

International dialogue



Charity Festival „ White Steamboat“

Mahler's Symphony cycle

Our Strength lies in Unity



International dialogue

MAGAZINE OF PUBLIC INITIATIVE “RUSSIAN CULTURE: A VIEW FROM ABROAD”

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Cover: Collage. Gala concert of the charity festival “White Steamboat” at the Bolshoi Theater of Russia. Mahler’s Symphony cycle at the Zaryadye Concert Hall. The orchestra of the Mariinsky Theatre. The conductor is Valery Gergiev, the soloist is Zinaida Tsarenko.

Christmas. Photo: Natalia Volvach

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ИЗДАТЕЛЬСТВО
ДЕАН



FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Dear readers!



Time flies by rapidly, compressing moments into years.

It seemed like it was summer not so long ago, and now the New Year is coming.

Of course, we all hope that he will bring Peace and Goodness, and the more we believe in this, the more tangible our aspirations become.

A landmark event of the past year was the presentation of the “International Dialogue” magazine at the Congress Center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, of which this publication is an information partner. The words spoken by the speakers, including Mikhail Shvydkoi, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation, and Georgy Muradov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Crimea to the President of the Russian Federation, inspired new achievements.

Starting in 2024, “International Dialogue” has been cooperating with the Vienna and Austrian Dioceses, and each issue publishes materials created by Bishop Alexy of St. Nicholas Cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate, with whose blessing various cultural projects are being carried out, as we regularly report. His Excellency blessed our information partnership, so now we will begin to cover the life of this large church community even more widely, which is the subject of the publication “Our Strength lies in Unity”.

Life brings new meetings, contacts are formed, on the basis of which joint projects arise. In this issue, we present the Moscow University of Finance and Law MFUA and its rector Alexey Zabelin.

Based on personal impressions, articles have been written about the charity project “White Steamboat”, the Mahler symphony cycle at the Zaryadye Concert Hall performed by the Mariinsky Orchestra conducted by maestro Valery Gergiev and the 15th anniversary of the Moscow Musical Theater.

Vladyka Alexy talks about a very important and relevant topic — children and the Internet.

After his trips to Russia, the Austrian sculptor Alexander Laabmayr wrote the book “Transformation”, which is being prepared for release in the St. Petersburg “DEAN Publishing House”, fragments of which we publish.

Sergey Katyrin, who was unanimously newly elected president, talks about the results of the IX Congress of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, and our friend and philanthropist Sergey Abramov talks about part of his business, Caesar Travel.

On National Unity Day, the exhibition “Multinational Russia” was opened at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Vienna. We will introduce you to a selection of photos.

The road will be mastered by the walking, and we continue to move forward, opening up new horizons and setting ourselves ambitious goals.

I wish you a pleasant reading!

Your Nathalie Holzmüller

International initiative

«Russian Culture Viewed from Abroad»

Publishing book series



There are many people of goodwill in the world who not only love Russian literature, music, cinema, and ballet, but are also engaged in the most important work – building bridges of understanding and mutual respect between cultures and peoples. This new series aims to introduce Russian readers to the work of such people – true humanists who stand up for true, universal values.

«International Dialogue» magazine



The «International Dialogue» magazine was established to provide unbiased coverage of cultural and economic processes and events taking place in Russia and around the world.

The magazine focuses on informational and educational purposes. It is published quarterly, with separate issues in Russian and English.

«International Dialogue» magazine is an information partner of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

YouTube channel «Bridge of Love»
https://www.youtube.com/@Bridge_Of_Love



The «Bridge of Love» channel is one of the few sources of unbiased information about Russia beyond its borders, a kind of window to Russia.

The videos explore the interpenetration of cultures and traditions, the stories of those who are ready for dialogue and recognize the role of culture in improving the international situation.

Welcome to take part in our initiative!

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THE PATH OF TRUST

PRESENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DIALOGUE MAGAZINE AT THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

By tradition, the new issue of the International Dialogue magazine was presented at the meeting, which this time was of a special, significant nature for several reasons.

Firstly, it was held for the first time at the Congress Center of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, of which this magazine is an information partner. Secondly, it was attended by distinguished guests, including Mikhail Shvydkoi, Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for International Cultural Cooperation, and Georgy Muradov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Crimea to the President of the Russian Federation.

The leitmotif of the meeting was people's diplomacy, and the goal was to confirm President Vladimir Putin's words that Russia does not have unfriendly countries, but only unfriendly political elites. As an Austrian citizen, I find these words true every day, and I consider it my duty to prove it in practice.

Of course, the current political situation has significantly complicated my work, as support for our



Dmitry Lebamba, Nathalie Holzmüller and Alexander Shkirando

good causes is almost impossible to obtain in Austria, and almost impossible in Russia, since the Alpine republic, previously beloved by Russians, is now one of the countries unfriendly to Russia. The attitude of Russians towards the European Union is understandable and justified, but what about next?

It seems that everyone approves of the projects that my friends, like-minded people and I are planning and carrying out against all odds, but most forget that putting them into practice involves not

only mental and energy costs, but also material costs, because if we are talking about those whom you need to attract, then, beyond without a doubt, it is necessary to be able to pay for their work.

As the saying goes, "a camel has two humps, because life is a struggle". So we are fighting, firmly believing that those who call for what we are implementing will pay attention to us.

Of course, my friends and I are incorrigible optimists, and fortunately, we are lucky to have good people, of whom there are undoubtedly more, although they are less common. Fortune helps us find people without whom fulfilling our voluntary commitments would be unrealistic.

The proof of this is the meeting at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which, in the absence of the President Sergey Nikolaevich Katyrin, was opened by the Vice-president of the Chamber Dmitry Kurochkin, in particular, who noted:

"I would like to remind you that the Chamber of Commerce and



Hans-Joachim Frey, Elena Skvortsova, Nathalie Holzmüller and Michail Shvydkoi



... with Dmitry Kurochkin

Industry has always had close economic ties with all countries of the world. Historically, of course, we have been mostly with Europe, and today, despite the so-called sanctions, or, more simply, unilateral restrictive measures, we still advocate the principles of good neighborliness and mutually beneficial cooperation. Provided, of course, that this does not harm our entrepreneurs. Despite the fact that we are currently actively developing economic ties with the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America, the European direction also remains in our sphere of interests.

Today we have gathered to hold a presentation of the new issue of the International Dialogue magazine, with which we have been cooperating for a long time and where materials about the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation are constantly published. In the new issue you will find an article by our president, Sergey Nikolaevich Katyrin, where he covers in sufficient detail the most pressing problems of the economic and political situation, and most importantly, defines our principled approaches to solving important economic problems. In addition to purely economic ties, we always pay attention to culture, which is not subject to any political conjuncture, in a sense existing outside of time and space, so for us cultural ties are of lasting value.”

For such meetings, I chose a format that, I think, is in harmony with the concept of our initiative,

where I myself am the leader, giving the floor to the speakers. The art program is an integral part of the meeting.

“I am happy to welcome you to this wonderful building. There are many of my friends here, and there are also strangers, but they are all like-minded people who are united by their love for Russia and who want to maintain and develop an international dialogue despite everything. I thank all those who helped to bring about this creative meeting to demonstrate a common desire to make the world a better place.

First of all, it is the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, personally its president Sergey Nikolaevich Katyrin and Director of the Center for Mass Media and Public Relations Alexander Ivanovich Shkiran-do.

Our cooperation began in 2019, when Sergey Nikolaevich received a high state award from Austria, and

I wrote about it in the Art & Business magazine, which I headed at that time. In 2022, I became the editor-in-chief of the International Dialogue magazine, which is published four times a year in Russian, German and English.

Many thanks to the Society for Friendship with Austria, which has long supported our initiatives, and personally to Elena Skvortsova, who is present here, the executive director of this organization.

Tangible assistance was provided by the Foundation for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage, within which there is a gallery “Styx”, where you can see antiques and works of art, as well as businessmen Evgeny Levshun and Maxim Moshonkin.

For many years, we have been supported by businessman and philanthropist Sergey Abramov, whose interviews are also regularly published in the International Dialogue magazine.



My partner in the project is Evgeny Kuzminsky, director of the St. Petersburg DEAN Publishing House, with whom we started this difficult journey with the confidence that it will be crowned with victory, and we invite everyone who strives to restore harmony between countries and peoples to join us.



Mikhail Shvydkoi

Mikhail Shvydkoi, the Special Representative of the President for International Cultural Cooperation, was one of the first to support us. I give the floor to Mikhail Efimovich.”

“This is a very important and touching day. When they talk about international cooperation, especially about people’s diplomacy, you realize that people are a great concept. However, in reality, people are made up of people, and we know perfectly well what Natalia Holtzmüller has been doing for many years. These years were different. At one time, we met with Mr. Frey, who is present here in Linz, where he was the intendant of the Brucknerhaus concert hall and a wonderful festival that has always been open to Russian performers. Other times have come, and things have become much more difficult.

Georgy Lvovich Muradov, as a diplomat with great experience, has borne all this on his shoulders.

As Bulat Okudzhava’s song says, “don’t give up trying, maestro...” Natalia never left them.

In the most difficult times, when everything seemed to have been torn apart and there were no connecting threads, she nevertheless did her great job by creating

the magazine, and by her example proved that Russian culture really has no borders, which is well known in Austria. The last Salzburg Festival, which was attended by Russian performers living in Russia, showed that the intensity of Russophobia and anti-Russian rhetoric has not exactly disappeared, but they are tired of it. Russian culture is a part of world culture, and world culture is unthinkable without Russian culture. We are closely connected with European culture, and these ties must be constantly maintained no matter what. In this context, the work of people like Natalia Holzmueller and Mr. Frey is extremely important. There are few people who engage in cultural dialogue nowadays, these people are one-size-fits-all, they are worth their weight in gold.

I welcome everyone who came to the presentation of your magazine, and I sincerely thank the leadership of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation for their support of this publication. Previously, they thanked the party and the government, now they thank the patrons. Special thanks to Sergey Nikolaevich Abramov for helping you.

Of course, thanks to the people’s diplomats who understand the value of relations between nations.

You are always welcome and we will strive to help you in any way we can.”

After Mikhail Shvydkoi, I gave the floor to **Georgy Muradov**:

“Natalia Holzmueller not only creates the International Dialogue magazine, she has been creating an international dialogue for many years, which I observed when I was working in the Moscow Government, Rossotrudnichestvo, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Natalia and I have always discussed topics that are important and relevant for Russia to conduct an international dialogue. Of course, these are difficult times today, and I think that



Georgy Muradov

such gems as Natalia’s magazine and her tireless work for the sake of international dialogue have a special significance and value. More and more sensible people are saying that the world cannot exist without Russia.

Today I am working on the Crimean issue, this task was assigned to me by the leadership, and I can say that Natalia Holzmueller has made a great contribution to making the West’s position on Crimea more realistic. Many people are coming to Crimea today — representatives of the parliament and political parties.

A highlight of this year’s event was the visit to Crimea by Austrian sculptor Alexander Laabmayr, who created a bust of Russian President Vladimir Putin. Together with Natalia, they visited Artek and talked with children from the special operation area who were vacationing there.

Hand in hand, we did a lot of interesting projects.

I am sincerely grateful to you, Natalia, for your work, which is extremely necessary today to restore justice, multipolarity and equality of all peoples in the world.

And I wish you personally that your strength does not run out from the release of each issue of the magazine, but increases. Let the new issue of the magazine encourage you to come up with new ideas and new things. Keep it up!”

We wrote about the activities of music manager **Hans-Joachim Frey** in one of the issues of the magazine and invited him to a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry.:

“I am very glad to be with you today. In 2021, I received Russian citizenship from President Vladimir Putin and I feel like a bridge builder between the two countries. I decided to work and live in Russia. I founded the Bridge of Arts Foundation. In 2017, I participated in the creation of the Sochi Dialogue, which was supposed to help expand the dialogue between Austria and Russia. Within the framework of this forum, two events were held, of which I was a participant. The first one took place in Vienna in 2018, during Vladimir Putin’s official visit. The following year, the baton was taken over by the city of Sochi, where a solid delegation from Austria led by President Alexander van der Bellen arrived and where a representative conference was held at Putin’s Sochi residence. From 2012 to 2018, I was the director of the Brucknerhaus in Linz, where we held about 30 concerts a year, featuring musicians from Russia. We collaborated with the House of Music in St. Petersburg, and young performers regularly visited us from there.



Hans-Joachim Frey

I would like to appeal to you that we should not stop paying attention to cultural exchange. People have nothing to do with the confrontation between European countries and Russia. The initiators of this confrontation are politicians and the media. Ordinary citizens love Russian culture and want to return to a normal life. And this desire should prevail for a long time.”

I was lucky that fate brought me together with businessman and philanthropist **Sergey Abramov**, who made a significant contribution to preserving the viability of our projects.:

“Today, the audience has gathered here, which, obviously, will receive the necessary boost of energy to implement such a wonderful idea as an international dialogue on a daily basis. Now, more than ever, dialogue is important, and especially international dialogue. We all understand this and have great respect for this form of relations between people and countries. I would like to thank Mrs. Holz Müller for the fact that her bursting energy allows us to maintain relations between Russia and Austria, and by and large, with other countries, at a high political level. It was said that Gergiev’s concerts in Italy had been canceled, and other negative aspects regarding Russian culture were mentioned. You can cancel a concert where a certain number of people wanted to come, who would obviously be upset. But is it possible to abolish the culture of Russia? Never! It’s like canceling autumn, canceling spring, canceling a sunny day. This doesn’t happen in real life. What is the reason for the cancellation of the concerts? The fact that Russian culture, which is becoming accessible to ordinary people, is dangerous, it can change the opinion that has formed in their heads. Politicians are afraid of Russian culture as a weapon, because when they come into contact with it, everyone begins to treat us with greater understanding and respect, realizing why we are doing this or that action. Today’s meeting is very important. I think that the “International Dialogue” should be supported in every possible way so that people on Earth — and not only in Russia or Austria — feel cared for. I would like to



Sergey Abramov

thank Ms. Holz Müller once again for continuing her work, building bridges between Russia and other countries.”

Nothing is more conducive to friendship than a common cause. I am convinced of this and have many confirmations of it, one of which is my cooperation with **Elena Skvortsova**, Executive Director of the Society for Friendship with Austria:

“Our organization has been engaged in building humanitarian, cultural and public relations between Russia and Austria for more than ten years. One of the important pillars of the work is people’s diplomacy. This is not only an exchange of cultural values, traditions, and experiences, but the most important thing is to create conditions for dialogue. In today’s world, public initiative is a necessary thing. It gives people the opportunity to communicate with each other, and trust is born in this process.

Our cultural and scientific projects are a living bridge that unites people’s hearts and expands the boundaries of official diplomatic structures. We are united by common values — love, peace, friendship and mutual respect. I would like to express my gratitude to all the participants of the event. First of all, Natalia Holz Müller, for her human courage, which she, an Austrian citizen, shows with such emotional dedication, defending the culture of Russia. I would like to thank the Chambre of Commerce and Industry and its president Sergey Katyryn, for the hos-



Elena Skvortsova

pitality in this house, in this hall. I would like to thank Evgeny Kuzminsky, Director of the DEAN Publishing House, for supporting the Russian Culture Without Borders initiative, of which the International Dialogue magazine is an integral part.

We hope that good-neighborly relations between people will become a strong and reliable bridge that will connect our countries.”

The friendship that arose from joint projects connected me with **Olga Khvesik**, the cultural manager of the Vorovsky Sanatorium:

“What projects do you have, Natasha! I am just their living witness from a small region, the city of Rybinsk in the Yaroslavl region. Natasha has been coming to our century-old sanatorium twice a year for seven years. Relax, check her health, but most importantly, implement projects on our stage for our guests. She tells them what you

heard today. He brings information to people from Tutaev, Myshkin, Pereyaslavl-Zalessky. People come to us from many cities. There is silence in the hall, people are listening with bated breath. Her projects are always a success. Of course, it’s not easy, but she manages to bring artists from Moscow. She was probably one of the first to organize an evening in memory of the outstanding artist and man Vasily Lanovoy, with whom she had a close friendship for more than ten years. The guests from Moscow who came for the evening said that central television could envy such an evening. Natalia recently presented the literary and musical composition “Fatum”, dedicated to the 185th anniversary of Tchaikovsky’s birth, where she performed as an actress. Natalia is ready to put on any theatrical costume and dance around the Christmas tree, infecting others with her fun. Come and visit us! Our sanatorium specializes in cardiology, treatment of the musculoskeletal system. Natalia also contributed to the growth of the Vorovsky Sanatorium’s fame. Some people, arriving, immediately ask if Natalia will be on this shift, waiting for meetings with her in our cinema and concert hall. This is a wonderful energy message for all of



Olga Khvesik

us, so that we can work, sing and dance better.”

Olga Khvesik concluded the speeches, after which the guests of the evening were offered a concert in which the soloists of the youth opera program of the Bolshoi Theater of Russia Polina Peletskaya, Ilya Legatov and an opera singer living in Vienna, Dmitry Lebamba, performed. The singers were accompanied by a wonderful musician, composer and pianist **Alexander Pokidchenko**:

“Together with Dmitry Vdovin, artistic director of the Bolshoi Theatre’s youth opera program, we have prepared a program as part of the anthology of Russian lyrics. This is a special branch in Russian art. That is, the music of all Russian composers, one way or another related to the song genre. In our work, we tried to choose songs that are not so well-known.”





Alexander Pokidchenko

A fragment from this program was offered to the guests, who appreciated the vocal skills and artistry of the singers.

The program ended with a performance by Dmitry Lebamba, my creative colleague and friend.

Having a wonderful voice, he does not limit his life to the vocal sphere, being a key figure of the Vienna and Austrian diocese, in fact, the executive director of this structure, and in church, the elder of St. Nicholas Cathedral of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Patriarchate.

It is invaluable that Dmitry, and this is proof of his friendship and generosity, came specially from Vienna, overcoming obstacles, to show his solidarity with our idea and to please you with his execution.

“We met Natalia quite by chance. Alexei Markov, the leading baritone of the Mariinsky Theatre, with whom I have been friends for a long time, while in Vienna, where he regularly performs at the Vienna State Opera, asked me if I was familiar with Natalia Holzmüller, with whom he had collaborated at one time, but whose contacts he had lost. I had Natalia’s phone number, but we didn’t know each other personally. When Alexey called her, Natalia made an appointment with me and Vladyka Alexy, whom Natalia also wanted to meet. We’ve met. Natalia talked about her projects and the difficulties she has to face, especially in the current situation.



Polina Peletskaja



Ilya Legatov



Dmitry Lebamba



Vladyka is a sociable person, and he really liked Natalia's creativity, which he immediately sensed. We began to actively cooperate and not just to help the magazine, but to help each other.

We have many different joint projects. They may not be that big and they don't get much coverage in Austria, but Russian speakers and those Austrians who know us and prefer common sense always attend our events. I thank Natalia for her impetuous energy, kindness and for the aristocratic "need". She says:

"That's when you need to do something," and from her lips it always sounds adequate, does not bother, forcing to live and move forward."

On the beautiful modern screen installed on the eve of the meeting at the Congress Center, the guests could see our interesting, beautiful, richly illustrated magazine.

I gave a short comment on the publications.

The guests enjoyed the evening very much. The printed copies of the magazine that we had prepared

for this event flew away with lightning speed.

As Alexander Shkirando told me, a couple of months later, the staff of the Chamber who attended the event remember him with warmth and say that there was no such meeting there yet. Thanks to information channels, the news of this meeting spread throughout the country. This is what we strive for and firmly believe in ridding the world of evil spirits and the victory of reason over the absurd.





“The Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation is a living organism that is changing with the economy”



Sergey Katyrin

The capital’s World Trade Center hosted a significant event — the ninth Congress of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI), which summed up the results of five years of activity and outlined the contours of future work.

The delegates unanimously re-elected Sergey Katyrin President of the Russian Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a new five-year term.

The International Dialogue Magazine, an information partner of the CCI of the Russian Federation, cordially congratulates Sergey Nikolaevich on his re-election and thanks him for the exclusive interview he gave to our publication following the congress.

Sergey Nikolaevich, summing up the results of the five-year cycle of the CCI system, you noted that business had to go through the most difficult challenges - a pandemic, sanctions, high stakes. What has become the main achievement of the business community and the Chamber in these conditions?

Indeed, the last five years have been a test for Russian business.

But the main achievement is that we have not only resisted, but have learned how to work effectively in new conditions. After the departure of Western companies, many Russian industries not only remained stable, but also significantly expanded production.

According to the World Bank, Russia has been ranked fourth in the world in terms of purchasing power parity for several years. This is an indicator that the domestic economy has adapted and is moving forward, and the business community has become one of the key drivers of this process.

At the congress, you emphasized that the CCI of the Russian Federation is a partner of the state in achieving national goals, from technological development to strengthening the role of small businesses. What are the priority areas of work now?

If we talk about strategic directions, there are three of them.

The first is the creation of economic and legal conditions for doing business. We are actively involved in improving the regulatory

framework, preparing proposals for optimizing control, regulatory policy, and competition development. More than 300 representatives of the Chamber are included in the expert councils and working groups under the authorities alone.

The second is technological development. We support the formation of a closed-loop economy, the development of industrial cooperation, and the introduction of innovative production models. For this purpose, a separate Council on Cyclical Economics was created, and in more than 20 regions there are already specialized QUADs, that is, a classification of types of economic activity.

The third is the expansion of the role of small and medium-sized businesses. These include tax initiatives, consultations on regulatory changes, and support programs. Small business remains the foundation of the economic stability of the regions, and our task is to provide it with equal development opportunities.

One of the notable topics of the congress was the development of family en-



entrepreneurship. Why has this particular topic become a priority?

Because a family business is the foundation of a sustainable economy. In Russia, more than 70% of SME companies can be classified as family-owned. These are enterprises that form long-term relationships, ensure continuity, and develop local markets.

We systematically promote the topic of family entrepreneurship: together with the Federation Council and the State Duma, we hold events, implement the project “Russian Business Hopes” for future heirs of family companies, and support the creation of family business centers. Today, such centers operate in 18 regions, and public formations of family enterprises have been established in 65 chambers.

It is also important that 24 regions have already consolidated the concept of “family entrepreneurship” in legislation, and 11 have adopted special laws. I believe that the time has come for a federal law that will establish a unified approach and create additional incentives for this important category of business.

You often emphasize the importance of social responsibility of entrepreneurs. How is this work developing today?

Social responsibility is not an abstract term, but a real part of business activities. These include caring for employees, participating in cultural and educational projects, and doing charity work.

The E. M. Primakov Children’s Aid Foundation, founded more

than 20 years ago, occupies a special place. Today, he actively supports children who find themselves in difficult situations. In recent years, tens of thousands of children and more than 60 social institutions in 44 regions have received assistance. This is a powerful example of how an entrepreneurial community can change people’s lives for the better.

Which decisions of the Chamber in the field of alternative dispute resolution have become the most significant?

Businesses choose procedures that allow them to save time, money, and at the same time maintain partnerships. That is why in recent years we have expanded our network of mediation centers — more than 20 “reconciliation rooms” are already operating in state courts. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry is the only organization in the country charged by law with developing the institution of mediation, and we are actively fulfilling this task.

The International Commercial Arbitration Court is also showing an increase in demand: companies from more than 40 countries apply there every year, despite the difficult foreign policy situation. This confirms the trust of international business in our dispute resolution institutions.

Investment and industrial policy are a key element of economic growth. What role does the CCI of the Russian Federation play here?

The President set a goal to increase investments in fixed assets by 60% by 2030 relative to 2020. To achieve this goal, we are working together with federal and re-

gional authorities, development institutions, and, above all, with the Industrial Development Fund.

In addition, the Chamber actively develops entrepreneurial competencies, conducts financial and investment literacy programs, and helps enterprises learn new lending and project financing tools. This is an important element of support for the industrial sector, which is currently undergoing a period of structural renewal.

And finally: How do you assess the business community’s readiness for new economic cycles and the pace of technological change?

Russian business has proven that it is able to adapt to the most difficult changes. We see that entrepreneurs are actively investing in technology, expanding their presence in foreign markets, and participating in cooperation within the country.

The CCI of the Russian Federation is a living organism that changes with the economy. We regularly analyze the work of regional chambers, update standards, and initiate legislative changes. Our goal is to provide businesses with predictability, competent support, and clear rules of the game.

I am confident that the joint work of the government, entrepreneurs and development institutions will allow us to consistently move towards technological sovereignty, increase investment and strengthen Russia’s position in the global economy.

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Dialogue of cultures through the ages

One of the significant anniversaries of this year is the 165th anniversary of the birth of the outstanding Austrian composer Gustav Mahler, the last romantic of the 19th century, whose work crossed into the 20th century, since the composer passed away in 1911.

Mahler lived a relatively short life filled with selfless service to art. His work is inextricably linked with the European culture of two centuries. The composer was very interested in Russia. Gustav Mahler was a great admirer of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and conducted the first German premiere of “Eugene Onegin” in Hamburg in 1892, where Tchaikovsky arrived a year before his death and was so satisfied with Mahler’s work that he made no attempt to interfere in the rehearsal process and take over the leadership of the orchestra.

Mahler admired Dostoevsky and was well acquainted with his work. The composer is compared to Dostoevsky because of the principle of combining alien and seemingly incompatible materials, an irrecon-



Gustav Mahler



Valery Gergiev

cilable attitude towards evil and an inner search for justice.

Gustav Mahler’s first performance in Russia took place on March 15, 1897 in Moscow. In the Hall of the Noble Assembly, an Austrian conductor, little known to the Russian public, performed as part of a subscription concert of the Imperial Russian Musical Society.

Mahler was impressed by Russia: *“Life here is great! There is a samovar in my room, and I drink tea from it all the time... the people here are extremely kind and attentive. And I have never seen such a comfortable environment even in England!”*

Mahler visited Russia for the second time in 1902. Gustav Mahler, who became the chief conductor and director of the Vienna Court Opera, arrived on tour in St. Petersburg at the initiative of German manufacturers, owners of the Schroeder Piano Company, and official suppliers of musical instruments to the St. Petersburg

Conservatory and the Russian Musical Society.

Mahler’s third and last visit to Russia took place in November 1907. This time, he finally appeared before the Russian public as a composer. In St. Petersburg, in the Conservatory Hall, the newly created Fifth Symphony was performed, which premiered in Cologne in October 1904.

Mahler spoke about his work: *“Writing music means building a new world.”*

The composer has created nine symphonies, and all of them are devoted to a single question: “What is the meaning of life?”

Maestro Gergiev is undoubtedly an ambassador of music in the global space, invariably offering its unique interpretation, adequate to the creator’s plan.

Valery Gergiev: *“The music that I conduct is music that I deeply love. I can read the score a hundred or a thousand times, but it always feels like the first time.”*



In Mahler's jubilee year, the Maestro performed a grandiose musical offering to him in concerts. I was lucky enough to attend four evenings at the Zaryadye Concert Hall in Moscow and one at the historical stage of the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia.

The centerpiece of the colossal "Mahler cycle in five evenings" was the Eighth Symphony, performed on the Historical Stage of

the Bolshoi Theater of Russia, with the United Symphony Orchestra (plus singer-soloists) involved in its performance musicians of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Theaters, as well as the Bolshoi Theater Choir and children's Choir. The first, second, third, fourth, fifth and seventh symphonies were performed by the Mariinsky Theatre Symphony Orchestra at the Zaryadye concerts.

The eighth symphony is dedicated to the composer's beloved wife Alma Mahler, who was known as the first beauty of Vienna and turned the heads of many celebrities of her time. She became his friend, assistant, and highly appreciated his music, seeing in the composer a great creator even when the audience and critics were laughing at Mahler's symphonies.



Alma and Gustav Mahler





Mahler's symphonies, which touch on universal themes and contain deep philosophical ideas, are now heard everywhere and, despite their complexity and duration, are admired. I must admit, I was amazed that the halls were crowded at each of the concerts, and I saw many young people among the audience. This negates the claims that nowadays lapidarity is mainly in demand.

And how did the audience receive this music? As they say, incessant applause, shouts of "bravo", a sense of celebration of the spirit.

Of course, the reason for this is the brilliant music of Gustav Mahler as read by Valery Gergiev and the outstanding performers under the direction of the Maestro, whose role in restoring international cultural dialogue

cannot be overestimated. However, for Valery Gergiev, this dialogue did not stop, he continues his path in art, and no absurd attempts by politicians to impose their crazy ideas on the destruction of Russian culture on the world will force him to change himself and his beliefs and ostracize the world classics.





Russian Geographical Society

Exhibition
«Multinational Russia»



Girl from mountains
Foto: Shota Gagloev
Nordossetien-Alanien

“MULTINATIONAL RUSSIA”

On November 4, National Unity Day and the feast of the Kazan Icon of the Mother of God, a photo exhibition “Multinational Russia” was opened at St. Nicholas Cathedral in Vienna.

Russians Russian Orthodox Church supported the project with the support of the Vienna and Austrian Dioceses, the Russian Geographical Society, the initiative of the youth club of the Russian Geographical Society in Austria, as well as the NGO Ost trifft West (East meets West).



Alexander Silinsky. *Vacation*



Maria Astachova. *Steading Zadonje*

Multinational Russia is a traveling photo exhibition of the Russian Geographical Society dedicated to the ethnocultural and natural diversity of the country. Its main goal is to show the wealth of the peoples of Russia, their identity, traditions and unique culture, while emphasizing the unity and experience of peaceful coexistence of various ethnic groups within one state.

The exhibition tells about Russia through images of people from different nationalities, introducing them to their costumes, customs, rituals, and way of life, and creates a holistic visual image of a country where each nation is an integral part of a common cultural space. The photographs form a vivid, visual encyclopedia of multinational Russia — sincere, careful and proud.



Andrej Kijko *Tchuk and Gek*



Vladimir Kuschnarev. *Daria*



Ekaterina Kulikova. *The folk beauty of Sami*



The exhibition is based on artistic photographs selected from the annual all-Russian competition of the Russian Geographical Society “The Most beautiful Country”.

This large-scale photo project, which has been held since 2015, is open to all comers and unites tens of thousands of participants from all over Russia. The main condition is that all images must be taken on the territory of the country.





Vladimir Bondarenko. *The rite*

“Multinational Russia is primarily about people. With this exhibition, we wanted to give a voice to their cultures, crafts and faith, which form the common face of the country,” the organizers shared.



Gulnaz Makieva. *Bashkir wedding. Custom*

“The White Steamboat”

One of the landmark events I attended in Moscow this September was a gala concert at the Bolshoi Theatre of Russia dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the White Steamboat Children’s Music Festival, which touched and amazed me. There was an amazing atmosphere of unity on stage and in the audience, everyone seemed to know each other, which is partly true. No wonder they say that the White Steamboat is a friendly musical family that unites children from all over Russia, regardless of their social status and health-related limitations. This is a unique social project that has no analogues in the world, the talented participants of which are selected competitively. When choosing, special attention is paid to children with disabilities, orphans, as well as children from single-parent, low-income, large families and those who lost their fathers during a special military operation. Over the twenty-year history, more than 10,000 gifted children have participated in the festival, many of whom, with the support of the White Steamboat Foundation, have received musical

education in the best educational institutions in the country.

The twentieth anniversary festival, which was attended by 152 people from 71 cities and 38 regions of Russia, lasted more than a month.

At first, on the largest island of the Sea of Japan, Russian, on the territory of the Far Eastern Federal University, children studied vocal, choral and acting skills. In addition to classes, they had an extensive entertainment program: the participants of the festival visited the Primorsky Aquarium, with the assistance of the command of the Far Eastern Navy visited the Maritime Museum and warships.

During the summer choral school, the young artists of the festival learned a very complex program, which was performed with great success on the Primorsky Stage of the Mariinsky Theater in Vladivostok. The honorary guests of the concert were Maestro Gergiev, Rector of the Far Eastern Federal University Boris Korobets, as well as the Governor of Primorsky Krai Oleg Kozhemyako, who greeted the participants of the festival from the stage and invited the

White Steamship to the Pacific cruise with a visit to Sakhalin Island, the Kuril Islands and Kamchatka in 2026.

In continuation of the Far Eastern tour, concerts were held in Komsomolsk-on-Amur and Khabarovsk to full houses.

In August, the festival set off on a journey along the Volga on the motor ship A. S. Pushkin. During the cruise, the children visited the beautiful Volga cities of Uglich, Yaroslavl, Cheboksary, Nizhny Novgorod, Kostroma, Myshkin and Kazan, where, as part of the anniversary of the Republic of Tatarstan, the Kazan State Circus hosted a concert together with students of the children’s circus school, combining choral and circus arts for the first time, which turned this concert into a bright, unique event.

The grand concert on the Historical Stage of the Bolshoi Theater of Russia was accompanied by the symphony Orchestra of the theater under the direction of the artistic director and general director of the Mariinsky and Bolshoi Theaters, People’s Artist of the Russian Federation Valery Gergiev and the



conductor of the Bolshoi Theater Orchestra Airat Kashaev.

The founder of the project is world-renowned opera singer Nikolai Didenko, whose voice was heard from the stages of opera houses in the USA, Great Britain, Germany, France, Spain, Denmark, a guest soloist of the Bolshoi and Mariinsky Theaters, winner of the Grammy Award and the award of the President of the Russian Federation V. V. Putin for the creation of the charity fund “White Steamboat”.

Nikolay Didenko devoted 20 years of his life to this unique project, thanks to which music extended the lives of many children, as he talked about in his interviews.:

“I’ll even say more — we started working to support such children. Unfortunately, some of them are no longer alive. And they





lived only on music and communication with the teachers of the Academy of Choral Art, with the Honored Artist of Russia Alexander Shevchenko. We started this project together. When the first shift was completed, the children begged to continue. Many stayed at home with serious illnesses, and the “White Steamboat” literally prolonged their lives. I remember the girl Albina Gracheva, who,

unfortunately, has already left. She had Werdnig-Hoffman disease. But Albina sang amazingly, very soulfully. Each of her speeches was an appeal: “Look at how I live, and don’t complain about your problems.” And people came out in tears. There were many such children, and we had no right to betray them. Although there were times when we could hardly raise money for another festival, and it was scary, because these children only lived by the project.”

The core of the project is charity, which Nikolai Didenko encountered in his youth:

“Even as a student, the Foundation “World of art” invited me to participate in its projects. And that’s when I first encountered and started communicating with children with disabilities. I physically helped, for example, if it was necessary to get wheelchair users off the bus. I’ve never been afraid of that.

So in 2005, Vladislav Teterin from the “World of art” asked me to go to Khabarovsk and se-

lect several children to participate in major projects in Moscow. At that moment, I had just returned from an internship in Houston, August turned out to be free, and it was very interesting for me to go to the Far East after a long time in a foreign country. Russia, Amur, the ship — everything was romantic and beautiful for me. Besides, I was born in Petropavlovsk. That visit, together with Irina Anatolyevna Yuryevskaya, the head of the ARIDI Foundation, we came up with this story.

We did a modest concert on the ship, and after this shift we began to gather singing children with difficult fates from all over the Far East. And there were absolutely wonderful people around, with whom we worked as a team. But I was also impressed by the children with their talents. And suddenly I saw that this idea could live on. Besides, I’ve already had experience working with children and it’s been very useful.”





Maestro Valery Gergiev

Didn't you lead the children's and youth choir of the patriarchal Compound?

"Yes, I was 16 years old, I was in the 9th grade of the choral college, when Father Sergiy Kiselyov from Fryazino suggested that I try to become the regent of the children's and youth choir. At that moment, the choir did not have a regent, and at that time I assumed that I would be the conductor. As a child, I couldn't imagine myself being an opera singer, because I really didn't like opera singing. For me, there was nothing worse than this singing at all. I liked pop music, especially Western music, like Whitney Houston. And only then did the love of opera begin with Mario Lanza.

So, any conductor dreams of a choir. And that was my first experience. That was the first time I went to church, I was an unbeliever, unbaptized, but I decided to try. A little later, I assembled a team of my own friends from the choir school. And we created a very good choir, which became the winner of the international Orthodox competition-festival in Poland the following year. And then we won the audience award."

Was it difficult to manage the Patriarchal Choir without experience in church life?

"At first, I saw it as a job. And it was very interesting to work with children and manage the choir. I even had "stardust", and my peers chastised me a bit harshly for it. When they told me how I looked from the outside, I thought about this topic. Thank God, I got over it, it was youth. Fame and first prizes have fallen."

Did baptism somehow help you overcome the "stardust"?

"Unfortunately, the closer we get to the Church, the more temptations there are. Obedience is very important, and many people forget that it

is necessary to live humbly. It wasn't about the baptism. It's just that there are principles in my life that I never overstep and live only by them."

Which ones?

"They are very simple. Be kind and helpful. The usual commandments..."

In your opinion, what is important to build in a child in childhood?

"I was raised on children's fairy tales myself. Kindness is the most important thing. It is important that the child is kind and understands what it means to give. Education, of course, is also very important, and, of course, I want my children to receive a good musical education, but the most important thing is human qualities. So that the guys could not get past the trouble and always helped those in need. That's why my children always come to the "White Steamboat" and help."

Your children often sing songs with the words "rejoice", "give joy to people", "we believe in life". What does this concept of joy mean to you?

"There should always be a lot of positivity. I guess I'm a hopeless optimist. My whole life is full of joyful moments, and they happen every day. Something good has happened, and I'm overwhelmed with happiness at the moment. In general, it is very important to notice moments of happiness. I know a lot





of people who, no matter what happens, everything is bad. I don't understand how you can live like this."

How has participating in charity changed your attitude towards life and children?

"When I was working only for myself, I felt a kind of emptiness. Yes, I was a sought-after artist, but I didn't feel spiritual emotions. And with this project, everything fell into place. Now it is already an integral part of life, without which

I cannot live at all. It's a brain-child. It's a whole school with vocal traditions."

In your opinion, what is the purpose of man on earth?

"I think that a person should live his life in such a way that only good things are said about him. So that he could create something. If he is a teacher of the Russian language, then he should be such that everyone remembers him as the kindest and best of all they knew.

This man may just be a locksmith, but he does his job in such a way that people thank him later. If this is the case, then the lofty goal we are striving for has been achieved. And that's what it means to live by the commandments. Everything must be done in good faith. Everyone should find their niche, what they are most talented at, and it can be anything. We must work honestly, putting our hearts into it. Well, and create, of course.

Many people leave our country and then say how bad everything is with us. Did you do something to make it better for us? I think something needs to be done here, and it may be some small things. Let's say that teaching, creating a younger generation, is investing oneself in the future. And the global goal of man is to leave behind a posterity that would not be a shame."

Have you found your niche?

"Absolutely. If someone had asked me if I would like to change something, I would have said no. Although, of course, there is also a misunderstanding of others. Some close people even say, "You should become a folk artist first,





and then do charity work.” And I try to put everything into the education of children, I help those who want to develop further in music.

At first, I tried to explain that you can’t live only for yourself and sometimes you have to give something. But many people believe that it is necessary to give only when there is something to give. And I think that even if there is nothing, it is still necessary. Giving is a “drug”, in a good way. We just have to try.”



A holiday that is always with you

The Moscow Musical Theater is 15 years old!

During my stay in Moscow this fall, I was lucky enough to attend the anniversary evening of the Moscow Musical Theater, which I have become a fan of since I first visited there and saw a Broadway-scale “Prime Time” show, the author of the idea of which is the artistic director of the theater Mikhail Shvydkoi, and the director is his wife Marina Shvydkaya.

I have known Mikhail Efimovich for a long time, and since I met him, I have constantly admired his brilliant mind, encyclopedic education, sparkling humor and love of life, which he fills with happiness and generously shares with others, which is immediately felt in the theater’s productions, one of which is called “Life is beautiful!”. This is a celebration performance, a musical greeting from the past, imbued with a kind nostalgic atmosphere and at the same time acutely relevant. The main directions of musical

styles and trends of the last century are represented in it by hits of legendary performers and great composers of the “light” genre, and Mikhail Efimovich himself performs the role of entertainer, each time impressing the audience with step dance. Despite the tension required by playing the role of the presenter, linking all the numbers together, and the expenditure of a fair share of energy in

step dance, it is obvious that he enjoys infecting the auditorium, which is always filled to capacity, with this feeling.

As you know, real artists keep the signs of childhood in themselves all their lives, thanks to which their creative energy is inexhaustible and it is easy for people of all ages to communicate with them.





By creating the Moscow Musical Theater, Mikhail Efimovich realized what he had probably dreamed of for a long time, and his dreams usually come true. When I am in Moscow, I always try to get to the performances of this theater, which I sometimes watch more than once, such as “Crime and Punishment” or the legendary “Princess of the Circus” by Imre Kalman, staged by Marina Shvydkaya not as an operetta, but as a musical circus performance. It has been played over 700 times already!

Every time I am convinced of the correctness of Mikhail Efimovich’s words:

“The most important person in the theater is the audience. And if he comes out after the performance with a feeling of happiness, con-

fidence and hope for the future, if our performances have touched his heart, we do not exist in vain.”

The anniversary of the theater was timed to coincide with the opening of the season.

The guests were greeted with champagne, in perfect harmony with the theater itself — joyful, optimistic, cheerful, like a splash of sparkling drink.

The anniversary evening was filled with concert performances made up of almost the entire repertoire, which had accumulated a lot over the past fifteen years, and Mikhail Shvydkoi, as a cordial host, talked from the stage about the life of the theater, about the goals he set for himself when creating a non-governmental repertory musical theater in Moscow, and about plans for the future.

The fireworks from the archive and current performances were fascinating and invited to participate.

In a joyful outburst, I sang along with abandon:

Ah, my premonitions did not lie to me,

Yes, my eyes did not lie to me.

A white swan gliding over the wave,

A steamer is coming smoothly towards us

Each of those sitting in the hall, among whom were many friends of the theater and Mikhail Efimovich, who had seen and experienced many theater-goers, was completely immersed in the wonderful world he created, where peace and happiness reign!



Mikhail Shvydkoi





In the press mirror:

“Prime Time”

“Entertainment genre suddenly showed its teeth, ridiculing the wrong side of television and society in general. The Russian musical turned into journalism, turning the famous plot inside out, resulting in an anti-Cinderella. As it turned out, the Russian musical has a great and happy future.”

Ogonyok

“Such a conversation in modern Russia is a rarity in the musical genre. The satirical component is one of the challenges posed by the authors to themselves. The characters here are recognizable. In “Prime Time” there are scenes, lines and characters copied in detail from reality.

Kommersant

“Life is beautiful!”

“The performance has nerve, attractive intonation, and drive. They sing and dance like on Broadway. From the very first numbers, the audience began to sing along with the artists. The accents of the century are in his best iconic songs.”

Rossiyskaya Gazeta

“In fact, “Life is Beautiful” turned out to be deeper and more significant than any concert and stronger in impact than perhaps the creators themselves intended. With these songs, I want to understand a little more about this very life.”

Arguments and Facts

“The author’s memoir performance by Mikhail Shvydkoi can be called “My Musical Century.” It intertwines musical styles and trends of the past and present, popular songs by legendary perfor-

mers and great composers of the “light genre”.

Rossiya-Kultura TV Channel

“Circus Princess”

“This production has long been called one of the most original and risky. The story, which has gone through a huge number of different readings, is now told in a completely different way.”

Rossiya-Kultura TV Channel

“The Circus Princess is a landmark performance not only for the theater, but also for theatrical art in general. The production became the first in the history of the famous operetta combining circus, musical and dramatic skill.”

Your leisure time

“Reverse”

“Reverse” is already being called a revolution in the art world.”

Ren-TV Channel





“There really is no sly acting, flirting with the public. Feelings do not tame, emotions do not curb. With complete bodily emancipation, traumatic cascades convey not only the aesthetic perfection of acrobatic forms and the limitless possibilities of gutta-percha bodies, but also ethical meanings and philosophical reasoning. Although there without words.”

Kultura Newspaper

“The love Test”

“It was Mikhail Shvydkoi’s idea to set a love story against the backdrop of a pandemic. The creators found both intonation and understandable human stories. The musical features a video wedding, cancelled flights, and walks with pets. Everything is very recognizable and touching. It looks very easy, despite the fact that the musical parts are very difficult to perform.”

Rambler



Our strength lies in unity

There are meetings in life that can change a lot, which is why they are called fateful.

You just need to be open and internally prepared for them. Everything happens as if by chance, but I am convinced of the power of providence. No wonder they say His Majesty is a Case.

That's what happened to me.

Having lived in Austria since 1991, I have never forgotten Russia, having left there not for political reasons, but because of private circumstances, and carried out international cultural projects whenever possible. The largest of them was the Russian Ball, which I held annually for eleven years in Vienna, and nine times in the Hofburg. Due to the aggravation of the international situation, it became more and more difficult to work, and with the beginning of the special operation, the opportunities steadily dwindled. I did not give up and continued to move forward, not because of, but in spite of. However, there were times when it seemed that the situation had reached a dead end. But suddenly there was a light at the end of the tunnel.

Through Alexey Markov, a wonderful singer and leading soloist of the Mariinsky Theatre, who performs on the most famous opera



Dmitry Lebamba



Concert in Vienna City Hall

stages in the world, including the Vienna State Opera, I met his colleague and close friend Dmitry Lebamba. Dmitry Lebamba, a laureate of international competitions who graduated from the St. Petersburg Conservatory and is a soloist at the Mariinsky Academy of Young Singers, was invited as a soloist to the Graz Opera House, where he successfully performed leading roles in operas by Mozart and Verdi. But, as we remember, when lockdown came, the theaters were closed.

Russian Orthodox, Dmitry grew up a believer and, while in Graz, he always came to Vienna on Sundays to attend services at St. Nicholas Church of the Russian Orthodox Church of the Moscow Diocese, whose building in the forms of traditional Russian architecture, is one of the most beautiful in Europe. Since 2022, Bishop Alexy of Vienna and Austria has been the rector of this cathedral. When he learned that Dmitry Lebamba was unlikely to remain in the theater company due to the situation during the pandemic, he invited him to head the Depart-

ment of culture of the Vienna and Austrian Diocese, and he immediately set to work. Over time, having become close friends with Dima, I realized that he could not live any other way. By nature, Dmitry is a natural leader, and even I, who am used to leading myself, readily admit this.

He came up with the idea to hold the international festival of Russian Orthodox culture *Ost trifft West* - "East meets West" in the year of the 800th anniversary of Alexander Nevsky, in whose name the lower altar of St. Nicholas Cathedral was consecrated. Such a large-scale project, the implementation of which was associated not only with difficulties, but also with risks, was a success, and its culmination was a solemn concert of the choir in the Great Ballroom of the Vienna City Hall, held with the support of Vienna Mayor Michael Ludwig.

It was a glorious beginning, on the basis of which the public organization *Ost trifft West* arose, which organized many interesting events, in particular, concerts ded-



Nis Exellency Alexy und Nathalie Holz Müller

icated to the 150th anniversary of Sergei Rachmaninoff.

At my request, and with Vladyka's blessing, Dmitry arranged for us to meet together at the cathedral.

From the first minutes of acquaintance, a warm, sociable atmosphere was established. I was captivated by Vladyka's radiant eyes and his sincere smile. I told them about the "International Dialogue"



magazine I publish and asked for an interview with this publication. Vladyka agreed, and this agreement marked the beginning of an amazing period of my life filled with light and joy.

I immediately felt how highly Vladyka Dmitry Lebamba appreciates, whom he called an "ambassador" of Russian culture.

Vladyka's first publication "Standing in the Truth" in the "International Dialogue" magazine caused a wide response, after which articles began to be published in every issue. Under the arches of the temple, in the museum, with the blessing of His Exellency, a presentation of the magazine took place, which happened for the first time in my life.

Dmitry's creative nature resonated with me, and cooperation and friendship with him began to develop successfully, as we are united by patriotism, a responsible attitude, a sense of duty and an active lifestyle. When there are such coincidences, the work is disputed, and success crowns it.

Dmitry began to involve me in his projects, one of which was the performance of the choir of St. Nicholas Orthodox Cathedral in St. Peter's Catholic Cathedral in the historical center of Vienna, which was enthusiastically received by both residents of the Austrian capital and guests of the city, who traditionally attend concerts in this amazing temple, the pearl of the Baroque.

A significant milestone of our cooperation was the musical and literary composition "Fatum", dedicated to the 185th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's birth. Dmitry sug-



gested that I write a script and act as an actress in this composition, where he sings Tchaikovsky's romances and in which the wonderful pianist Denis Yavorsky participates as soloist and accompanist.

At first, I was filled with doubts about my acting abilities, but Dmitry, with his inherent power of persuasion and faith that I could do it, quickly dispelled them.

Of course, without his classes with me, which were probably the same as in theater schools, I probably would not have reached a decent level that convinced the audience.

This play was shown in Vienna twice — in Russian and in German.

Dmitry Lebamba, whom the famous Russian conductor and composer Vladimir Rylov called "a phenomenon in musical culture", has not only a voice of wonderful velvety timbre, but also extraordinary musicality and artistry, thanks to which his performances are invari-

ably accompanied by noisy success, and Denis Yavorsky is not only an ideal partner, but also a brilliant soloist, which, of course, made a huge impression on the audience.

The action of our "enterprise" caused a deep emotional response, many admitted that they could not hold back tears, sympathizing with the difficult fate of the genius.

In the year of Tchaikovsky, Dmitry Lebamba staged a concert at the Russian House in Vienna called "Tchaikovsky and Beyond", where he invited his longtime friend, soprano Pelageya Kurenaya, recognized in Russia and abroad, and Lyubov Raiskaya, who has a truly "crystal" soprano. Both girls, who responded to Dmitry's invitation and flew to Vienna from Paris, where they participated in the competition, especially for the concert, were inimitably good—both musically and visually. Their appearance combined feminine

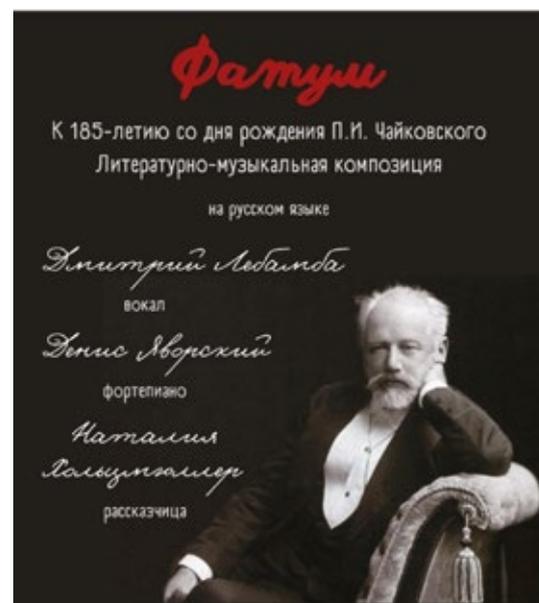
attractiveness and expressive stage presentation. Dmitry, of course, was a match for them, a favorite of the audience, whose performances are always expected.

A large-scale project, also initiated by Dmitry Lebamba and the NGO Ost trifft West, where he is president, and blessed by Bishop Alexy, is the creation of a cultural and educational center at the Diocese of Vienna and Austria.

For many years, the parishioners of St. Nicholas Cathedral have been raising funds in order to expand the possibilities of spiritual enlightenment of people, to introduce them to the diversity of Russian culture.

Currently, reconstruction is underway there in order to adapt the area for a cultural and educational center, which will include music and art schools, a theater studio in Russian and German, a literary cafe and a chamber concert hall. This real estate is in the building next to the St. Nicholas Cathedral and the Russian Embassy.

This Center will become a place of attraction for fans of Russian culture and world classics, both compatriots living in Vienna and the local population. Dmitry Lebamba, who is responsible for the creation process, will become the director and artistic director of the Center.





From left to right: Pelagaya Kurennaya, Dmitry Lebamba and Lyubov Raiskaya

Dmitry is sensitive to the world and people and tries to help them to the best of his ability.

He warmly responded to the request of the chief physician of the regional children's clinic in Donetsk, which is in dire need of medical equipment manufactured only in Austria, and this equipment, thanks to his efforts, was purchased with donations from parishioners.

In January next year, a trip to Donetsk will take place, where Dmitry Lebamba will give a concert, and I will present the "International Dialogue" magazine.

On the eve of these important events, I would like to recall once again the motto:

«Our strength lies in unity!»



... with Denis Yavorsky



A family headed by a student

Moscow University of Finance and Law MFUA

Origins and formation

It all started in 1990 with the establishment of the Educational Center “Education” at the State Committee for Public Education of the USSR, which became the primary foundation of the future university. In those years, when the country was going through the most difficult times of change, the center was designed not only to teach, but also to help understand the new reality.

In 1994, the Moscow Academy of Finance and Law was founded on the basis of this training center, which quickly expanded its geog-

raphy by opening branches in Kaliningrad and Kirov. By 2003, the academy was confidently occupying a leading position in the ratings of private universities in the country, training specialists for the growth economy.

In 2010 was granted university status, which recognized the high level of educational programs and scientific achievements. In 2014, a powerful university complex was created, combining education, sports, art and high technology. In 2017, the first children’s technopark Naukograd was opened, where students can practice robotics, 3D modeling

and programming, which confirms the university’s strategy for early talent development.

Today, the consortium includes six branches throughout Russia and 21 own buildings in Moscow. Each building is equipped with modern laboratories and scientific and educational centers. Student temples, museums, and exhibition centers are an integral part of the infrastructure, such as the unique Sokolniki Space Museum and the museum laboratory dedicated to art, science, and technology. The museum’s website: <https://museum.mfua.ru/>





Studying at the university is designed to gain specialized knowledge in more than 40 areas, from law and business to film and television. Students implement projects in a law firm, on their own media channel and on the First Russian National Channel, gain practical skills in leading major government structures in the Government of Moscow, the Federal Treasury and Rosfinmonitoring, as well as in large companies, for example, Yandex, Sberbank and Roscosmos. The University offers dual degree

programs and has “A” grades in the international ranking, which confirms its recognition on the world stage.

The MFUA attaches great importance to creative and sports areas. There are their own hockey teams and media services. Students participate in Olympiads and international competitions, and use recreation centers in different parts of the country.

In its history, the university has trained more than 300,000 specialists who implement creative ideas and create the future.



The rector. Father. The Creator

Alexey Grigorievich Zabelin’s work does not leave either students or colleagues indifferent. This name has deservedly become synonymous with quality education and professionalism.

Alexey Zabelin is a full member of the Academy of Humanities and the author of 120 scientific papers, his contribution to the development of science and education is recognized and encouraged. He was awarded the title of Honorary Worker of Higher Professional Education of the Russian Federation for his dedication and contribution to the educational field.

Under the leadership of Alexey Zabelin, the Moscow University of Finance and Law (MFUA) has



Alexey Zabelin and Mayor of Moscow Sergej Sobjanin in children’s technopark “Naukograd”



The President of Russia Wladimir Putin awarded Alexey Zabelin the Order of Friendship in 2006

become the largest educational complex, where more than 50,000 students and 250,000 graduates have found opportunities for professional growth.

Thanks to Alexey Grigorievich, MFUA students have the opportunity to study in any of the 50 educational programs from school to graduate school. The university's academic buildings are widely spread not only throughout Moscow, but also represented by six branches and more than 150 representative offices in Russia and abroad. The MFUA University has opened swimming pools and sports

and recreation complexes, 3 recreation centers and more than 20 extracurricular development areas. Students not only study general education and professional disciplines, but also receive spiritual and moral education under the mentorship of prominent figures from various spheres of society. The university has an atmosphere of culture and art thanks to the museum and exhibition educational complex "Science, Technology, Art".

The rector's strategic vision, scientific activity and pedagogical talent have made the university one of the leaders in training spe-

cialists in finance, law, economics and management, combining a fundamental school with innovations that work ahead of graduate requirements.

Alexey Zabelin: "Education is the foundation of the future. Therefore, MFUA faces important tasks: educating the younger generation as patriotic citizens, developing a free, cultured, creative and multifaceted personality, and developing educational programs ahead of technological progress."

All my life, I have served the university with dedication and know that the well-coordinated work of the faculty, dedicated students, and the support of the state and partners is the foundation for the university's long-term sustainability and success.

MFUA is a family headed by a student. More than 30 educational and laboratory buildings and branches, 3 training centers, 2 sports and recreation complexes with swimming pools and fitness rooms, advanced technoparks Naukograd, museum and exhibition educational complex Science, Technology, Art have already been opened for students. There are 15 departments in



law, economics, media, IT, and customs.

Working together, we create the best educational environment in accordance with the leading strategic lines of socio-economic development of Russia. I am sure that the atmosphere of cooperation and mutual understanding will lead to great results.

I invite everyone to become a part of MFUA University!”



Alexander Laabmayr. The Transformation

The DEAN Publishing House is preparing to publish the book “Transformation”, written by the Austrian sculptor Alexander Laabmayr based on the impressions of his trips to Russia.

We bring to your attention fragments from this book.

“...Fate brought me together with Nathalie Holzmüller, and thanks to my trips to Russia, I gained a new understanding of this country and its wonderful people. Nathalie has extensive experience in the field of international cultural dialogue, and she managed to ignite me with

her enthusiasm. We see ourselves as Russian-Austrian bridge builders, and like Europeans and Christians, we feel obligated to carry our personal values and sacred fire into the world.

We want to inspire people to do the same, because it will lead to the transformation we all crave.

I am a philanthropist and an eternal optimist, like, by the way, many whom I met during my trips to Russia. This book was born thanks to the co-creation of like-minded people. People living in different parts of Europe, con-



cerned about its future, are joining forces to resolve the tense situation. Each of us has abilities, individual talents that we can use for the benefit of society. It is this need to bring goodness to the world that has united us. Transformation means for me the development of a new awareness of the high efficiency of each person. Awareness of collective responsibility, through which it will be possible to achieve world peace, which I wish with all my heart....

...Orthodoxy is a part of Russia's cultural heritage. The forms of his confession have changed, as the church has been subjected to state repression for centuries. However, despite all the changes and the modern lifestyle of Russians, Orthodoxy still remains a kind of anchor in people's lives. I had a feeling that many of them were deeply connected with the teachings of Christ, and I felt an inner spiritual power in them. I am convinced that the cultural development of Russia is closely linked to Orthodoxy. The history of Russia was filled with dramatic events,





which made people realize how important it is to preserve cultural heritage. The repressions of the past did not eradicate Orthodoxy, Christian values are important for the functioning of society. They made the Russian people strong and led them through crises. This conscience of the Russian people will continue to overcome trials....

...After the opening of the Iron Curtain, Russia learned from its own experience that the path of "Americanism" is not a solution for the country and its people, since it would mean selling off the country, its raw materials and, ultimately, the collapse of the state.

The European Union is an artificially created construct of global elites based solely on materia-

lism. Europe has already betrayed all historically established spiritual ideals and its traditional values. Nowadays, we have to observe how ruthless exploitation persistently destroys functioning structures. At the same time, this crisis may give the West a chance to revive European humanism. There is intellectual potential for this, but it is suppressed and censored, and there is no public discussion on this topic. A huge Russia with rich raw materials, spiritual strength and priceless cultural heritage, whose society is shaped by the historical fate of the country, has chosen a different path of cultural development, and by its example it will be able to make people who have realized the de-

cline of Europe believe in the possibility of change.

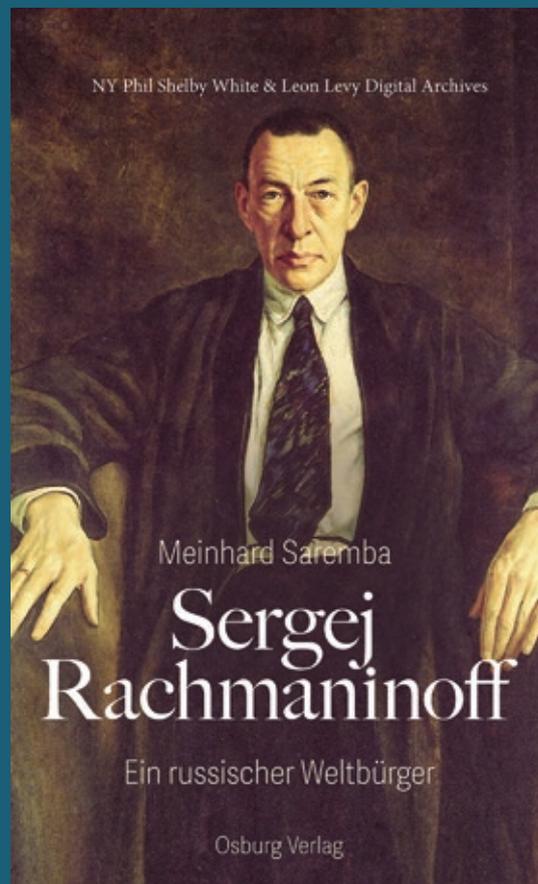
Only by uniting enlightened forces will Europe be able to achieve a transformation and return to its former greatness. The world is in a state of turmoil, and a leap in development is inevitable for Europe. If the gap between the materialistic consumer society and spiritual needs increases, the collapse of the system will occur, which will entail unforeseen consequences. The integrity and independence of Russia must be protected. The Europeans must regain their autonomy and self-respect. Only such unity can bring long-awaited healing to the peoples of our continent."



DEAN Publishing House continues the series

“RUSSIAN CULTURE: A VIEW FROM ABROAD”

There are many people of good will in the world who understand the worldwide importance of Russian culture. They not only love Russian literature, music, cinema, and ballet, but also do the most important work — building bridges of understanding and mutual respect between cultures and peoples. The purpose of the new series is to introduce Russian readers to the work of these people, true humanists who defend true, universal values. The series was opened by the novel by the famous Austrian actor and writer Michael Dangel, which received the title “Dostoevsky’s Venetian Mystery” in Russian translation and provoked positive responses from literary critics and connoisseurs of Dostoevsky’s work, as well as from a wide range of readers. Work is currently underway on the publication of a new book by the German writer and music journalist Meinhard Zarembo “Sergei Rachmaninov. The Russian cosmopolitan”.



DEAN Publishing House is represented by:

Karina SOLLOWAY

THE RABBIT IN THE HEADLIGHTS



Karina Solloway's novel is sarcastic, daring, full of absurdity, hope and pain. The book is based on real events and is written in the first person. The main character, our compatriot, an emigrant who has established a thriving business in the UK, is falsely accused of a crime and ends up behind prison bars. Her struggle for her rights after her arrest, unfortunately unsuccessful, forms the plot basis of the novel. An intelligent and energetic business woman is powerless to resist the betrayal of a business partner and imaginary friends, betrayal and slander. To please the Russophobia that reigns in the country, she is recognized as a criminal without the slightest evidence of guilt and is harassed in the press as a "dangerous and greedy Russian mafia". The book is a vivid testimony to the hypocrisy and double standards prevailing in the British judicial system.



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Caesar Travel

Sergey Nikolaevich Abramov, a long-time friend and sponsor of the Russian Culture Without Borders initiative, is widely known as a successful businessman, philanthropist and patriot.

The center of his business is Russia and its people, to whom he strives to show the beauty of life. He loves his homeland, Russian traditions, and the country as a whole and is proud of it.



Sergey Abramov is the president of the Caesar Club Holding, which includes the Caesar Travel shipping company, which has been represented on the Russian river travel market for two decades and is well known to many cruise tourists for its Ilya Muromets and President three-deck motor ships.

The company's fleet also owns the ship "Sunny Bay" and the banquet motor ship "Gzhel", on which, after completing the navigation of river cruises, Sergey Abramov held a meeting with partners in the format of a water trip from Moscow's Northern River Station to the folklore and entertainment complex "Coniferous Forest". This walk was attended by both the company's leading partners — representatives of shipping, tour operator, agency, and aggregator companies, as well as friends, and it was intended as a thank you to all those with whom the company successfully completed another navigation.

Sergey Abramov introduced the guests to the federal pier "Coniferous Forest" near the green parking lot of the same name, which he became interested in 15 years ago, when he first visited Coniferous Forest, then a neglected coastal area on the Pestovsky reservoir, without any infrastructure. In 2018, Caesar Club managed to lease this land for a long time, located a hundred meters from the federal pier, where a folklore and entertainment complex with a green parking lot was organized. It turned out to be far from easy to obtain the lease of the mooring wall, which had been decommissioned by that time. And only this year the pier was put up for auction, and the Caesar Club successfully became the winner of the auction.

Although the company had previously actively developed the "Coniferous Forest" primarily as a cruise ship port of call, the situation will now change significantly,

since the federal berth will allow up to 5-6 motor ships, including four-deckers, to receive at the same time.

The guests were offered an entertainment program with performances by gypsies, just like in Nikita Mikhalkov's film "Cruel Romance".

Sergey Abramov needs beauty, creativity and inspiration, without which the world would be gray for him. In addition, art and culture help to create a unique atmosphere that attracts guests.

The 2025 season, which has ended for the company, is assessed by its managers as quite successful. They were particularly pleased with the many positive customer reviews about the work of the ships and their teams.

Caesar Travel is in full swing preparing for the next navigation, while, importantly, booking and implementing upcoming river tours is quite active.



No major changes are expected in the operator's cruise schedule next season. His three-decked motor ships will again go in the planned directions. The President will continue to sail the Volga expanses on cruises of varying duration, while the Ilya Muromets will sail on the river line connecting Moscow and Kazan. As Sergey Abramov noted, the cruise work that was carried out before was fully justified, everything was done correctly and competently, which means that it will continue in the future.



Children and the Internet: a spoonful of honey in a barrel of tar?

The word of Bishop Alexy of Vienna and Austria



The Internet has already firmly entered our lives, although it still continues to be a very dynamically developing phenomenon. His influence on the whole way of modern life cannot be overestimated, it is too voluminous to give him a comprehensive assessment. This article is simply an attempt to understand this phenomenon in the part in which it is of particular concern today — the impact on children and youth.

I want to say right away that I am an engineer by education, which automatically excludes an unam-



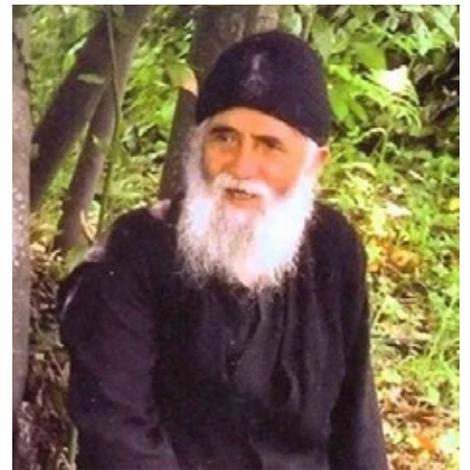
Bishop Alexy of Vienna and Austria

biguous negative assessment such as “obscurantism”. The Internet is just a tool that deserves reflection on what forms its use takes. An informal note: one incident in atheistic times in the Soviet Union. The priest gets into the car, and a passerby says to him, “Why are you riding a demon, father?” to which the priest replies, “It’s not a problem, it’s the opposite: when a demon sits on a person.”

A little bit about theology in the modern world

Theology does not offer a one-sided, narrow-minded view. Theology always responds to some pressing problems of our time. Moreover, the most exalted part of the body of sciences called “theology” — dogmatic theology or dogmatics — was formed mainly as responses to the challenges of modernity. These were the most important documents in the history of the Church, the definitions of the Ecumenical Councils.

Elder Paisios of Svyatogrets said that any Christian should have, in his words, “good concern” about what is happening in the modern world. In a practical sense, theology is a philosophical science, a call to reason about the choice between good and evil, which is designed to help a person not get lost in this sometimes difficult choice. When it comes to practical issues, patristic thought rarely offers ready-made solutions and rarely uses direct prohibitions. She offers some kind of reasoning to turn on our mind and heart. After all, it often happens: We make mistakes because we just



Paisios of Svyatogrets

didn’t think about it. But also, of course, for this reason, we sometimes read the instructions or the reception of the fourth century, and they sound as if they were written today.

A spoonful of honey in a barrel of tar?

What is the Internet today? This is, in fact, the entire experience of mankind in one bottle — both useful and useless, including, unfortunately, very harmful. A spoonful of honey in a barrel of tar? Maybe. Unfortunately, there is a lot of bad





stuff there, and it's all mixed up. What is the main problem I see with the Internet for children? In the contact of a child's fragile mind with the full range of evil in this world. Parental control is very difficult to implement today, but it is possible if parents are interested in it. What is a family? It plays a protective role for the child. It protects the fragile, immature mind from all the evils of this world, which it cannot bear. If a child has free access to the Internet, then it must be borne in mind that it destroys this protective mechanism. And in the collision of the child's mind with the evil of the whole world, mental disorders arise. After all, there is such knowledge that an adult mind cannot always withstand....

They used to say, "When you grow up, you'll understand." This is the standard response that children have heard. And they wanted to grow up, they wanted to understand. And, growing up, they understood. But what does the child get on the Internet? Does he gain experience? No. He gets some kind of superficial idea, which is just an illusion of experience, a fake. **The flow of information that hits a child on the Internet does not make him an adult. He just became a spoiled child who superficially picked up something that he takes for knowledge.** I've talked to kids like that before. They even tried to enter into a polemic, but there was no basis for this polemic, and he, of

course, could not fully discuss the issue. Such a child received a set of knowledge, processed it in a hurry and somehow put it in his brain. But this does not mean that he has become an adult.

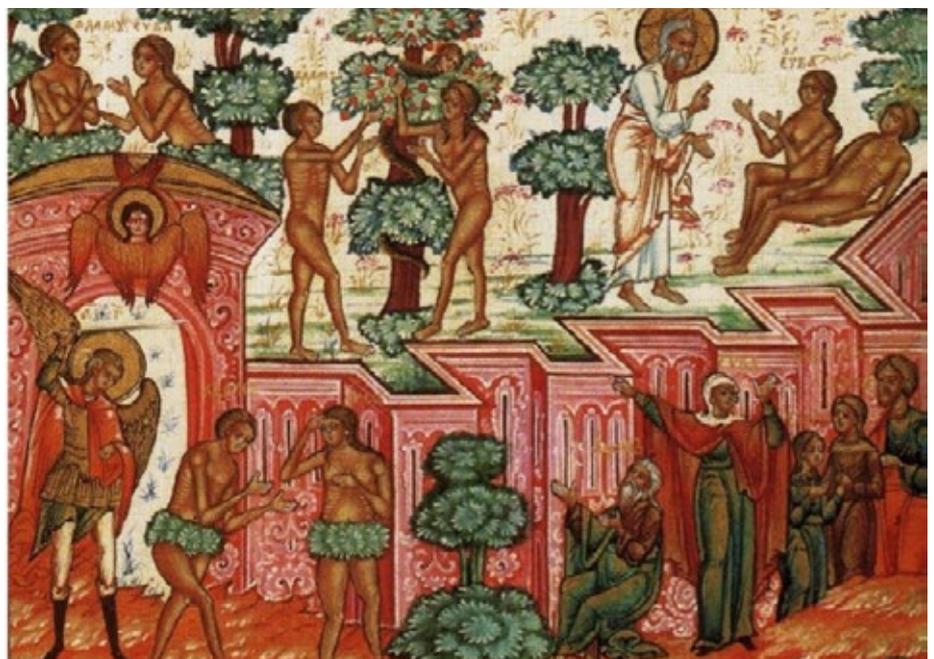
Sin and Addiction

I can't help but insert a little partristic thought. Here are the basic concepts. What is addiction? It's very simple — you have to give up this subject. If it goes away painlessly, addiction is not sinful. If not, you understand. What happens when parents punish children by depriving them of the Internet? Anything happens, more often negative — there are enough examples on the web.

What is sin? It would seem that we all know this well. But nevertheless. Very often, the concept of sin is as follows: a solid negative, it is impossible, forbidden. Does not work. This explanation breaks down very quickly into real-world experience. I tried it, but I liked it. Because this view is incorrect. Take the moment of the fall: Eve has already tasted the forbidden fruit, Adam has not yet. Why is she giving him this fruit? As far as I know, there are two interpretations. One thing, which is incorrect, says that Eva realized that things were bad and thought that she could stay alone, but it was still easier together. The correct interpretation says that sin initially generates euphoria — inspiration. Only after a while do the bitter consequences begin to be felt.

What are the other properties of sin? It blinds a person, so that after a severe long-term sin, a person begins to look at the world in a different way, and, of course, introduces a person into dependence.

However, the image of the Internet is attractive for everyday consumption. This is not only a forbidden fruit, it is algorithms, a fast-moving tape. All this can be quickly scrolled through. The diversity of the Internet makes it impossible to stop and realize. This



format of diverse knowledge and impressions conveniently hides the inner emptiness of this approach.

If the child is not protected from this, he will still climb where he does not need to. Coming into contact with the Internet is becoming a big problem that needs to be thought about.

This is the difference between such an experience and a book. Take “Crime and Punishment”, for example. The act itself is a small fragment. Everything else is a torment, an experience. How can I show it? There is very little, as they say today, “action” in this. What you need is action — action, a dynamically changing picture. The deed is cut out, and that’s all there is to it. Someone is killing someone, and that’s it. No more torment. And often, having imbibed such superficial experiences, children easily commit crimes. Or they are afraid to live.

Now there is a problem that children try to stay with their families and parents as long as possible. In the 80s and 90s, what did the child strive for? He aspired to grow up, create his own family, etc. What are children striving for now? They often spend up to thirty years sitting on their parents’ necks. Many people come to us about this. The child doesn’t want to go anywhere. What for? It’s nice and comfortable here. But what happens when the



reproductive age is lost? Married life requires a large set of habits that must be formed in a life together. After thirty years of age, when you have your own habits, it’s hard to let another person into your life. And after forty, it’s a whole problem to rebuild.

The Internet and the child’s mind

Today, children’s minds are involved in shaping the Internet. Not just participates, but gives it an extremely dynamic character. What does this mean for us? There are more and more new forms that the previous generation does not understand well. The Internet is constantly creating new formats. Once upon a time it was chat rooms, Twitter,

which have long gone to an adult audience, even presidents use Twitter. There were “classmates”, “In contact”, then “instagram”, “tiktok” appeared, something new that I no longer know ... The child’s mind is very plastic, and since there is an audience, the child’s mind is in demand. After all, everything has to be sold to someone, and someone has to buy. The larger the audience, the greater the efficiency. There is an interesting episode of the science fiction series Doctor Who. It should be noted that during the 20th century, science fiction generally predicted a lot of things. At that time, fiction in literature, including in the Soviet Union, was developing powerfully. And one episode from Doctor Who was devoted to how some aliens connected children to a computer, that is, they used the children’s mind for processing information. Both the child’s mind and the Internet are developing very quickly, and this can lead to undesirable consequences, the result of which can easily be beyond our comprehension.

Personality maturation

Personality maturation is a very important issue. Each person has a huge inner world with its own laws, and personality maturation takes place as a person fills his inner corner, which is hidden from the prying eye. And it’s good that he’s



forming some kind of ideals. There is even a step-by-step division of how this world is formed. Our life is the result of the development of this inner world, which must be given shape and sorted out. Somewhere the model does not match reality, somewhere something needs to be destroyed and rebuilt.

Thanks to this process, a personality's strength is built in relation to various trials, and the best assistant in this process is certainly a book, not a movie or a TV series, and even more so not "shorts" or "rolls", not this tape of constantly changing images. A person should keep quiet, take a walk. And everyone is on their phones, on their gadgets. During our summer camp, we managed to get the kids out of their gadgets. While playing outdoors, they forgot about their gadgets. We had games from morning to evening, and this is very important for children. You need to be alone with yourself sometime. And being alone with yourself means that you will have sole control of the entire universe. We often feel comfortable only when we are alone with ourselves, and we can only be truly honest with ourselves.

Inner maturation occurs just when a person is on his own. The book contains much more information than other sources. I recently talked to a woman who has lived in Vienna for 30 years, and she told



me what Graben Street in the center of Vienna looked like back then. There were no tables on the street, like in a restaurant. There were small cafes, from where the smell of coffee wafted. With the help of literary language, it is much easier to imagine the atmosphere. If you were shooting a movie, and even to do that, close the street to passers-by, it would still look different. And how to convey the smell? But the smell is also part of the information. The book has everything. There are experiences of the main character that are missing from the film. An actor can express these feelings, for example, by acting. That is, the means of cinema are much more scarce than the means of literature. When a person reads a book, his inner world is replenished.

An interesting phenomenon, by the way. A person who has read a lot of books is called well-read, regardless of what he has read. But there

is no definition for someone who has watched a lot of movies.

What masterpieces do you know? Movies that everyone talks about?

N. H.: I love Mikhalkov and Fellini.

Yes, there were masterpieces at that time. And from modern films? I can say that of the global films, *Interstellar* is a very good film, which, in addition to the problems of science, touches on human problems and the love that binds everything – time and space. I can't name any films released after 2017. There are films that make a lot of money at the box office, but I cannot say that these are worthy films. Yes, there are special effects, and they are used. I began to get the feeling that humanity was losing its creative power. There are no good movies. Remakes, a set of special effects. Sometimes you read scripts and don't understand why they wrote all this? What is the





purpose? Where are the films that literally blew up the world? Where is it all now? In my opinion, one of the reasons for this is that the personality does not mature. We are all moving towards some short formats, but this is fraught with problems for humanity.

What else is the problem of the Internet for children? Blogging. If only bloggers would just state the facts. But it's not limited to that. Your own PR begins. Now, I've earned so many millions. Children, as a rule, do not know that these people have special agents who promote them. It's a whole team. Someone makes their way on their own, and there are such people. But

there are only a few of them. However, bloggers also have problems. People who record videos every day expend their soul to such an extent that it leads them to mental disorders. When someone works for an audience, they give away more energy than they can bear, emptying their inner world, which must be constantly replenished, and the blogger has no time to do it. He has to give his best all the time. It's good if a child wants to become a pilot or a doctor. These are particularly responsible professions. A surgeon, a neurosurgeon. Subtle things, and what a responsibility! There are far fewer people suitable for these professions now. In Soviet times, there

was professional education, starting with children's books, about professions that could be obtained.

The Internet poses a number of challenges for us. I remember the service in Spassky-Lutovinov. I see a girl in a headscarf, who looks like a 19th-century Russian peasant woman. This is the Turgenev estate, in general, the entire entourage of the XIX century. She holds a baby doll in her arms. Previously, girls used to walk with strollers, cradling babies. And I found myself thinking that I hadn't seen such dolls for a long time. And now what? Barbie and Ken? The girl came to receive communion and brought the baby to receive communion. Of course, this is a doll, but then she will come to give communion to a living baby. And I'm afraid Barbie won't go to the temple with her Ken in a good car. They're building a fancy house for them, and they're definitely not going to have children in the near future.

Of course, it's impossible to take everything back. I'm not one of those people who exaggerate, but if you look at the whole range of problems, the question arises — what to do? Of course, we try to solve these issues in our St. Nicholas Cathedral. One of the solutions is our children's camp. We try to talk to



both parents and children. Children cannot be protected from the Internet, they cannot be given a phone, it is unrealistic today. But parental control is necessary. The road will be mastered by the walking! We need to spend more time hiking, playing in the fresh air, traveling — to give children a real experience. And — an opportunity to be alone with yourself, with nature.

It is very difficult to protect children alone. There are things that can be done together. For example, a managed children's society, such as a camp or Sunday school. We can't dictate to children what they need. A common parental mistake is to perceive a child as their own property, to create a system of prohibitions. It has never borne good fruit.

As one person said, we have no problems, we have tasks. And I agree with him.



Общество Дружбы с Австрией



The regional public organization “Society for Friendship with Austria” (ODA) was established in 2013. Among its members are reputable figures of science and culture, heads of public organizations, representatives of public diplomacy. The President is Alexander Nikolaevich Pronin.

Russia’s dialogue with European countries has now acquired special importance, and the role of organizations designed to maintain bilateral contacts with Austria and help implement various international events in both countries cannot be overestimated.

The Russian Society for Friendship with Austria is an example of how to build good-neighborly relations.

Oleg Atkov, an honorary president of the Society for Friendship with Austria, is a Soviet cosmonaut, Hero of the Soviet Union, cardiologist, scientist and public figure.

The ODA consolidates public, youth, and cultural Russian-Austrian ties, striving to strengthen Russia’s positive image abroad.

Much attention is paid to memorial and patriotic work with compatriots and citizens of the Republic of Austria who advocate for the intensification of multilateral European cooperation based on public diplomacy; measures are being taken to preserve the historical heritage in Austria related to the liberation of Europe from Nazism.

Interstate projects, competitions and Olympiads are being implemented to support the Russian language and culture in Austria and promote cultural exchange. We are working with Austrian educational institutions where they study Russian, and with foreign schools in Russia.

Special attention is paid to initiatives related to literature, art, and music, which contributes to the support of international humanitarian dialogue.

The task of the ODA is to build a friendship bridge between Russia and Austria.





Building bridges between cultures!

Voluntary public initiative



**Russian culture – without borders
unites all people of good will**