London Assembly's City Hall to see how London is governed; and, finally, a visit to the Imperial War Museum to view documents relating to Russia and WWII. The visit was extremely successful and the group has requested a repeat programme in 2007.

### **Library Collections**

The SCRSS Photo Library has been used extensively by the BBC and the Mariinsky Theatre Trust for its programmes devoted to the 100th anniversary of Shostakovich's birth, providing our unique archive with much needed publicity.

Work has also commenced on the digitisation and cataloguing of the Huntly Carter collection. The collection is a superb resource on early Soviet architecture and theatre; it includes unique photographs of stage productions, set and costume design from the Revolution to the 1930s.

In recent weeks the Society has received a number of very important bequests of books from Adrian Forman, Bill Pomeroy and Pamela Ogden, Dr Dennis Ogden's widow.

### **SCRSS Russian Information Guide 2005–2006**

The 2005 edition of this handy pocket guide to Russian language and Russian-related publishers, websites, libraries, societies, etc, has now been remaindered. Reduced price copies are available from SCRSS Head Office at £2.00 inc. p&p (original price £4.95). Please make cheques payable to 'SCRSS'.

## Events

**Friday 22 September 7pm**

**Lecture: Wassily Kandinsky**

By Christine Lindey, lecturer in art at Birkbeck College, London, and author of *Art of the Cold War*. The lecture is timed to coincide with Tate Modern's exhibition *Kandinsky: The Path to Abstraction* (until 1 October, see [www.tate.org.uk](http://www.tate.org.uk) for details).

**Saturday 30 September 11am–5pm**

**Event: SCRSS Russian Booksale**

Dictionaries, Russian language learning materials, Russian literature in English and Russian, political books and pamphlets from the Soviet era, Soviet postcards and guidebooks, art books and Russian souvenirs, and a large selection of vinyl LPs with recordings of Russian and Soviet classical music. *Helpers required – please contact Head Office.*

**Friday 6 October 7pm**

**Film: The Wife**

Director Yuri Raizman, 1955. A teacher abandons her career to be a housewife, but then realises that her life is unfulfilled. The film follows the break-up of the relationship and the eventual reconciliation. 102 mins, English sub-titles.

**Friday 10 November 7pm**

**Lecture: Russian Literature**

By Robert Chandler, editor of *Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida* (Penguin Classics, 2005) and translator of – among others – Andrei Platonov.

**Friday 8 December 7pm**

**Film: Carnival Night**

Director Viktor Zhilin, 1957. A musical comedy that has been seen as a satire on bureaucracy and red tape. Set in a factory workers club, the film concerns the company director's efforts to spoil the festivities – ultimately thwarted by the younger employees. 70 mins, dubbed into English.

**Friday 19 January 2007 7pm**

**Lecture: Russian Verb Aspects**

By Dr Roy Bivon. The lecture is aimed at those with an intermediate – advanced

knowledge of Russian. Dr Bivon is co-author with E. Petrukhina of *The Russian Verb* and co-author with Terry Culhane of the new edition of the BBC textbook *Russian Language and People*.

All lectures and film shows take place at the SCRSS premises in Brixton. Admission: £3.00 (members), £5.00 (non-members). Tea and coffee available.

## Soviet Memorial Trust Fund News

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### Events

**11 or 12 November**

**Remembrance Day Ceremony**

**27 January 2007**

**Holocaust Day Ceremony**

The next two scheduled events at the Soviet Memorial will be Remembrance Day and Holocaust Day. The details of both ceremonies are being finalised: please contact the SCRSS in early October for further information.

The Soviet Memorial, which honours the Soviet dead of WWII, is situated in Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park, Lambeth Road, Southwark, London, adjacent to the Imperial War Museum.

## Shostakovich Centenary Celebrations

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Unsurprisingly, Shostakovich's centenary has brought a slew of celebratory events – from one-off concerts, through series of events, to academic conferences, more imaginative offerings and publications. The year has been one long crescendo and climaxes in September (he was born on the 25) and October.

The BBC Proms had a good representation of works, both well known and rare, and as well as the usual broadcasts on Radio 3 some were televised and could well be repeated, particularly on BBC4.

Meanwhile, Valery Gergiev concludes his 14-month traversal of the symphonies with a variety of orchestras at the Barbican. In addition, over the summer he brought the Mariinsky Theatre to the London Coliseum to show a range of Shostakovich's stage works, including *Katerina Izmailova*, the now more rarely performed revision of *Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk* (which Gergiev then conducted at the Proms), and a selection of ballets. The Royal Opera House countered with a visit from the Bolshoi that included the UK premiere of the originally banned ballet *The Limpid Stream*.

Interesting one-off concerts include pianist Colin Stone playing the whole of the epic *24 Preludes and Fugues* at Cadogan Hall on 12 November, with the added attraction that it is introduced by the pianist and conductor Vladimir Ashkenazy, himself a noted exponent of the work. This concert is promoted by the UK Shostakovich Society, which has been an extremely active promoter this year. Its academic conference *Shostakovich: Centenary Reflections* took place at Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, in September. In association with the Barbican Cinema, the Society is also mounting the largest retrospective of the composer's film work ever seen in the UK, running from 23 September and curated by the SCRSS Chair, John Riley. There will also be a screening of the new documentary *The Unknown Shostakovich*. [For more details of the UK Shostakovich Society, see main feature on page 1].

In September and October the UK will be a world centre of Shostakovichianism: the Cambridge conference is followed by *Shostakovich 100* (23–27 September) at the Queen Elizabeth Hall and Goldsmiths College, London, and *Shostakovich 2006* (29 September–1 October) at Bristol University. All of these conferences have attracted prominent academics from the UK,

Europe and the USA, as well as Russia, Ukraine and Azerbaijan, and promise to bring a vast range of experience and fascinating new information and thoughts on the composer. Hopefully, at least some of the papers will be published for wider and more permanent consumption.

The Queen Elizabeth Hall is also the venue for *Dancers on a Tightrope* (13–15 October). This looks at several post-Shostakovich composers, but also includes performances of some of his lesser-known works. These include the songs and, in a riotous finale, an evening devoted to his film music, in which rare clips are accompanied by the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra under Mark Fitz-Gerald.

Another innovative film event takes place at the Royal Albert Hall on 4 October, when the composer's son Maxim takes the helm again for another Cinemaphonia. Anyone who enjoyed last year's *Seventh Symphony*, which marked Victory Day by setting the work against archive and newly shot footage, will look forward to the *Fifteenth Symphony*, the composer's last. The work is particularly associated with Maxim who conducted both the world and the UK premieres in the presence of his ailing father.

The year has also seen the publication of several books, including two, familiar to many, in revised and updated form. Elizabeth Wilson's *Shostakovich: A Life Remembered* (Faber) is an intriguing biographical book, comprising interviews with the composer's friends and relatives, and extracts from their writings about the man. More than any book it helps to show his complex and multi-faceted nature. Very different is Ian MacDonald's *The New Shostakovich* (Pimlico), a controversial polemic that initially attracted praise and opprobrium in equal measure. Raymond Clarke's revision has trimmed some of the excesses and given it a firmer spine, though some will still find it an overly politicised view. For the more musicologically minded, Ashgate has published books by David Fanning and Pauline Fairclough that

excellently analyse and contextualise, respectively, the best-known string quartet (the eighth) and the *Fourth Symphony*.

The *DSCH, The Shostakovich Journal* continues, as ever, to introduce a range of articles and reviews helping to keep Shostakovichians abreast of the various debates.

All in all the UK will see one of the world's greatest celebrations of one of the world's greatest composers.

John Riley

## Book Reviews

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### **The Food and Cooking of Russia By Lesley Chamberlain (University of Nebraska Press, 2006, ISBN: 0803264615, \$18.95)**

Gathering together more than 200 recipes, *The Food and Cooking of Russia* is far more than just a cookery book. This comprehensive work was born of the author's desire to convey to Western readers a sense of everyday life in the Soviet Union (while avoiding the political and economic aspects abundantly covered in the press). Lesley Chamberlain worked as a journalist in Moscow in the late 1970s and travelled widely around the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. She researched the history of Russian food in painstaking detail, sourcing recipes from 19th and 20th-century writings on the subject (the book is colourfully interspersed with quotations from the literature) and – with a passion – testing out her discoveries at home.

The dishes of each chapter are introduced with cultural and historical observations (for example, the section on festive cookery describes in depth the relationship between the Church calendar and Russian cuisine) and the author offers suggestions from her own experiments on substitutes for native ingredients unavailable to Western cooks.

This 2006 edition differs only from the original 1982 publication in the addition of a new introduction, which is the only slight drawback in what is, overall, a fascinating book. In her introduction the author briefly hints at a food culture “threatened by rampant commercialism” and it would have been most interesting to read in more detail about her views on food in 21st-century Russia.

*Reviewed by Wendy Ansley*

### **Turkish Gambit By Boris Akunin (Phoenix, 2004, translated into English by Andrew Bromfield)**

The Russo-Turkish War of 1877 is at a critical juncture. Akunin's brilliant analytical detective Erast Fandorin has to look after Varvara Suvorova, a Russian New Woman in the Shavian tradition, who has followed her fiancé to the front. He also has to prevent a Turkish victory, discover a spy in the Russian ranks and save the Russian hero General Sobolev from disgrace for disobeying the Tsar's orders. Akunin manages to bring into this tale many famous people, such as the artist Vasily Vereshchagin who accompanied the Russian troops and painted their battles and victories at Shipka and Plevna. Andrew Bromfield's translation conveys well the humour of the over-the-top characters and the story's oblique references to actual historical events.

### **The Death of Achilles By Boris Akunin (Phoenix, 2005, translated into English by Andrew Bromfield)**

This is a sequel to *Turkish Gambit*, but now the scene has moved to Moscow. The heroic General Sobolev, the Russian Achilles – victor of the Russo-Turkish War, has arrived in the city ready for a hero's welcome. The welcome never takes place, since the general is found dead in his hotel apartment the next day. Erast Fandorin is asked to investigate the circumstances of

his death, assisted by his Japanese martial arts instructor Masa, and under the auspices of the government and the secret police. A German songstress, Wanda, is involved. She is an independent-minded, high-class prostitute. Like most of Akunin's women, she breaks the 19th-century mould of subservience and prudery and ends up, if not happily, at least fulfilled in her desire to live in Paris.

Andrew Bromfield is to be congratulated on the fourth of his fine translations of Boris Akunin, previous ones being *The Winter Queen* and *Leviathan*, both in the SCRSS loan library. The SCRSS loan library also holds a number of titles by Akunin in Russian: *Pelugiya i chernyi monakh*, *Pelugiya i belyi bul'dog*, *Smert' Akhillesa*, *Koronatsiya*, *Leviafan* and *Lyubovnitsa smerti*.

*Reviewed by Jean Turner*

## Gems from the SCRSS Library

### **Soviet Humour: Stories and Cartoons from Crocodile** **Selected and translated by Peter Tempest (SCR, 1949, London)**

The satirical Soviet paper *Crocodile* (*Krokodil*) began publication in 1922 and by 1949 was appearing every 10 days with 16 pages of cartoons and short stories.

This is a collection of some of those cartoons and short stories published in *Crocodile* in the 1940s. It concentrates on everyday work and home issues, rather than domestic politics and foreign policy, explaining why only one cartoon by the Kukryniksy is included. Other cartoonists represented include Soyfertis, Kanyevisky and Valk. Their mission is to expose the self-important bureaucrat and to puncture his pomposity. Their victims include the

inefficient, the uncaring and the arrogant – the un-Soviet citizen.



'You need strong nerves to buy preserves'  
 Cartoon by I. Semyenov in *Soviet Humour*

Tempest's translation is easy to read and the cartoons – some reproduced in colour – are delightful. The collection provides a window onto the humour and lifestyle of the Soviet people at this time, offering a valuable insight into their concerns. It is enhanced by a short preface by Ivor Montagu, President of the SCR at this time, who compares the short stories to the moral fables of Aesop and Krylov.

*Reviewed by Jane Rosen*

## From the Russian Press

### First Russian Agricultural Census Since 1920

*Moskovskiye Novosti* reported on the first national agricultural census to be undertaken in Russia for 85 years ('Nikogo ne raskulachat', No. 19, 2006). Between 1 and 25 July some 62,000 agricultural organisations, 290,000 farm holdings and individual entrepreneurs would be interviewed on the size of their land, the produce grown in fields and kitchen-gardens, and the number of livestock and poultry held.

Ahead of the census the Russian national statistics office had launched an information campaign with a telephone hotline, two million copies of a *Census* newspaper, and a cross-region campaign trail in June in which the need for the census was stressed with the help of songs and competitions. The hotline's task was to convince the rural population that participation in the census was safe, voluntary and important for the country. Of the thousands of calls made to the hotline during its first weeks of operation most concerned fears that census data would be used for tax purposes. Callers were reassured that the census would be entirely anonymous, participants would not need to show official documents and responses would be noted down verbatim.

The census was long overdue: over the previous 15 years the Russian government had carried out its agricultural policy blind. Without data on the amount of livestock, cultivated land and agricultural machinery in the country it was impossible to assess the effectiveness of government investments in agriculture. Russian agriculture was currently in crisis: the number of cattle and pigs was falling, profits were being eaten up by rising fuel and electricity prices, and the exodus of labour from the countryside was continuing. In addition, the country's extensive dependence on Western foodstuffs made it imperative to assess Russia's own resources in order to target

subsidies effectively. Agricultural experts were waiting impatiently for the new census data, for which preliminary results would be available in a year's time. Final results would be available only in 2008.



SCRSS Photo Library

### Concern at Level of Food Imports

In *Argumenty i Fakty* Aleksei Chepa, Director of the Institute of Food Policy, addressed the increasing dependence of Russian consumers on imported foodstuffs ('Nas spasyot potrebitel'-patriot', No. 21, 2006). Half of all food products on supermarket shelves were imported, rising to 80% for items such as meat. Food imports rose on average by 25% last year with meat and sugar rising by one third, poultry by 23% and fish by 16%. Russians were spending \$13 billion a year on imported food, compared to a mere \$1.5 billion investment by the Russian government in developing the domestic agro-industrial sector. Russia was the only country in the world without a national food policy.

In the author's view, such dependence on foreign food exporters put Russia in a



dangerous position; instead steps should be taken to develop and support local agriculture. One option would be to increase import duties on food products: this would push up their price, making the purchase of Russian produce more attractive. However, exporting countries could retaliate by raising duties on imported Russian goods. A more effective option would be to encourage 'consumer patriotism'. Unfortunately, price was currently a more decisive factor for Russian consumers than food origin. Local produce was generally more expensive due to the nature of the domestic supply chain, where the price of food products increased threefold on their journey from farmer to supermarket shelf. Retailers and food manufacturers were the main beneficiaries, while farmers lost out.

The author urged the Russian government to launch a major campaign against food imports. It had already made the development of the agro-industrial sector a priority, but this should also be linked to the separate national project for the development of the country's housing and infrastructure. Farmers needed a centre where they could market their produce, guaranteed provision of local services and amenities, new roads, local gas and water supply. The task could not be left to private investors alone: without state support Russian agriculture would die – and was already dying in many regions.

## **Making Affordable Housing a Reality**

*Profil'* reported on progress of the national 'Affordable Housing' programme launched in Russia 18 months ago ('Rus'-stroyka', No. 20/29, May 2006). Currently, the cost of housing was rising dramatically and the only way to slow this down was to increase the volume of construction rapidly. In Moscow only 16,000 new apartments would be built in 2006 – a miserly figure for Russia's capital city and less than the total number distributed through municipal and federal housing programmes. The situation was even worse in the regions, where lack of housing was exacerbated by the gap between income and housing prices. With

an average annual salary of \$750 (World Bank statistics), most Russians could not afford to buy apartments at market prices.

Provision of social housing programmes depended on a pool of existing accommodation, requiring a significant increase in the construction of cheap housing. Prefabricated (panel) housing was essential to the 'Affordable Housing' programme to keep costs down and reduce construction time. Production of prefabricated housing was dependent on industrial plants; these were already working at full capacity and needed to be reorganised to increase the volume of output. For this reason, much of the 'Affordable Housing' programme was centred around the largest Russian prefabricated housing construction plants. Moscow-based construction companies, such as SU-155, were active participants in the programme due to their experience of building in the regions and of developing local industry.

Construction programmes were already underway in Nizhny Novgorod and St Petersburg, with Ivanovo and Tula to follow. In Nizhny Novgorod SU-155 and the local authority had formed a joint venture aimed at building more than 1.5 million sq m of housing in the city by 2010. Majority shares in the company were held by the local authority, with SU-155 investing some 3.2 billion roubles per annum in the project. The company planned to create its own production capability by buying up and modernising a local reinforced concrete plant and organising its own production base and transport.

## **Aquatic Guardians of Russia's Borders**

*Itoji* announced that a detachment of five grey seals was back in training with the Russian navy in the Barents Sea (29 May 2006). Military divers and scientists from the Murmansk Institute of Maritime Biology were training the seals to protect Russia's ports, naval bases and transport communications. Seals could descend to a depth of 450 m,

spend half an hour underwater and ascend to the surface at a speed of 5 m per second without threat of the bends. They were also more intelligent and versatile than dolphins.

Military training of seals in Russia had been abandoned for a number of years, due to lack of resources. However, during the Soviet period special oceanariums for this purpose had existed in Sevastopol, Batumi, Klaiped and Vladivostock, and the Soviet navy had owned some 50 seals and sea lions, as well as 150 dolphins and white whales. Russia had been the first country to develop the idea of using marine animals for military purposes. In WWI a base had been set up near Sevastopol to train dolphins and sea lions to fight German submarines, although shortly afterwards all 20 dolphins and sea lions had been poisoned. The idea had been resumed in the late 1950s during the Cold War.

*Articles selected, summarised and translated by Diana Turner*

## Listings

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### Art and Photography

#### **Bristol University Department of Music**

Victoria Rooms, Queen's Road, Bristol BS8  
29 September – 15 December: *Shostakovich 100*. Rare photographs of the Russian composer Dmitri Shostakovich (1906–75) to celebrate the centenary of his birth. From the RIA Novosti archive. Monday–Thursday 8.30am–9.30pm, Friday 8.30am–5.30pm. Free entry.

#### **Gilbert Collection**

Somerset House, Strand, London WC2  
21 October – 28 January 2007: *Britannia and Muscovy – English Silver at the Court of the Tsars*. A stunning exhibition of magnificent and rare Russian and English silver from the 16th and 17th centuries to mark the 200th anniversary of the Kremlin Armoury Museum.

#### **Guildhall Art Gallery**

Guildhall Yard, London EC2, Tel: 020 7332 3700  
10 January – 2 April 2007: *Soviet Times – Russian Times*. Photographic exhibition to mark the 90th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Images by some of the most prominent Soviet and Russian photographers from the RIA Novosti archive. Monday–Saturday 10am–5pm, Sunday 12–4pm. Adults: £2.50, concessions: £1, under 16s free, free entry on Fridays and after 3.30pm.

#### **Hermitage Rooms**

Somerset House, Strand, London WC2, Tel: 020 7845 4600, [www.hermitagerooms.com](http://www.hermitagerooms.com)  
24 November – 8 April 2007: *The Triumph of Eros – Art and Seduction in 18th Century Paris*. Features 19th century engravings collected by Tsar Nicolas I. The fascinating collection has never been seen outside St Petersburg before.

#### **Manchester Central Library**

St Peter's Square, Manchester  
18 October – 30 November: *Poyekhali! (Off we go!) - In Gagarin's Trail*. Photographic exhibition to mark 50 years of space exploration – from the pioneering days of Gagarin and Tereshkova to co-operation on the construction of the International Space Station. From the RIA Novosti archive. Monday–Thursday 9am–8pm, Friday–Saturday 9am–5pm. Free entry.

### Dance

#### **Russian Classical Ballet Theatre**

Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake*, *The Sleeping Beauty* and *Coppelia*. Telephone venues for repertoire.

9–14 October: New Wimbledon Theatre, Box Office: 0870 060 6646

16–21 October: Richmond Theatre, Box Office: 0870 060 6651

20–25 November: The King's, Glasgow, Box Office: 0870 060 6648

#### **Michael Clark Company**

Barbican Theatre, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS, Box Office: 0845 120 7559

27 October–4 November: *Stravinsky Project Part 2*. Clark's controversial response to Igor Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*.

## Events

### 3rd Annual Russian Winter Festival

Trafalgar Square, London

13 January 2007: details on [www.eventica.co.uk](http://www.eventica.co.uk)

## Film

### SCRSS

320 Brixton Road, London SW9, Tel: 020 7274 2282, [www.scrss.org.uk](http://www.scrss.org.uk)

6 October 7pm: *The Wife* (dir. Yuri Raizman) [see page 4 for details]

8 December 7pm: *Carnival Night* (dir. Viktor Zhilin) [see page 4 for details]

## Lectures and Conferences

### Art in the Cold War

Birkbeck College, London, Tel: 020 7679 1008 (John Lugo) or 020 7361 6651 (Central Enrolments), quoting FFAH098UACB

Commencing 25 September, 6–8pm: A series of 12 lectures by Christine Lindey. Course fees: £120.00 (£60.00 concessions).

### British Russian Society Midlands

Birmingham & Midland Institute, 9 Margaret Street, Birmingham B3, Email: [secretary@britishrussian.org.uk](mailto:secretary@britishrussian.org.uk), [www.britishrussian.org.uk](http://www.britishrussian.org.uk)

22 September 7pm: *Stalin – Ivan the Terrible of the 20th Century* by Maureen Perrie, Emeritus Professor of Russian History at the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Birmingham. Members £1.50, non-members £3.00.

### Shostakovich 2006 – International Centenary Conference

University of Bristol, Department of Music, Email: [Pauline.Fairclough@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Pauline.Fairclough@bristol.ac.uk), [www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/shostakovich/](http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/birtha/conferences/shostakovich/)

29 September – 1 October.

### Sutton College of Learning for Adults (SCOLA) Russian Circle

SCOLA, Lecture Theatre, St Nicholas Way, Sutton, Surrey, Tel: 01403 256593 (Leslie Dommett)

29 September 7pm: *The Siege of Leningrad*. A life during the Blockade recalled by a survivor, Helen Dovgiallo.

13 November 7pm: live concert of Russian classical music by students of the Royal College of Music.

1 December 7pm: *The Life and Works of Fyodor Tyutchev (1803–73)*. Lecture and poetry reading by David Brummell, followed by a Russian Winter Party.

### SCRSS

320 Brixton Road, London SW9, Tel: 020 7274 2282, [www.scrss.org.uk](http://www.scrss.org.uk)

22 September 7pm: *Wassily Kandinsky* by Christine Lindey [see page 4 for details]

10 November 7pm: *Russian Literature* by Robert Chandler [see page 4 for details]

19 January 2007 7pm: *Russian Verb Aspects* by Dr Roy Bivon [see page 4 for details]

### War and Peace Tour

Organised by New Writing North, 2 School Lane, Whickham, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, NE16 4SL, Tel: 0191 488 8580, Fax: 0191 488 8576

*War and Peace* is a new anthology of short fiction from 10 of Russia's leading contemporary writers. Published by Glas, this 'state of the nation' collection is a compelling portrait of post-post *perestroika* Russian life. On this tour, three of the writers – Olga Slavnikova, Maria Rybakova and Arkady Babchenko – together with Glas publisher Natasha Perova will discuss their work, as well as the current state of writing and publishing in Russia, at the following venues:

10 October: South Bank Centre, London

11 October: Open Centre, Derby

12 October 4.30pm: Cheltenham Literature Festival, Town Hall, Cheltenham

14 October 3.30pm: Ilkley Literature Festival, Ilkley

16 October 7.30pm: Off the Shelf Literature Festival, The Showroom, Paternoster Row, Sheffield

17 October 8pm: Darlington Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington

19 October 7.30pm: Durham Litfest, Gala Theatre, Durham City

## Music

### **Kensington Symphony Orchestra 50th Anniversary Concert**

Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2Y 8DS, Box Office: 0845 120 7559 or Email: PhChCh@aol.com (Philip Chandler, KSO Ticket Manager), [www.kso.org.uk](http://www.kso.org.uk)

18 October 7.30pm: The KSO performs Korngold's *The Sea Hawk* (extended suite, first performance), Rachmaninov's *Piano Concerto No. 2* and Prokofiev's *Alexander Nevsky*. Conductor: Russell Keable, piano soloist: Nikolai Demidenko, mezzo-soprano: Jean Rigby. Ticket prices: £10, £15, £18, £22.

## Publications

### **Beyond the Palace Walls: Islamic Art from the State Hermitage Museum**

National Museums of Scotland, Hardback, £25.

Special offer to SCRSS members: £22 post-free. Contact: Kate Blackadder, Tel: 0131 247 4026, Fax: 0131 247 4012, Email: [publishing@nms.ac.uk](mailto:publishing@nms.ac.uk)

### **Tajikistan in the New Central Asia: Geopolitics, Great Power Rivalry and Radical Islam**

By Lena Jonson, IB Tauris, Hardback, £45. Contact: Andrea Lobo (Publicity Department), Tel: 020 7243 1225, Email: [publicity@ibtauris.com](mailto:publicity@ibtauris.com)

## Theatre

### **Slava's Snowshow**

New Wimbledon Theatre, Wimbledon, London, Box Office: 0870 060 6646, [www.newwimbledontheatre.co.uk](http://www.newwimbledontheatre.co.uk).

3–7 October: the famous Russian clown returns with his spectacular and hilarious masterpiece.

### **London Festival of Central and Eastern European Arts**

Riverside Studios, Hammersmith, London, Box Office: 020 8237 1111, [www.feeast.com](http://www.feeast.com) (information), [www.riversidestudios.co.uk](http://www.riversidestudios.co.uk) (booking)

10 November–2 December: the festival includes a double bill from the School of Dramatic Art in Moscow.

## Travel

### **Request for Contributions to New Travel Writing Website**

Have you written any articles on your experiences of Russia that you'd like to share? If so, a travel writing site is being started that aims to show countries, cities and places from the perspective of the people who know and love them. Whether you've travelled singly or as part of a group, why not share your experiences with other people interested in visiting Russia. Contact: Steven Andrews, Tel: 07786982117, Email: [seifer@final-exodus.net](mailto:seifer@final-exodus.net).

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