

IGOR TABAKOV / SPT

Dress Code

A young woman in a headscarf waits patiently as two officers patrolling a metro station examine her documents. Last year's female bombers spurred attacks on Muslim women in the capital, but many feel unhampered, despite occasional public reactions. See story, page 5.



SPECIAL ISSUE

Education & Careers

Staff motivation methods and the post-crisis job market. [Pages 6-8](#)

LOCAL NEWS

Estonian Church Reopens in City

Historic church to host concerts as well as religious services. [Page 3](#)



ARTS & CULTURE

The Terem Quartet at 24

Local ensemble prepares to showcase new albums. [Page 16](#)



EU Center Receives Funding Boost for Training Projects

By Galina Stolyarova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

The newly opened EU Center in St. Petersburg is due to receive nearly half a million euros for its projects in the next three years. The center, which started operating this month, is the first of its kind in Russia and the 27th outside the EU.

Michael Webb, deputy head of the Delegation of the European Union to Russia, said a further 100,000 euros of funding will come from the city's European University — the school's Center for European Studies serves as a base for the new organization — and its partners.

Most of the money will be spent on training programs targeting a wide range of groups, from students to civil servants. The first upcoming project is a training course for municipal workers in the Arkhangelsk region — the center's activities cover the whole of the northwest region of Russia.

"We have no intention of influencing the political process in Russia," said Maria Nozhenko, head of the EU Center in St. Petersburg. "What we will attempt to do is to change the mentality of the people here to make it more European, especially in such areas as management and governance."

Illegal immigration, corruption and widespread violations of people's rights were the three core topics that Webb said present the highest concern for his organization. It is these specific areas that will constitute the focus of the EU Center's activities in the country.

One of the most heavily discussed and most sensitive issues between Rus-



The European University at St. Petersburg (above) serves as a base for the new EU Center for Russia's northwest region.

sia and the EU has been the possible introduction of a visa-free regime.

Moscow has been pushing strongly for the introduction of visa-free travel between Russia and the European Union for the last few years. These efforts have intensified since January 2010, when Spain proposed getting rid of visas altogether.

However, reaching an agreement with the EU requires the consent of all its member states. And, while Russia has Spain and Italy on its side, Germany and France remain cool to the idea, citing what they see as the risk of illegal immigration.

"Both Germany and France have seen several waves of Russian immi-

gration," said Vera Obolenskaya, the director of ODI Voyagem, a travel agency in St. Petersburg. "In these countries, Russia is still seen as a totalitarian regime, and in the eyes of German and French politicians it would only be natural for any sane Russian to want to escape from an autocracy to a democratic country."

However, Francesco Bigazzi, a retired Italian diplomat and currently president of the Viva Italia association, which is involved in cultural cooperation between Italy and Russia, says the real reason why certain EU states refuse to follow the path of visa-free travel is not the fear of a "Russian wave" of immigrants.

"I know the statistics. The Russians who come here want to have a holiday and do some good shopping. Illegal immigration attempts are rare," he said. "What is a bit of a problem though, if visa-free travel does start, is Russia's loose borders with Central Asia and the Caucasus. And this is the issue on which Russia does not want to compromise. The Kremlin wants these borders loose to keep as much of those territories under control as it can manage."

Speaking to reporters at the center's presentation Thursday, Webb sounded cautious on the matter, stressing that the transition towards visa-free travel must be gradual and the process should not be rushed, as a premature opening of the borders would lead to trouble.

During the next three years the center is planning to organize a series of 18 events under the title "Days of the EU in Russia." The events will feature discussions of hot topics relevant to relations between Russia and the EU.

The first debate in the series will take place in August and will be devoted to the environmental plight of the Baltic Sea.

In the near future Russia will see the arrival of two more similar centers — to be based at the Kant Russian State University in Kaliningrad and Tomsk State University. By 2014, Russia will become home to a total of six EU Centers.

THE WEEK IN REVIEW

Bomb Hysteria and Brutal Truths

By Philip Parker
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

A man walked into a police station in northern St. Petersburg last Thursday with the news that there was a bomb under an elite apartment building a few steps from Pionerskaya metro station. According to the unnamed 34-year-old, the explosive device was placed there in 1998 during the construction of the building, and for the last decade, the residents have been living "on a powder keg," Fontanka.ru reported.

The man claims to have been part of the construction team that laid the foundations of the building at 26 Kolomyazhsky Prospekt for local construction company LenSpetsSMU. He alleges that he saw an object resembling a bomb in a truckload of sand brought to the site, but kept quiet because he didn't want to lose his job. Now, however, his sense of civic duty has prompted him to inform the police.

Preposterous as his story may sound, OMON explosives specialists have visited the site and found an unidentified metal object in the foundations. As the building has not been evacuated and there have been no further reports since Thursday, however, it seems safe to assume that this is merely one more in a growing series of bomb scares following the terrorist attack on Domodedovo Airport in January.

More typically, the city's Moscow Railway Station was briefly evacuated early on Saturday evening after an anonymous call to the police warned that a bomb would be detonated in the station in the next 30 minutes. Nothing suspicious was found in the ensuing search. It seems that some St. Petersburgers are having difficulty killing time in these long winter evenings.

Another subterranean mystery this week was the steady drip of reports of geriatrics dying in the metro. This came to a head last Thursday morning, when Fontanka.ru reported three incidents, at different metro stations, of men suffering fatal heart attacks. Given the frequency of reports during the last fortnight, some are speculating whether it is linked to the extreme temperatures St. Petersburg is still experiencing.

The death that grabbed the most headlines last week, however, was that of Grigory Rasputin, an octopus at the St. Petersburg Oceanarium. Acclaimed as the Russian equivalent of his more famous German counterpart Paul, Grigory lived in the city for about a year, and managed to "predict" the results of two friendlies for the Russian international soccer team, though he had more mixed success with results for Zenit FC.

Grigory had recently been mated with a female called Vasilisa, so he leaves a widow and about a thousand young children, many news sources were eager to report. According to Rosbalt.ru, the pair "interacted tenderly and even managed to bring new life into the world." Scientists at the Oceanarium assured reporters that there was no sub-aquatic mystery to Grigory's passing — 18 months is the average lifespan of octopi in captivity — but Komsomolskaya Pravda chose to dig deeper and, "in a drama worthy of the pen of Shakespeare," got the Oceanarium's chief ichthyopathologist, Oleg Yunsich, to admit that Vasilisa might in fact have murdered Grigory while protecting her young.

"She could have just thwacked him over the head with a tentacle in the night. It's actually very difficult to iden-

tify wounds like that on an octopus," said Yunsich.

Elsewhere in the world, the so-called "Ginger Tarzan" — the former mixed fighter, fascist activist and armed robber Vyacheslav Datsik — was back in court in Norway appealing his extradition to Russia on the grounds that he faces torture and possibly death in a Russian prison. Datsik escaped from a psychiatric hospital in the Leningrad Oblast last August, where he had been held since 2007 for his part in a string of robberies of mobile phone and jewelry stores. He surfaced a month later in Norway, having traveled illegally via Estonia, and turned himself (and a Makarov automatic pistol) in to police in Oslo, requesting political asylum. He is currently due to be returned to Russia in May after serving eight months in Norwegian prison, but his lawyers are protesting his deportation, partly on the grounds that Norwegian Minister of Justice Knut Storberget is a Russophobe, Rosbalt.ru reported, seemingly without a trace of irony.

Considering that each time a court decision goes against him, Datsik starts a prison brawl, it's unclear who is really most at risk from his imprisonment. There were, however, touching pictures on Rosbalt.ru of Datsik's mother, Svetlana, who was in Norway to support her son last week.

"She said that when he was a child, he stole meat on the farm to feed to abandoned animals," said his unofficial representative in Norway, Yevgeny Dyakov. His mother is one of the few supporters Datsik has left, however. Even Slavic Union, the outlawed fascist group that once counted him as a member, is now keen to distance itself, although more than happy in the past to be associated with Hitler.

Foreign Tourist Receives Treatment for Cold Wait

By Irina Titova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

A foreign tourist was hospitalized after suffering exposure to extreme cold in the line outside the departure terminal at St. Petersburg's Pulkovo Airport on Friday.

Long lines have been a regular feature at Pulkovo since the recent introduction of increased security measures, and the tourist had to spend considerable time outside the terminal entrance in temperatures between -18 and -20 degrees Celsius. Once inside, he appealed to the airport's medical staff, who called an ambulance to take him to a private clinic in St. Petersburg.

An hour and a half later the tourist came back to the airport and left for his destination on the next flight, according to the press service of Northern Capital Gateway, Pulkovo's management company.

Long lines outside Pulkovo have followed January's terrorist attack on Domodedovo Airport in Moscow. In the aftermath, Pulkovo, along with many other Russian airports, hurried to install additional metal detectors and examination procedures at terminal entrances. A spokesperson for Northern Capital Gateway's press service said that the length of lines had been varying depending on the time of day.

In addition, beginning Friday national airports will be increasing security measures even further, as the

assessment of the terrorist threat level rose due to the murder of Russian tourists and the explosion of a ski lift in Kabardino-Balkaria in the Caucasus.

On Friday, Northern Capital Gateway said it would increase the number of security points at Pulkovo. By the end of February, it plans to install two additional points at Pulkovo-2, the international terminal, and another point at the entrance to the domestic terminal, Pulkovo 1, in March.

"We ordered all the necessary equipment in early February, so we're expecting the delivery now,"

Northern Capital Gateway's spokesperson said.

"This equipment will help to avoid long lines at the entrance to the airports," the press service said.

Unusually low temperatures have spread across large areas of Russia in the past two weeks, causing cases of frostbite, as well as a number of changes in everyday life.

In one example, the Western Military District minimized the time spent in the open air for its staff. It also canceled traditional songs held during morning drill and changed the morning run to a walk. Soldiers have also been given onions and garlic during their meals to strengthen their immune system.

Meteorologists forecast that temperatures will rise to around -7 degrees by the weekend.

Long lines are a regular feature at Pulkovo due to new security measures.

Allegro Passengers Stranded

By Irina Titova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Allegro, the new St. Petersburg-Helsinki high-speed train, broke down again Saturday at the station of Vainikkala on the Finnish border.

Passengers spent three hours in icy wagons with no electricity and no heating. Temperatures at that time in the area reached around -20 degrees Celsius. To add to passenger discomfort, the toilets and restaurant were closed, and the doors of the train were closed, Fontanka reported.

Only after 90 minutes were passengers of the supposedly luxurious Allegro allowed to get out and use the station's toilet, immediately forming long lines.

After three hours the Leo Tolstoy, a regular train service between Moscow and Helsinki, picked up all of the about 200 desperate passengers.

This was not the first of the Allegro's teething troubles. Launched to a great fanfare in early December with a joint journey by Prime Minister Vladimir Putin and Finnish President Tarja Halonen, the high-speed service has been plagued by delays. On Jan. 25, its safety and motion control systems were defective, the Helsinki-bound train was forced to stop at Vainikkala, and it was again the slower Leo Tolstoy that rescued Allegro passengers.

In addition, the service is regularly delayed by between 15 and 90 minutes, Fontanka reported. In theory, the journey from St. Petersburg to Helsinki should take 3.5 hours.

These negative episodes with the Allegro may damage its reputation among passengers, who pay from 80 to 130 euros for what is billed as a comfortable and fast journey to Helsinki and back.

Russian Railways this week considered whether to offer compensation to passengers on the faulty service, Fontanka said. However, this question was to some extent complicated by the fact that Allegro is an international train, and the responsibility for its faults belonged to both sides.

The new train has cut journey times for passengers traveling between St. Petersburg and Helsinki by three hours. For speed, this puts it in competition with flights, once journey time to and from airports has been factored in.

Symbol of Estonian Resistance Reopened

By Sergey Chernov
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Estonia's St. John's Church in St. Petersburg, one of the symbols of the country's struggle for independence, was reopened Sunday after years of neglect and decay under the Soviets. The re-consecration ceremony, conducted by Andres Poder, Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Estonia, was attended by the President of Estonia, Toomas Hendrik Ilves.

It was in this church in 1888 that the minister of St. John's congregation, Jakob Hurt, made his "Call for the Nation to Collect Intellectual Heritage." This speech played an important role in resisting the Tsarist government's Russification policy, helping Estonians to preserve their national integrity and historical heritage. It was also from the church that, on March 26 1917, 40,000 Estonians marched with songs and national tricolor flags to St. Petersburg's Tauride Palace, where the Provisional Government sat, to demand autonomy for their country.

When the group, which featured brass bands and choirs as well as 12,000 Estonian soldiers of the St. Petersburg garrison, arrived at the palace, a 600-strong choir directed by Estonian composer Mihkel Ludvig sang "My Fatherland, My Happiness and Joy," which would become the anthem of the Republic of Estonia in 1920, and then again in 1990.

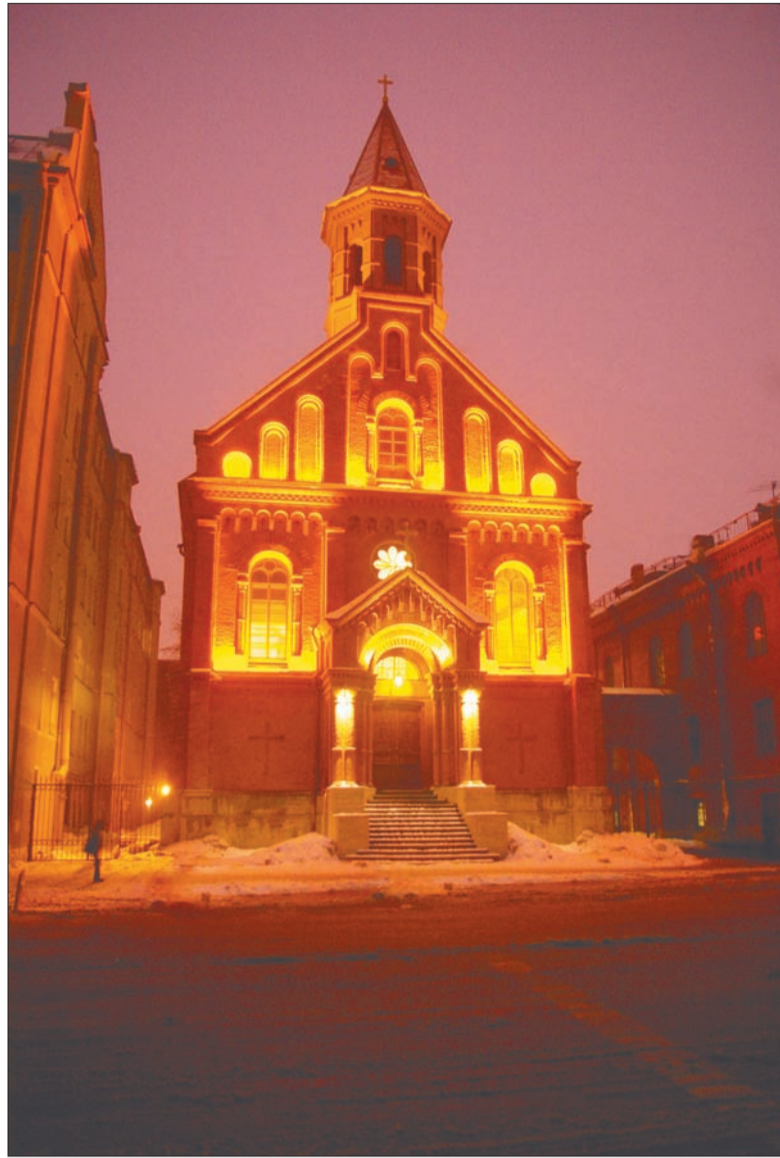
In his opening speech, Ilves said that St. John's Church in St. Petersburg had served as a symbol of the thriving community life of Estonians in St. Petersburg both during its active years and its period of forced inactivity.

"The Estonian community in St. Petersburg and its autonomous community activities made a contribution to the birth of the Estonian state and formed a part of our national movement," he said.

"Along with Tartu and Riga, St. Petersburg was among the places where our emerging intellectuals gained knowledge and experience... Many men and women received their education here and then started to construct the Estonian state."

Ilves added that his family history is also connected with St. Petersburg. "This was the city where my grandfather Peeter Rebane worked at the very beginning of the 20th century before the state of Estonia was established, and where he met his wife," he said.

St. John's Church in St. Petersburg was founded in 1859 on St. John's Day



The church on Ulitsa Dekabristov has been restored to its original appearance.

but that number shrank drastically during the course of repressions and the second Soviet Russification. By the 1950s, there were only 5,000 Estonians in Leningrad, as St. Petersburg was then called.

After numerous negotiations and authorizations, the decaying building was returned to the Estonian parish in 1997. The final construction permit was issued in July 2009.

The thorough renovation of the red-brick building, which has been restored to its original design, cost 101 million Estonian kroons (\$8.61 million), and was mostly paid for by the Republic of Estonia.

With its 400-seat hall, the church was once famous for its excellent acoustics, and has been equipped with state-of-the-art sound, lighting and video systems. Initially it will use a digital organ instead of the original pipe organ, which disappeared under the Soviets, until enough funds are collected to install a real pipe organ again.

St. John's Church is located at 54 Ulitsa Dekabristov, close to the Mariinsky Theater and the Conservatory. As well as hosting services of worship, it will also serve as a venue for Estonian music concerts that Eesti Kontsert, Estonia's state concert agency, is planning to promote on a weekly basis.

The gala concert held Sunday evening featured the Estonian National Opera Symphony Orchestra and the Estonian National Male Choir. They performed pieces by Estonian composers Arvo Part, Rudolf Tobias, Villem Kapp and Rene Eespere, as well as an international repertoire, launching a music festival that will be held on the church's premises through May.

(June 24), one of the most important holidays in the Estonian calendar and now Estonia's national holiday, and consecrated on November 27 1859. The building, designed by architects Ziegler von Schaffhausen and Harald Julius von Bosse, was fully completed in 1863.

In 1893, an orphanage and a school were set up in the church building.

Shut down and looted by the Soviets in 1930, the church building, with its belfry and portal demolished, was rebuilt for state use, housing warehouses, workshops and a state construction company. Its architecture was distorted by construction additions to disguise its original purpose.

The parish counted 22,000 members at the beginning of the 20th century,



Andres Poder, Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Estonia.

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Law Enforcers Go Head to Head

By Alexander Bratersky
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — A turf war between law enforcement agencies, the likes of which has not been seen for many years, flared up last week after the newly independent Investigative Committee launched an attack on its former patron, the Prosecutor General's Office.

A case against an illegal gambling network in the Moscow region has served as the pretext, with investigators claiming the owners had ties to local officials, while prosecutors tried to close the case.

The latest round of the spat saw a top prosecutor hinting at fabrications and speaking about "abuse of the Constitution and lack of professionalism" on the part of the investigators.

The gambling case had been in the works since 2009, but the Investigative Committee publicly disclosed the suspects only this month, saying businessman Ivan Nazarov was running an illegal gambling ring under the protection of the region's top police and prosecutor's office officials.

Nazarov allegedly paid for overseas trips of Moscow region Prosecutor General Alexander Mokhov, his family members and subordinates, the committee said last Wednesday.

Other reports in the media have suggested that Nazarov was also responsible financing the lavish birthday celebrations of Mokhov and his deputy Alexander Ignatenko, complete with performances by high-profile Russian pop artists.

A case against Nazarov was closed last Monday on the order of Deputy Prosecutor General Vladimir Malinovsky, who cited insufficient evidence of wrongdoing, Interfax said.

But the Investigative Committee immediately opened a new case on related charges and arrested Nazarov again before he even managed to step out of the pretrial detention center.

Six people, including Nazarov, his aide and his business partner, as well as three police officers, were placed in pretrial detention for two months by a court in the Moscow region town of Pushkino last Thursday.

Failure to release Nazarov after a prosecutor ordered him set free was "unprecedented" for modern Russia, and opening a new case against him is "abuse of Constitution," Andrey



Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika, a known ally of President Dmitry Medvedev.

Nekrasov, a senior official of the Prosecutor General's Office said Friday, according to Interfax.

Nazarov's arrest was also illegal because it was done on charges of illegal business practice, which do not allow for pretrial detention, the prosecutor said, adding that his agency will appeal the move.

The Prosecutor General's Office also ordered an inquiry into the Moscow region prosecutors, but no results were reported over the weekend.

The clash between the committee and the prosecutors came not long after President Dmitry Medvedev separated the two agencies in December.

The committee, which was previously part of the Prosecutor General's Office, now handles investigation of grave crimes, including murders, while prosecutors only oversee the investigations and handle inquiries into violations by investigators.

The two state bodies have a history of bad blood between them, as committee head Alexander Bastrykin had disputed Prosecutor General Yuri Chaika's authority until the Supreme Court confirmed it in a 2009 ruling. Chaika's deputy fired Bastrykin's deputy Anatoly Bagmet over a fake diploma the same year, a move later overturned by Chaika, who allowed Bastrykin to keep and promote Bagmet.

The attack may be an attempt to undermine the power of the prosecutor general, who faces reappointment

in June 2012, independent political analyst Stanislav Belkovsky told the St. Petersburg Times.

He said Nazarov has business ties to one of Chaika's sons. "He is not just some regular gambling businessman," Belkovsky added.

The story may reflect the growing conflict in the ruling elite ahead of the presidential vote of 2012, said Vladimir Priblyovsky, head of the Moscow-based Panorama think tank, with the different agencies supporting the two potential candidates.

Former Justice Minister Chaika has ties to incumbent president Dmitry Medvedev and supports his re-election, while Bastrykin is in favor of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's return to the Kremlin, after his two terms in office from 2000 to 2008.

"They don't intend to fight corruption, they are more preoccupied with fighting each other," Priblyovsky said by telephone. The battle will probably continue, said Viktor Ilyukhin, a State Duma member and former prosecutor, adding that the agencies should never have been separated.

"They are not the ones to blame. The responsibility lies with both parliament and the president, who have created a mockery of a law enforcement agency," Ilyukhin said in reference to the Investigative Committee.

"The more law enforcement agencies there are in the country, the more controversy is created," Ilyukhin said.

Baturina Tied to Bank Of Moscow Millions

By Alexander Bratersky
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — About 13 billion rubles (\$440 million) illegally obtained from the Bank of Moscow was discovered in the personal account of Yelena Baturina, the billionaire wife of ex-Moscow Mayor Yury Luzhkov, investigators said last Thursday.

Analysts say the move is likely aimed to pressure Baturina into selling her Inteko development company, the office of which was searched by investigators accompanied by riot police early last Thursday, Interfax said.

The Interior Ministry's Investigative Committee announced hours after the Inteko search that the funds had been illegally obtained by "unidentified employees of the bank" and then transferred to Baturina's personal bank account.

Earlier reports said investigators suspect that the money was payment for 58 hectares of land in the capital that a company affiliated with the Bank of Moscow purchased from Baturina in 2009.

The land deal took place after the Moscow government approved the transfer of 15 billion rubles to the bank, so the city budget may be the funding source for the lucrative deal, investigators have said.

Baturina, currently in Austria with her husband, denied all allegations last Thursday, telling Interfax that the search was an attempt to "exert pressure on her." Her company said in a separate statement that all money in her accounts was "obtained legally." Bank of Moscow also denied the allegations.

Luzhkov has in the past denied that there is any link between the loan handed out by Bank of Moscow in 2009 and the transfer of city funds into the bank.

Nevertheless, an unidentified law enforcement source told Interfax last Thursday that a case may "soon" be opened against Baturina.

The Audit Chamber said it is conducting its own probe into Bank

of Moscow and its connections to city agencies and private companies, including Inteko.

The investigation, which is to be finished by March, shows that loans obtained by Inteko from Bank of Moscow "were much bigger than the currently reported 13 billion rubles," auditor Mikhail Beskhnelnitsyn told Interfax.

Baturina, whose net worth was put at \$1.1 billion by Finans magazine earlier this week, has managed to keep her business afloat after President Dmitry Medvedev ousted her husband last fall.

Inteko was slapped with tax claims worth 366 million rubles (\$12 million) in a separate case last year, but managed to fight them off, with the Moscow region's Arbitration Court cutting the sum to 10 million rubles last Thursday, Interfax said.

Luzhkov, who criticized the federal government shortly after his ouster, may be the actual target of the attack on Baturina, but Yabloko leader Sergei Mitrokhin told the St. Petersburg Times this was unlikely.

"He wanted to create his party, but failed to do that, so I don't see any political connections. It is more likely that Baturina is being pressured to sell her business," Mitrokhin said.



Yelena Baturina.

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Kadyrov Nominated Again

By Nikolaus von Twickel
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — The United Russia party nominated incumbent Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov for a second four-year term at the helm of the once war-ravaged North Caucasus republic — along with two other candidates.

Grozny Mayor Muslim Khuchiyev and Shaid Zhamaldayev, head of the region surrounding the Chechen capital, were also tapped as possible republican leaders by the party, which submitted the list to President Dmitry Medvedev on Saturday.

Medvedev, who may now pick a name from it or choose an alternative for confirmation by the local legislature, did not name the candidate he preferred over the weekend.

But analysts said Friday that Khuchiyev and Zhamaldayev were only on the list so that it contains the required three names.

"As long as Kadyrov lives, there will be no alternative to him," said Maxim Agarkov, a Caucasus analyst with the SK-Strategia think tank.

But Kadyrov's political survival rests on his ability to control violence

in his republic, said Alexei Malashenko of the Carnegie Moscow Center.

"As long as he controls all armed formations in the republic, he can carry on his rule," he said.

Kadyrov's strength was challenged last year when rebels staged two high-profile attacks in the republic.

In August, a shootout in his home village of Tsentoroi killed 19 people. Then, in October, three attackers blew themselves up inside the Chechen parliament, killing three other people.

Suicide bombers have also returned to the streets of Grozny, with the latest instance reported last Tuesday, when two suicide bombers blew themselves up in a downtown apartment block as police tried to arrest them.

Malashenko said Kadyrov's future reign depends largely on who governs in the Kremlin.

"If Medvedev stays, he will have to build better ties with him," Malashenko said of the Chechen leader.

While appearing loyal to Medvedev, Kadyrov has in the past reserved his highest praise for Putin, calling him the man he loves and naming a main street in Grozny after him.

Action Taken Against Aeroflot

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Trapped for 28 hours in Sheremetyevo Airport at New Year, and frustrated by the lack of information, lawyer Sergei Litvinsev decided to get even with Aeroflot, Russia's largest airline.

With fellow lawyer Kristina Kameleva, whom he met at Sheremetyevo, he is demanding compensation for a group of 600 passengers for emotional stress and financial damages while stranded. The pair gathered names during their flight to Egypt and via Facebook.

The group is demanding a payment of 100,000 rubles to 150,000 rubles (\$3,420 to \$5,130) for each member, depending on the hours spent waiting.

They also want a public apology from the airline because it failed to provide them with adequate meals or any hotel rooms.

If Aeroflot rejects the demands, the group will take the matter to court, Litvinsev said.

Aeroflot spokeswoman Irina Danenberg said Friday that the company would consider the petition.

Muslim Headdresses Test Faith, Tolerance Russians Not Biggest Drinkers

By Alexandra Odynova

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — After twin attacks by female suicide bombers killed 40 people in the Moscow metro last March, media reports warned that women sporting a Muslim headdress in public may face verbal or even physical attacks.

The warnings were far from baseless, as several hate-related incidents took place hours after the bombing. One saw angry passengers throwing two scarf-wearing women off a metro train.

Attacks associated with radical Islamists make wearing a hijab — the piece of female attire that covers the head and is obligated by the religion — an everyday challenge for female Muslims in Moscow.

But most who make the decision to follow Islam's guidelines put up with occasional harassment — and rights activists say Muscovites may actually be growing more tolerant toward women in hijabs.

"I've been wearing a headscarf for four years now, and in the beginning it was quite a novel experience," Dana Akhilogova, a 20-year-old Moscow student, said in an interview with The St. Petersburg Times.

"It was drawing attention, and there were people who even stopped talking to me," she said.

But Akhilogova said she has no regrets because she eventually learned to "take it easier," and unfaithful old friends were replaced by new, "even better ones."

A spokeswoman for the Russian Council of Muftis, Gulnur-Khanum Gaziyeva, said that "in Russia, the attitude has recently become more negative to women wearing the hijab because Islam is often associated with terrorism."

But Gaziyeva admitted that she personally did not feel any pressure.



Mannequins displaying hijabs in a Moscow store, with a customer on the right.

"The police don't stop me, and people around me don't insult me," Gaziyeva, who wears a hijab and a long-sleeve dress, told The St. Petersburg Times. "I believe that a lot depends on my own inner attitude."

The number of attacks on hijab-wearing women is limited to "a few cases a year," said Alexander Verkhovsky, head of the Sova xenophobia watchdog.

"Most of the attackers are not radicals, but just mentally unbalanced individuals," Verkhovsky said.

Gaziyeva and Akhilogova also said people who react inappropriately to the hijab are driven by stereotypes, often generated by the media. Gaziyeva added that "terrorism has no nation and no religion."

For a Muslim woman, wearing a hijab means modesty, as she is supposed to only show her hair to her husband, not to strangers, Gaziyeva said. "For a Muslim woman, hijab means inner freedom," she said.

An early wave of hate and suspicion toward women in headscarves was triggered by a 2003 attack at a rock festival in Moscow's Tushino airfield, where two suicide bombers blew themselves up in the crowd, killing 16.

But the bombers actually wore no hijabs and even sported short skirts, witnesses said.

After the March metro blasts, the media circulated a photo of one of the bombers, the 17-year-old Dzhanet Abdullayeva, standing in a forest with a machine gun and wearing a black hijab. But the other attacker, Mariam Sharipova, described as Slavic-looking, was bareheaded in the only publicly available photo of her.

Sova watchdog's Verkhovsky said the metro bombings were followed by a certain surge in intolerance toward women with an "Islamic" appearance. Even one native of Armenia, a country in the Caucasus with a predominantly Christian population, was reportedly attacked.

But there was less violence than after the 2003 Tushino blasts, he said. "Maybe people are getting used to" women in headscarves, Verkhovsky said.

Earlier this month — shortly after another suicide bombing carried out by a male killed 36 in Domodedovo Airport — a Moskovsky Komsomlets reporter traveled around Moscow in a niqab, which is a more austere variation of an Islamic headdress that covers not just the hair, but the face as well, leaving only a slit for the eyes.

Some metro passengers were scared off by the niqab, while others reacted aggressively, shouting insults and forcing the guard accompanying the reporter to interfere, the newspaper said.

But the harsh reaction may be due to the fact that the niqab belongs to the Arabic tradition and, unlike the hijab, is very rare in Moscow.

"Most women wearing niqabs in Moscow are from abroad, and they are always accompanied by their husbands," Gaziyeva said.

Recent clashes over headscarves in Western Europe may also contribute to the negative attitude to the hijab in Russia, she said.

France banned hijabs in schools nationwide in 2004, and several German provinces have also introduced restrictions on wearing headscarves in public. Limitations are under consideration by several other European countries, and polls indicate high public support for the move.

The Russian Constitution guarantees freedom of expression of national and cultural identity. There is no ban on the hijab in Moscow, though some precedents are to be found in regions with a higher percentage of Muslims in the populace.

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — A longstanding myth about Russia has been debunked by the World Health Organization, which ranked the country only fourth in the world by alcohol consumption — though the first for alcohol-related deaths.

The world's most drink-prone place is Moldova, with 18.2 liters of pure alcohol consumed annually per capita, the UN health watchdog said in this month's Global Status Report on Alcohol and Health 2011.

The Czech Republic was second with 16.4 liters per capita, and Hungary third with 16.2 liters, trailed by Russia with 15.7 liters, the report said.

But the number of deaths attributable to alcohol stood in Russia at a record 20 percent for men and six percent for women.

The report, released Feb. 11, used the data for 2005 and took into account only the population aged 15 or older.

Russia's dismal record on alcohol mortality is to be blamed on the predominance of strong spirits, not wine or beer, and the low quality of available alcohol, Igor Beloborodov, head of the Institute for Demographic Studies, said.

Spirits account for 63 percent of pure alcohol consumed by Russians, compared with 33 percent for beer, a meager 1 percent for wine and 3 percent for all other types of alcoholic beverages, the UN report said.

In Moldovan alcohol consumption, wine, beer and spirits account for about a third each. Beer leads with the Czechs at 57 percent, and Hungarians obtain 40 percent of their alcohol from wine.

РЕКЛАМА

New Migration Rules to Be Eased, More Reforms Planned

By Nikolaus von Twickel

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — New registration rules for expatriates are intended to reduce bureaucracy, and the government is working on more reforms to bring conditions for foreign employees in the country in line with Europe, the Federal Migration Service said Thursday.

"We are working on a whole set of laws that will make the whole registration system obsolete," the service's spokesman Konstantin Poltoranin told The St. Petersburg Times.

Poltoranin admitted that some of the changes enacted last Tuesday were not helpful for businesses, which now have to register foreign employees at the latter's home addresses, not an employer's address.

"We were against this, but the responsible State Duma committee insisted on it," he said.

Foreign businesses have expressed bewilderment at the reform, which effectively requires landlords to stand in line to register foreign tenants each time foreigners return from abroad.

The Association of European Businesses said the changes actually worsen conditions for foreign employees and contradict the government's objectives to modernize the economy and liberalize migration legislation.

The association even sent a written complaint to President Dmitry Medvedev earlier this week.

Frank Schauff, the group's chief executive, said that authorities seemed to listen to the concerns. "We had three meetings since the letter was sent to the Kremlin on Tuesday," he said last Thursday, having just completed a round of talks at the Economic Development Ministry.

Asked about the meeting's result, Schauff merely said that ministry officials and business representatives agreed "to solve the problem as quickly as possible."

The Kremlin press service refused to comment Thursday.

But Valery Fedoreyev, a labor law expert at Baker & McKenzie's Moscow office, who also participated in the meeting, said his firm and the American Chamber of Commerce are already working on a draft amendment to allow employers to register employees at their workplace.

The text will be sent to the Ministry on Friday or Monday, Fedoreyev said in e-mailed comments.

Ministry spokespeople did not answer calls for comment Thursday.

Faced with a multitude of complaints, the Federal Migration Service promised last week to let employers, not landlords, register their staff — on the condition that the home address is used and a notarized power of attorney from the landlord is produced.

Experts confirmed that migration authorities showed flexibility when handling the first registrations under the new rules. "Right now, registrations at home addresses handed in by employers without powers of attorney are accepted," said Tatyana Bondareva of the Visa Delight agency.

But companies will have to produce the power of attorneys if facing an inspection, Bondareva explained.

The compromise triggered concerns that many apartment owners will refuse to cooperate — because of fears concerning the disclosure of rental payments to tax authorities.

Bondareva said no rental agreements would have to be produced with the power of attorney.

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Scientists: Employee Happiness Boosts Productivity

By Olga Kalashnikova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

British scientists have proved that happy employees have a positive influence on the production and profit of their company. According to research by Professor Andrew Oswald titled "Happiness and Productivity," happy employees work 12 percent more efficiently compared to average employees, while unhappy ones have 10-percent lower productivity. In other words, happiness is profitable for businesses.

"Job satisfaction is reflected in behavior at work," writes Michael Argyle in his book "The Psychology of Happiness."

"Happy people work more efficiently. Job satisfaction also has a positive influence in decreasing staff turnover and reducing absences."

The happier employees are, the better they work, and as a result the profit of the company is higher. But financial reward alone may not be enough to achieve this effect. According to the St. Petersburg branch of HeadHunter web site, only 62 percent of employees can be persuaded to stick to a job they don't enjoy in exchange for more money.

"During the crisis, we introduced voluntary health insurance, but people didn't become happier. Financial motivation didn't make people more positive, but that's what we needed, as our sales reps need to transmit a positive mood to others," said Viktoria Panchenko, PR specialist at United Elements Group.

"Remuneration for labor is not the only factor that motivates employees to work effectively," said Olga Serebrennaya, head of Ancor office in St. Petersburg.

"A strictly organized structure, clearly defined rights and duties of em-

ployees, and formulation of tasks aimed at a result — these are the integral basics of effective staff action," she said.

On the one hand, some methods of non-salary motivation still require financial input from the company.

"Methods of motivation vary from simple praise, which has a powerful effect, to gifts, that can even include cars for surpassing a financial plan or KPIs. Team building, corporate parties, special conditions for mortgage payments, education, fruit and drinks in the office are also ways of increasing staff loyalty," said Yevgenia Lanichkina, head of the department of

production recruitment at Antal Russia.

On the other hand, there are a great number of motivation factors that are free. For example, for managers, it is important to have the opportunity to realize difficult and ambitious tasks. Independence in the methods of solving tasks and having minimum control from the business owner and shareholders are a good motivation.

"Developing a career path is much harder for us than for a big company with multiple layers of management," said Walter Denz, owner of Liden & Denz Language Centres. "What we offer is the thrill of experiencing real re-

sponsibility. Our employees enjoy the power to take decisions."

"For highly qualified specialists, a motivating factor is the recognition and respect of colleagues and management, and the opportunity for professional growth and development, and to share their experience and knowledge with junior specialists," said Serebrennaya.

"A good team, a pleasant atmosphere in the office, the opportunity to communicate with colleagues and get involved in the process, and the understanding that you're appreciated by those in charge is also important for many employees," she added.

According to the St. Petersburg branch of HeadHunter, a good team is in second position after salary in terms of factors that can persuade an employee to stay at their current job.

"The key to productive work is that everybody understands that they are working in a team," said Denz. "For efficient teamwork, you need extremely good communication channels. This is something that can always be improved and always needs to be worked on. 'You didn't say' or 'you didn't ask' has no place in our company."

"Investing in an atmosphere of harmony is more effective than investing in medical insurance and salaries," said Marina Gershovich, financial director of Avrora commercial and industrial group. "Everyone needs to feel that the boss notices that they are bringing something special to the company. Increasing employees' feeling of self-value is a non-financial motivation."

In Russia, non-financial motivation is highly developed. Many companies have web sites and corporate magazines, or information desks displaying photographs of the best employees, competitions to determine the "employee of the month" or year, as well as corporate events and team building exercises. There are also some aspects specific to Russia that can influence employees, analysts say.

"One effective method concerns the job title," said Lanichkina. "Experience shows that candidates do not understand that the word 'manager' in its classical meaning means someone whose job is to manage part or all of the company. And they ask for the job title to be changed to include the word 'head.' This kind of motivation really works."



For some employees, job satisfaction is most important, while others are motivated by financial reward.

VLADIMIR FILONOV / SPT

'One-Size-Fits-All' Approach Not Suited to Russian Training Market

By Olga Sharapova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

The training market in Russia appeared at the same time as capitalism in the country: At the beginning of the 1990s. But even in the Soviet Union, there was a school that offered training programs for the heads of Soviet construction and other organizations. The first business game was set up in 1984 in Tallinn. These previously unknown interactive

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training sessions became very popular in the 1980s, and now the Tallinn School of Management is well-known in the former Soviet bloc.

But when the new Russia opened its doors for international business, a lot of foreign training gurus came here. For the young and enterprising local market, it was a revelation to discover the concept of motivational training and how to increase sales in a short time.

"People believed in a magic wand that could help them discover how to be successful in business instantly," said Elena Eybshits, managing director of Fintra Russia, a Finnish training company that has been operating in Russia since 2005. "But now we understand that there is no magic wand, and that we need to systematically work to improve so-called human capital. The time of gurus has passed. Now high estimation is given to business trainers who can facilitate and help participants of training sessions to form their own knowledge and utilize their own experience."

Most trainers agree that the crisis has sifted out the unprofessional and non-competitive participants of the market.

"In a situation when companies understood the potential of the crisis, they tended to use consulting services to assist them in optimizing change needed to effectively manage this period, as well as to be ready for the end of the crisis," said Rachel Shackleton, trainer and general director of Concept training and HR-consulting company. "Therefore we experienced an increase in consulting services to steer and support change, assess risk, and in projects related to mergers and buy-outs. As a result, new trends on the market for human resource solutions emerged."

Shackleton identified several trends as the most popular during the crisis: programs focused on developing the loyalty, trust and wellbeing of personnel during this difficult period, the reassessment of education in business processes as well as budgets for training and personnel development, more precision in choosing a provider, and the elimination of poor-quality providers from the market. She said that the customization of products had also been observed, along with changes to the ratio and roles of the main methods and instruments, such as training, consulting,

coaching and personnel assessment.

In the opinion of foreign trainers working in Russia, strong competition on the local training market is a key feature.

"It is very much market based compared to many Western European countries," said Jesus Belle, a Fintra Russia trainer and consultant from Finland, where a large share of the training industry gets government, regional or EU funding. "In Russia most training takes place in the private sector, and to be successful in this market, companies have to constantly keep up with new trends and regularly update their programs."

But even in this situation, companies seeking professional, high-level training need to focus on many aspects to find the right trainer or training company for their needs. When selecting a strategic partner to provide professional and effective services, Shackleton advises companies to look for positive feedback and recommendations from clients. Other factors to look out for are how long the training company has been successfully operating on the market, and the trainer or consultant's level of experience.

"Overall, what is the provider's approach? Short term suggestions or a medium to long-term strategic partnership, a client-oriented approach, flexibility and result-oriented thinking," said Shackleton.

Understanding the client's specific challenges is a highly competitive advantage of a successful training company.

"Companies do not need a course in this or that topic," said Belle. "Every company is different and it is going through a very particular situation. The priorities are totally unique to each company in every case. That understanding is a very valuable skill, and very few training providers have it. Like a good doctor who is able to diagnose a patient's illness after a few talks and assessments, a good training provider has the skill of understanding the situation that the company is facing after just one or two meetings."

In this respect, the Finnish trainer agrees with Mark Kukushkin, one of Russia's most prominent trainers and the founder of many training projects. Kukushkin believes that today, the old-fashioned approach — when an expert comes to a company and simply "reads" them a training course — does not work. Today, the trainer must solve the client's task.

"The problem today is not lack of knowledge," said Belle. "There is a tremendous amount of information on the Internet, for example. Unfortunately, many training providers try to 'copy and paste' existing programs in order to save costs, even though most of the content is of little relevance, or use expensive trainers with a good reputation who repeat the same stories to every customer. A really good training provider is able to customize the program contents to the specific situation of the company, adapting materials, incorporating company cases and formulating specific discussion around the key issues."

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Analysts See New Trends on Sluggish Post-Crisis Job Market

By Irina Titova

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

While some of the city's HR experts express cautious optimism about the revival of St. Petersburg's labor market, other specialists still consider it to be sluggish. All local HR gurus are, however, agreed that new post-crisis trends have appeared on the market.

"The labor market has definitely become more active recently. Depending on the sphere of business, demand has grown by 25 to 35 percent," said Yelena Kolkova, director of the local branch of Staffwell recruitment agency.

"This proves that companies are exiting the stagnation period. They are launching new projects, and international companies that froze their projects during the crisis are returning to the market," Kolkova said.

Yury Mikhailov, managing partner at Consort St. Petersburg recruitment agency, said however that in general, the St. Petersburg economy and consequently, the labor market, was still "somnolent."

"The market looks like it is unsure which direction to take... everyone seems to be afraid of taking long-term strategic decisions such as investing more, expanding their business or hiring more staff," Mikhailov said.

Whether the situation is as optimistic or not as some experts say, modern reality has clearly seen the arrival of at least three new popular options practiced by local companies to continue to save staff costs.

Freelancers, professional stars and restrained salary policy have become an alternative to the large-scale staff cuts largely practiced during the peak of the economic crisis, experts said.

"While the tension on St. Petersburg's labor market is decreasing and employers are not attracted by massive redundancies anymore, they now tend to optimize staff expenses through freelance hire," said Inna Komar, general director of the city's Mega Solution recruitment agency.

"Others look for professional 'stars' who are able to solve the tasks of two or even three specialists at once," Komar said.

"Freelance labor has become one of the methods used to cut expenses on personnel and to decrease tax payments," she said.

"A significant proportion of Russian companies have put a lot of their personnel on a freelance basis and transferred a number of functions to outsourcing," Komar said.

"The advantages of freelance labor are obvious for employers. Beside optimizing staff expenses, many companies realized that it was not profitable for them to maintain a large staff throughout a year. So now they use the opportunity to attract an essential number of employees for short term or temporary projects, and for seasonal work," Komar said.

"At the same time, it's also hard to expect any salary raises... Today, employers offer high remuneration only to really qualified specialists," she said.

"If salaries grow at all, then it's only by a few percent, just to keep in line with the inflation rate," said Yevgenia Titova, senior consultant at the local branch of Morgan Hunt recruitment agency.

Margarita Ponomareva, general director of BusinessLink Personnel recruitment agency, said that currently a trend of decreased salary offers is being observed.

"Unfortunately, due to inflation and the unstable situation on the market, the crisis maintains its position, so the level of compensation and bonuses for practically all levels of candidates is decreasing," Ponomareva said.

Kolkova said that although Staffwell forecasts a trend of salary increases for this year, "it would still be difficult to expect any significant raise."

"Employers are currently more interested in improving systems of motivation, influencing systems of labor ef-



YEKATERINA KUZMINA / VEDEMOSTI

New automobile production in the northwest region has given a boost to the statistics in the manufacturing sector.

fectiveness and enhancing the employer's image, rather than raising their employees' salaries and bonuses," Kolkova said.

Analysts say that the situation is improving on the city's labor market rather selectively.

"For instance, the opening of new car-making plants in the area has made the search for personnel in this field more active, especially the blue-collar professions," said Svetlana Loseva, consultant at Consort St. Petersburg.

"There is more demand for professionals in the actively developing pharmaceutical field and in sales," Loseva said.

Yulia Krizhevich, head of Morgan Hunt's local branch, said the company had noticed higher demand for middle and top-level managers able to re-organize a business.

"Those people are expected to have experience in different business directions such as sales and marketing, IT, finances or HR," she said.

Titova said that demand for specialists had also increased in some spheres that suffered the most during the economic crisis, including construction, land development and the banking sector.

Kolkova said employers are currently most interested in sales professionals, corporate lawyers, HR managers, financial experts and engineering and technical specialists.

Ponomareva said the boom in the sales sphere was linked to the fact that despite the difficult financial situation, many companies continue to actively develop their services.

"Furthermore, during the first year of the crisis, many players left the market and those who remained on it are trying to occupy the new niches," Ponomareva said.

Ponomareva said companies also look "for client-oriented candidates who are able to attract and retain clients, the number of which is decreasing in all spheres."

Recruitment experts also said that demand for vacancies currently exceeded the offer.

"Many worthy specialists are interested in changing their job due to the deteriorating conditions of their current job or to an unstable situation at their company," Ponomareva said.

A survey conducted by Ancor recruitment agency showed that 44 percent of applicants were looking for new jobs due to a lack of professional development perspectives, 39 percent were dissatisfied with their salary, and 20 percent wanted to change jobs because their current responsibilities and functions were not interesting for them.

The research showed that applicants were looking for a 20 to 30-percent pay raise at their new position.

A brief look through job vacancy advertisements on the local market shows an alarming trend of age limits. The age range stipulated most frequently ranges from 27 to 35 years old.

Recruitment experts said, however, that the situation was not that unusual or desperate.

"The age of 27 to 35 years old is a typical limit for candidates for a mid-level management position," said Irina Babenko, senior consultant at Consort St. Petersburg.

"Here, employers may justify their preference by thinking that at the age of 27, an average candidate already has necessary work experience of two to three years, while at the age of 35, a person is still flexible enough to be able to grow within the company," Babenko said.

"In addition, some managers simply don't like to manage older subordinates. It's always easier to manage those who are younger and less experienced," she said.

Nelya Salmayeva, another consultant from Consort St. Petersburg, said a maximum age limit of 40 to 45 years old was common for jobs that involve a lot of traveling and therefore require a lot of energy. At production plants, the maximum age of employees may be set at 50 to 55 years old due to health considerations.

Lyubov Andreyeva, consultant at Consort St. Petersburg, said she had noticed that recently, employers had stopped setting formal age requirements, focusing instead on the professionalism of a candidate.

Morgan Hunt's Krizhevich said the company had noticed that for middle and top level management positions, companies tend to look for people above 35 years old, who have both professional and life experience.

"There are also many offices of Scandinavian companies in St. Petersburg who have higher age requirements — they look for managers from 47 to 48 years old," Krizhevich added.

The Epoch of the Human Age

At this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, the recruitment corporation Manpower said that mankind was entering a new epoch — the Human Age — that would change not only the world of business, but also the values of people in general.

Jeffrey Joerres, head of Manpower's board of directors, said in the Human Age "the highest values" would be "a human potential and talent."

"Only possessing such capital as talent will secure a company a leading position in business," Joerres said.

Joerres said the world financial crisis made many employers revise their approach to business management.

"Today, in the epoch of unpredictability, the skill of getting maximum results at minimum expense with the minimum number of employees offers original guarantees for a company's prosperity," he said.

According to the company's latest Talent Shortage Survey, more than 30 percent of employers are in desperate need of talented candidates.

"Different epochs made different demands on those who strived to ruling and manage. Before the 18th century, the major factor providing the leading position in society was land, in the 19th century it was property for means of production, and in the 20th century it was the owning of significant financial capital. Today, in the early 21st century, competitiveness requires the skills to attract and retain talent," Joerres said.

Job applicants in turn should understand that in the Human Age, only their professional knowledge and skills will make a person in demand in society and provide them with financial wellbeing, he said.

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Expats, Foreign Qualifications Still in Demand

By Olga Kalashnikova

THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Fifty-two percent of Russian companies employ expats, according to the St. Petersburg branch of HeadHunter web site — 30 percent more than a year ago.

In spite of the bureaucratic headaches involved in employing foreigners, employers see a number of advantages in expats over their Russian counterparts. First on the list is experience in doing business in developed countries, a Western management style and a progressive approach to solving problems. A degree from a Western university is also a major advantage of foreigners.

Comparing expat and Russian employees is difficult, as the former often misunderstand the local mentality.

One quarter of the respondents of research conducted by the St. Petersburg branch of HeadHunter said that expats were much more qualified and experienced specialists.

"For example, in Eastern Europe many processes have already taken place, so specialists have knowledge that just needs to be reproduced. That's why managers and technicians from Eastern Europe come to pass on their experience to local managers," said Mikhail Zhykov, managing director of HeadHunter.

"Expats have a lot of advantages, but it should be understood that employing an expat manager will not be a solution to every task. I think that Russian companies have started to realize that a foreign manager is not an expensive toy or a wizard, but simply an employee, whose experience can, when used correctly, result in high efficiency," said Michael Germershausen, managing director of Antal Russia.

Although twenty years ago, when the Russian market had just started to develop, there was a serious lack of qualified specialists, a generation of experienced local specialists and managers has now formed in Russia and other CIS countries. And they do not trail behind their foreign counterparts in education nor in their approach to business. They can successfully compete with expats due to their knowl-



A degree from a foreign university such as Cambridge remains highly valued among Russian employers on the local job market.

edge of the local market. As a result, during the last few years, a trend has emerged of replacing expat managers with Russian ones, according to analysts from Antal Russia. Forty-two percent of respondents said that their company was looking to substitute its foreign employees.

Companies are still far from turning their backs entirely on expat skills, however. Even the economic crisis hasn't seriously influenced the number of foreigner employees in Russian offices.

"If the requirements for a vacancy include international experience, the company is more likely to consider an expat," said Olga Demidova, manager at Antal-Laurence Simons recruitment company. "Employers understand that foreign managers bring with them expertise in the area of general manage-

ment and also in more narrow fields, such as technology and innovations in various industries."

It's difficult to compare the efficiency of expats and Russian professionals, as foreigners usually lack experience of working in Russia and can often misunderstand the local mentality and the way of doing business in Russia. Moreover, expats are both expensive and bureaucratically challenging to recruit.

"Many company representatives believe that in spite of all these difficulties, expat managers are more effective, as they are regarded as responsible and ready to develop and introduce new business processes, and — most importantly — to strictly follow this plan," said Maria Shwed, key account manager at Ancor in St. Petersburg.

"Many foreign specialists are prepared to study Russian language, culture and the specifics of doing business in Russia," she said.

According to HeadHunter research, a quarter of expats working in Russia are employed in the IT sphere. Foreign businessmen, managers and economists are also popular in Russia. There are even some posts in the social sciences occupied by foreign specialists. At the beginning of the 2000s, expats mostly worked at foreign companies, while today they also occupy posts at Russian firms.

More often, expats hold management-level positions, despite the fact that most mid-level managers believe that the number of expats among them shouldn't exceed 10 percent, according to Antal Russia experts.

"Many expats come to Russia to open a representative office of their company, and then they often move to other organizations," said Shwed.

"Nowadays the number of foreigners coming to Russia is quite large because the tax rate is lower than in Europe, and because of the opportunities offered by the developing Russian market and financial conditions.

Expats are often invited not for a permanent job, but to solve some specific tasks or introduce new technologies and project work.

According to HeadHunter research, Finns make up the largest expat community in Russia. The second place goes to the Baltic states, followed by Canada, the U.K., Sweden and France.

Experienced and educated specialists from developing countries such as China, Malaysia and India are also in demand.

"The amount of their compensation is comparable to the level of salaries and bonuses of local managers and specialists," said Gulnara Shakuova, senior consultant at Antal Kazakhstan.

But 78 percent of employees believe that their foreign colleagues get higher salaries for the same positions, according to data collated by Antal Russia. In addition, foreign companies that send representatives to Russia provide them with social benefits such as an apartment or rental expenses, children's education, and travel expenses to return home several times a year. The amount of this compensation depends on the demand on the specialist, their knowledge, experience and skills. This, however, has become one of the main reasons for employers rejecting expats in favor of Russian employees, say HeadHunter experts.

In general, however, the differences in salaries and bonuses awarded to foreign and native employees has significantly narrowed since the mid to late '90s. Foreign managers have become more flexible when accepting job offers, according to Antal Russia.

"It is much more profitable for [expat] senior managers to work in Russia, as there are lower taxes, while mid-level personnel earn approximately the same, it doesn't matter whether they are a Russian citizen or not," said Shwed.

According to data compiled by HeadHunter, 31 percent of respondents consider it much easier to find a local employee, while a third of companies plan to apply to expats for help.

BusinessLunchGuide

advertising section

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

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Fish House



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Email: info@stroganoffsteakhouse.ru

The Fish House menu has been developed by the head chef of Russian Vodka Room No. 1, Igor Dashkevich. The range of fish and seafood at the restaurant includes traditional fish house dishes, such as salmon and tuna steaks, seabass and lobster, prawns and scallops, as well as delicacies rarely found on the menus of other restaurants

in St. Petersburg, including fish from Siberian rivers – Siberian white salmon and muksun whitefish. The Fish House wine menu offers selections from almost every region in the world at affordable prices. For true connoisseurs, a wine cellar is being created that will comprise exclusive wines from the Top 100 list of Wine Spectator magazine. The restaurant's main room can seat 100, while the basement floor has been designed for hosting banquets and private events. Business lunch daily from midday to 4 p.m. Guests can choose from a selection of salads, soups and hot dishes, as well as non-alcoholic drinks.

Special offer: the restaurant is serving smelt fish during February!



Russian Vodka Room No.1



Konnoygardeisky Boulevard.
Open from midday to midnight.
Museum open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Restaurant: 570-64-20.

Russian Vodka Room No. 1 is the first place in St. Petersburg to present Russian cuisine from different historical periods. Here, you can try pre-Petrine dishes such as "oven-cooked buckwheat porridge with chicken hearts and porcini mushrooms;" dishes featuring cuisine of the merchant and aristocratic classes such as "pike perch rissole with mashed potato;" and Soviet cuisine such as, "chicken Kiev" or "Russian salad."

The restaurant's premises comprise two spacious rooms with a capacity of 160. In the neighboring rooms is housed the Museum of Russian Vodka which presents fascinating exhibits dating back to the appearance of vodka culture in Russia and running right through to the present day. The restaurant also has a "rumochnaya" (a "standing-room-only" café) decorated in the 20th-century style where you can sample a variety of vodkas with traditional Russian "zakuski" snacks. Business lunch menu from midday to 4 p.m.



☞ - Banquet hall; ☕ - Breakfast; 🍴 - Children's room; 💳 - Credit cards accepted; 🎵 - Dancefloor; 🎶 - Live music; 🚚 - Home delivery; 🚭 - Non-smoking area; 🚗 - Parking; 📶 - Wi-Fi zone.

Average price of a two-course meal with an alcoholic beverage: \$ - 500 to 1,000 rubles; \$\$ - 1,000 to 1,500 rubles; \$\$\$ - more than 1,500 rubles

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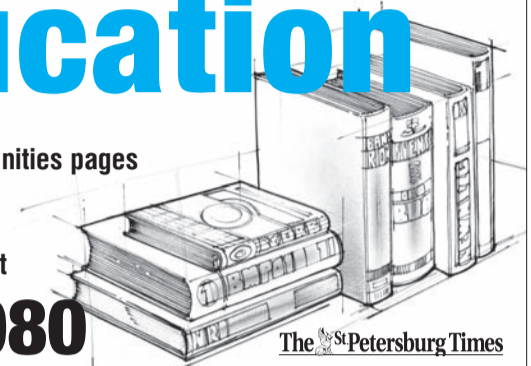
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The St. Petersburg Times

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Punishments Sought for Businesses

By Alexandra Odyonova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

MOSCOW — Russia may introduce criminal punishment for legal entities, Investigative Committee head Alexander Bastrykin said last Thursday, claiming that the move is needed to lure foreign investors — though experts believe it will have the opposite effect.

The move appears to be Bastrykin's attempt to expand authority of his newly independent agency and will produce another harassment tool to be used against businesses, analysts said.

The committee submitted a draft law to the Kremlin, Bastrykin said at the agency's meeting in Moscow, Interfax reported. He did not elaborate on details of the draft, but said the country sees a great increase in crimes "committed by or with the use of legal entities."

However, current legislature does not allow criminal investigation of a legal entity, he said.

The situation "has a negative effect on Russia's investment attractiveness," Bastrykin said, explaining the reason behind the proposal.

Legal experts questioned by The St. Petersburg Times said similar laws exist worldwide but are rarely used, and that the current domestic legislation allows punishing legal entities for wrongdoing — only not by the Investigative Committee.

A number of countries, including Britain, France and the United States, allow criminal charges for legal entities over corruption, terrorism sponsorship and economic crimes, said Viktoria Burkovskaya, senior lawyer with Yegorov, Puginsky, Afanasyev & Partners.

But the number of such cases is very low because litigation often drags on for long periods, she said.

The Investigative Committee requested the power to fine or ban a legal entity, but this is already possible as part of the Administrative Code, said Andrei Zelenin, a partner with the Lidings law firm, which provides consulting to foreign companies.

However, the committee — which was separated from the Prosecutor General's Office last month — only handles criminal, not administrative, cases.

"There are quite enough existing laws. The problem is the work of law enforcement agencies," Zelenin said, calling Bastrykin's proposal a "PR or political trick" rather than a necessary measure.

Raids and surprise checks on various pretexts are often used by law enforcement agencies as means to crack down on businesses, mainly in corruption cases, and the new rule is likely to be abused as well, analysts said.

"In Russia, it looks more like an act of intimidation," Zelenin said. "If the prosecutors and courts continue working the same way, it won't be efficient."

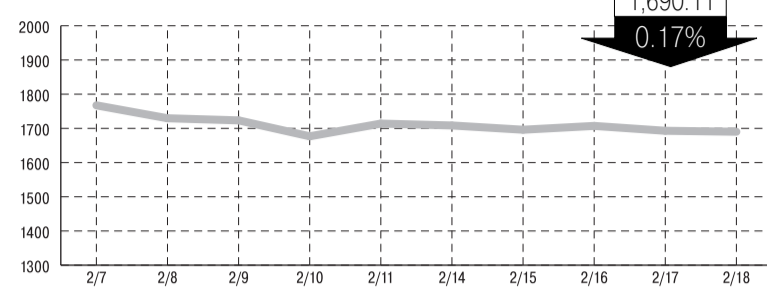
The move "won't improve the investment climate in Russia, but will become a new tool for pressuring business," Burkovskaya said.

"For companies, it will result in endless searches and extortion of money," she said.

RUSSIAN MARKETS

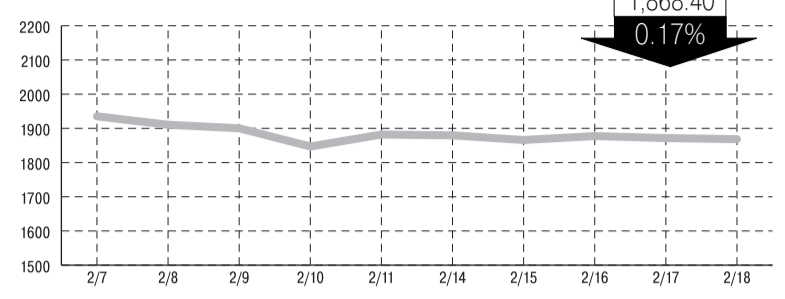
Data for Friday, February 18, 2011

MICEX INDEX (COMPOSITE OF TOP 30 STOCKS)



Source: MICEX

RTS INDEX (COMPOSITE OF TOP 50 STOCKS)



Source: RTS

MICEX SECTOR INDEXES

	CLOSE	CHANGE, %	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
MICEX Index	1,690.11	-0.17	1,788.74	1,194.92
MICEX10 Index	3,916.43	-0.75	4,229.92	2,841.82
MICEX Oil & Gas	3,144.61	0.23	3,255.48	2,198.01
MICEX Power	3,196.07	-2.13	3,519.47	2,478.99
MICEX Telecommunication	2,538.03	0.00	2,567.62	1,784.52
MICEX Metals & Mining	5,489.52	-0.68	6,178.50	3,766.22
MICEX Manufacturing	2,895.79	-1.10	3,054.11	1,604.12
MICEX Large Cap	2,727.94	-0.08	2,880.73	1,932.63
MICEX Mid Cap	3,137.14	-0.26	3,337.25	2,205.80

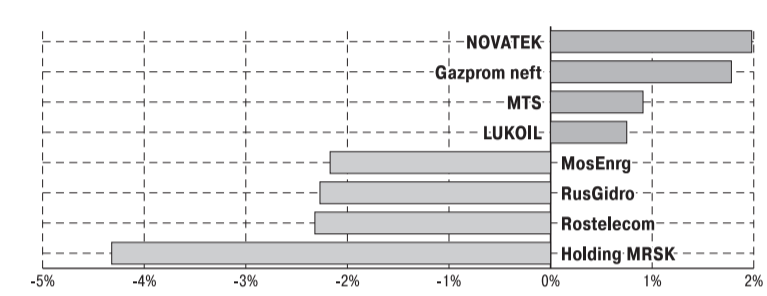
Source: MICEX

RTS SECTOR INDEXES

	CLOSE	CHANGE, %	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
RTS Index	1,868.40	-0.17	1,935.15	1,226.57
RTS2 Index	2,295.47	-0.94	2,340.78	1,530.10
RTS Oil & Gas Index	218.61	0.21	225.98	146.90
RTS Consumer & Retail Index	445.34	-0.66	453.53	253.24
RTS Metals & Mining Index	354.49	-0.42	378.44	226.54
RTS Industrial Index	240.06	-1.70	244.20	136.41
RTS Electric Utilities Index	273.09	-1.69	299.05	213.03
RTS Telecom Index	292.05	0.01	292.55	183.24
RTS Finances Index	484.07	0.78	496.30	298.51

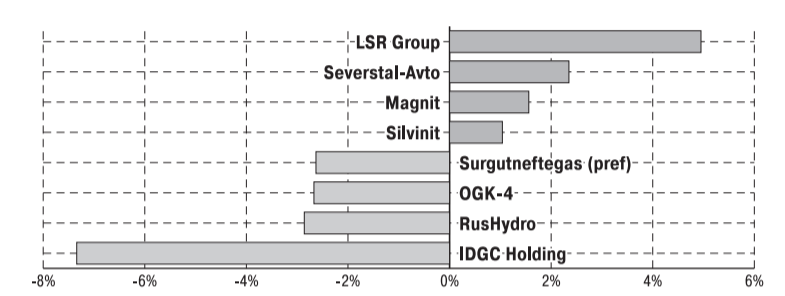
Source: RTS

MICEX INDEX WINNERS & LOSERS



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MICEX

TOP 30 (BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION)					
	CLOSE, RUB	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, MLN RUB	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
AFK Sistema	29,751.0	2.95	323.12	35,860.0	24,603.0
Baltika	1,277,990.0	0.09	3.66	1,791,990.0	775,000.0
Bank Moskv	1,230,000.0	0.41	4.03	1,398,990.0	822,000.0
FSK EES	0,415.0	-0.72	1,314.47	0,481.0	0,289.0
Gazprom	195,500.0	0.03	15,713.02	216,650.0	142,090.0
Gazprom нефт	141,520.0	1.78	284.43	170,950.0	101,000.0
Holding MRSK	4,850.0	-4.32	2,199.52	5,719.0	2,833.0
LUKOIL	1,923,170.0	0.75	2,423.84	1,981,570.0	1,400,010.0
Magnit	3,820,000.0	0.53	18.86	4,495,990.0	1,900,000.0
Mechel	913,000.0	-0.55	11.50	989,950.0	555,000.0
MMK	31,900.0	0.00	53.71	38,000.0	20,850.0
MTS	254,490.0	0.91	389.03	276,980.0	217,000.0
NLMK	125,680.0	0.22	116.42	151,200.0	79,500.0
NorNickel GMK	6,701,140.0	-1.70	2,533.92	7,700,000.0	4,350,000.0
NOVATEK	333,030.0	1.98	160.31	344,790.0	164,340.0
OGK-4	2,640.0	-2.83	62.79	3,350.0	1,675.0
Polus Zoloto	1,613,700.0	-1.42	130.12	1,997,000.0	1,222,680.0
Polymetal	503,500.0	-0.19	35.85	749,950.0	279,780.0
Raspadskaya	218,000.0	-0.37	24.29	238,800.0	114,510.0
Rosneft	255,000.0	-0.82	2,458.76	261,970.0	177,350.0
RusGidro	1,462.0	-2.27	1,555.07	1,857.0	1,224.0
Sberbank	100,820.0	-0.08	13,928.27	110,950.0	63,810.0
Severstal	519,130.0	-0.17	548.70	598,580.0	294,360.0
Silvinit	28,500,000.0	0.35	22.27	31,700,000.0	14,724,780.0
Surgut	31,389.0	-0.36	369.04	36,175.0	24,051.0
Tatneft-3	166,450.0	0.43	222.22	175,750.0	119,620.0
TNK-BP Holding	87,450.0	-0.06	26.40	N/A	N/A
Uralkali	224,110.0	0.16	355.70	239,810.0	93,300.0
VTB	0,096.0	-1.54	3,241.85	0,114.0	0,0657.0
WBDF	3,710,550.0	-0.26	95.89	3,998,940.0	1,225,000.0

MOST-TRADED OTHER STOCKS

	CLOSE, RUB	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, MLN RUB	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
Akron	1,314,090.0	0.85	67.02	1,433,770.0	712,000.0
Apteki 36,6	104,330.0	1.81	53.47	200,000.0	74,090.0
Gruppa Razguliy	71,598.0	-2.72	48.54	83,499.0	37,100.0
INTER FAO EES	0,0436.0	-1.80	402.64	0,0677.0	0,0388.0
KrasnGES	203,000.0	-1.67	67.76	219,000.0	53,000.0
MDM Bank (pref)	19,760.0	9.23	56.14	23,290.0	8,100.0
O2TV	4,458.0	-2.02	146.58	6,378.0	2,066.0
OGK-1	1,097.0	-1.97	53.04	1,540.0	0,895.0
OGK-2	1,530.0	-3.77	68.41	2,050.0	0,932.0
OGK-6	1,314.0	-2.23	56.29	1,760.0	0,725.0
PIK	136,950.0	4.56	495.57	176,960.0	95,710.0
Rostelecom	156,000.0	-2.32	168.95	186,790.0	95,130.0
Rostelecom (pref)	88,400.0	-0.45	143.91	111,500.0	62,500.0
RTM	5,160.0	-3.19	55.47	9,500.0	4,140.0
Sberbank (pref)	69,450.0	-0.77	1,598.91	78,770.0	50,340.0
Sollers	648,800.0	-1.70	91.05	750,080.0	386,630.0
Surgut (pref)	16,170.0	-2.00	466.48	17,985.0	11,693.0

Source: MICEX

RTS

TOP 30 (BY MARKET CAPITALIZATION)					
	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
FGC UES	0,0140.0	0.00	0.000	0,0155.0	0,0092.0
Baltika Breweries	44,000.00	0.00	0.000	50,000.00	29,250.00
Bank of Moscow	34,000.00	0.00	0.000	34,000.00	32,000.00
Bashneft	49,500.00	0.00	0.000	49,500.00	27,000.00
Gazprom	6,750.00	-1.46	0.169	7,400.00	4,500.00
Gazprom Neft	4,750.00	0.00	0.000	5,572.00	3,500.00
IDGC Holding	0,1640.0	-7.34	0.220	0,1875.0	0,1027.0

RTS (CONTINUED)

	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
LUKoil	66.00000	0.30	0.066	67.00000	45.10000
MMK	1.07500	0.00	0.000	1.10500	0.72600
MTS	8.71000	3.32	0.174	9.35000	7.35000
Magnit	130.50000	1.56	0.391	145.72344	65.20000
Mechel	30.00000	0.00	0.000	30.60000	19.25000
Norlisk Nickel	239.00000	0.00	0.000	257.00000	141.00000
Novatek	10.80000	0.00	0.000	10.97000	5.46000
Novolipetsk Steel	4.53000	0.00	0.000	4.53000	2.60000
TNK-BP Holding	2.98000	-0.33	0.030	3.20000	2.70000
Polymetal	17.10000	0.00	0.000	18.45000	9.25000
Polyus Gold	61.08934	0.00	0.000	61.75000	40.50000
Raspadskaya	7.46000	0.20	1.891	7.91000	3.86000
Rosneft	8.76219	0.00	0.000	8.77375	6.00000
RusHydro	0.05150	0.00	0.000	0.06210	0.04180
Sberbank	3.47500	0.72	4.606	3.70000	2.04000
Sberbank, RDR	16.90000	0.72	0.085	17.18000	14.50000
Severstal	18.20000	0.00	0.000	19.63010	9.65000
Silvinit	975.00000	1.04	0.097	975.00000	498.00000
Sistema	0.95600	0.00	0.000	1.06000	0.81000
Surgutneftegas	1.17000	0.00	0.000	1.17000	0.80000
Tatneft	5.65000	0.00	0.000	5.91000	4.06000
Uralkali	7.73000	0.00	0.000	7.85000	3.12000
VTB	0.00340	0.00	0.000	0.00370	0.00230

RTS STANDARD MOST-TRADED STOCKS

	CLOSE, \$	CHANGE, %	VOLUME, \$ MLN	52-WK HI	52-WK LO
IDGC of South	0.00500	-3.85	0.010	0.00800	0.00500
MOSTOTREST	8.40000	-2.33	0.017	9.50000	4.25000
Bashneft (pref)	35.65000	0.28	0.036	37.00000	15.00000
Dixy Group	13.88621	0.33	0.569	14.85000	7.60000
FESCO	0.54100	-2.35	0.216	0.60000	0.32000
GAZ	50.5				



ASIAN

Gloss Cafe Restaurant

GLOSS кафе

17 Nevsky Prospekt.
Tel.: 315-23-15.

Gloss cafe is the perfect place for those who appreciate fine food, a cozy atmosphere and good music. At Gloss Cafe's open kitchen, chefs work their magic to create Asian cuisine: sushi, rolls, temaki and phyto salads, while hot dishes are prepared in sizzling woks. Continental dishes include our excellent leg of lamb with rosemary, dorado fillet with herbs, or risotto with asparagus and parmesan. Guests can also choose from our extensive tea menu and wide range of wines and cocktails at democratic prices. Our culinary delights are complemented by free Wi-Fi, sets by top DJs and fantastic parties on Fridays and Saturdays. On weekdays, a sushi buffet is available, priced at just 200 rubles.

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EUROPEAN

J. Walker Restaurant space



36 Nab. Kanal Griboyedova,
St. Petersburg
Tel.: 310 0009

A new, multi-level restaurant complex in the center of St. Petersburg opened its doors to guests in the first days of winter. On the ground floor there's a café, where you can drink a cup of hot tea or mulled wine on a frosty day. On the first floor there's a restaurant space with daily musical programs and live music. The dishes feature European cuisine, a large selection of wines, cocktails and faultless service. On Fridays and Saturdays, the first floor operates as a night club from 11 p.m. until morning.

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INTERNATIONAL

Bierstube Restarant



57 Nevsky Prospekt
Corinthia Hotel St Petersburg
Tel.: 380-20-01

E-mail: reservation@corinthia.ru

Join us for a glass of your favorite beer in our welcoming pub-style restaurant. Great choice of drinks and snacks, and a brand new menu featuring German specialties.

Business lunch buffet with a large choice of appetizers and hot dishes, Monday to Friday, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Open daily, noon to midnight, first floor

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Screenbar



5 Bolshaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa
Tel: 640 6013

SCREENBAR is a new restaurant and bar whose concept is to show films and sport on the big screen. The bar has one main room designed in the style of a movie theater, as well as three private rooms where guests can watch foreign TV channels in English, French and German. Sports matches and movies are shown in the main room, while in the private rooms, guests can watch their own films. The restaurant has traditional Russian, American and European dishes, as well as a special movie menu. Diners can enjoy borshch, pelmeni and blini with caviar here, as well as steak, fish and chicken. Prices are reasonable. SCREENBAR is located between Palace Square and the Russian Museum.

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INDIAN

Tandoor



2 Voznesensky Pr.,
near St. Isaac's Cathedral,
opposite the Admiralty.
Tel.: 312-38-86, 312-53-10.

Popular city restaurant. Experience the tantalizing flavor of Indian cuisine. From kebabs to curries, with a wide range of vegetarian selections at reasonable prices.

Business lunch 450 rubles. Choice of soup. Choice of curry: chicken, lamb, fish, lentil or vegetable with rice, salad and bread, plus mineral water. Restaurant provides small to medium-sized outdoor catering services for parties and banquet functions. Open daily from noon to 11 p.m.

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ITALIAN

Restaurant Da Albertone



23 Millionnaya Ul.
(100 m. from the Hermitage).
Open daily from 11 a.m. till 2 a.m.
To reserve a table call 315-86-73.

Chef Luca Pellino prepares exquisite authentic Italian dishes in this restaurant located next to the Hermitage. The menu here is like no other, featuring a wide variety of fish and seafood dishes, pasta and charcoal grilled steaks and homemade desserts. Pizzas here are cooked using patented Italian technology. The chef also offers weekly specials using the best seasonal products available. There is also an open kitchen and a spacious kids' room.

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Gusto



142 Nevsky Prospekt
+ 20 meters along Ul. Degtyarnaya.
Tel: +7 (812)941 1744,
www.probka.org

Gusto is an Italian restaurant whose Italian chef, Fabricio Fatucci, last year had the honor of cooking for the Russian President, for which he received warm words of gratitude. We invite you to come and sample our chef's special menu. Menu highlights include: foie gras creme-brulee and Angus beef Carpaccio. Fresh seafood every weekend. In February and March, when you buy a bottle of wine at Bon Vin on Nevsky Prospekt, you can drink it with your meal free of charge at Gusto when you show the shop's receipt.

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Portobello



12 Zagorodny Prospekt.
Vladimirskaya or Dostoyevskaya metro.
Tel: 915 5501.

Brand new Italian restaurant, bar and grill from chef Luca Pellino. Enjoy classic Italian dishes served in innovative ways or try nuovo Italiano cuisine prepared in our chef's inimitable style amid elegant Tuscan-style decor. Suitable for any occasion – lunch, drinks, dinner and romance. The menu features homemade pasta, abundant fresh seafood dishes, high grade marble steaks and homemade ice cream and desserts. The wine menu boasts top wines from all over Italy and France to complement the dishes perfectly. Open 11 a.m. until the last customer leaves.

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MEDITERRANEAN

Côté Jardin



Hotel "Novotel St. Petersburg Centre"
3a Ulitsa Mayakovskogo
Tel: 335 1188,
fax: 335 1180
www.novotel.spb.ru

Novotel welcomes to taste grilled Japan Wagyu meat and grilled American rib-eye steak at its restaurant Côté Jardin until end of February. Our steaks are served with French mustard and sautéed potatoes grenailles. Enjoy savory hot cocktails, St. Petersburg traditional hot chocolate and our homemade Glühwein at lobby bar. We present this specialty until March 31st. At the lounge bar Intermezzo guests find an extensive vodka list, beers, wines, cocktails, alcohol collection from all around the world. Mouthwatering homemade cakes from La Brioche Deli-Counter. Take away service. Open daily 06:30–23:00, breakfast 06:30–10:30, business lunch 12:00–16:00.

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MEXICAN

Tequila-Boom



57/127 Voznesensky Prospekt;
Tel.: 310-15-34 or 050

We invite you to visit TEQUILA-BOOM restaurant – the finest Mexican restaurant in Russia! Our head chef will prepare a delectable array of Mexican cuisine for you: Fajitas Mixto, Burrito, Gringa, flat cakes and steaks, while our barman will mix cocktails, such as Strawberry Margarita, Mexican flag, Mojito and Caipriina. From noon to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday a business lunch (250 rubles) is available at the restaurant. Every evening we have live music, and on Fridays and Saturdays there is a show program featuring the city's best musicians and Latin American dancers. All major credit cards are accepted. We will be pleased to see you!

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RUSSIAN

Cabinet-Portrait restaurant

7 Malaya Moskovskaya Ulitsa
Tel: 712 4321
Metro: Vladimirskaya



The first photography-themed restaurant in the center of St. Petersburg, with a private collection of antique cameras. The understated interiors are decorated in the aristocratic style of the late 19th to early 20th centuries: oak tables, leather chairs, gramophones and photographs from that era. The background music is played at the perfect volume to allow guests to communicate freely during a date or business meeting held in the restaurant. On Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, there is live music. The restaurant serves traditional Russian cuisine. On Feb. 23, there will be surprises for men, and for women on March 8. From Feb. 28 to March 6 we will be celebrating Shrovetide with homemade Russian blini (pancakes). Open daily, 11.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m. A 15-percent discount is valid upon presenting this newspaper

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Dynasty



11 Ul. Gorokhovaya,
Tel: 315 0704
www.dinastia.spb.ru

Welcome to Dynasty restaurant. Our menu features traditional Russian, European, and seafood dishes. At our restaurant, you can breakfast, have a business meeting, or enjoy a dinner with caviar. On Fridays and Saturdays, enjoy live piano music from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. We're waiting for you and your family!

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PALKIN restaurant



47 Nevsky Pr.
Tel: (812) 703-53-71
www.palkin.ru

PALKIN restaurant is located in the very heart of St. Petersburg. Our constant search for new flavors, painstaking work with old cookery books, and strict standards regarding the use of ingredients make Palkin one of the few places in the world where diners can enjoy the finest dishes of aristocratic Russian cuisine in the elegant atmosphere of an upscale establishment. Open: noon to 11.30 p.m.

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Russian Kitsch Restaurant



25 Universitetskaya nab.
Tel.: 325-11-22.

Russian Kitsch is a restaurant and party house. You can celebrate any event here 365 days a year! Every day is a celebration here, with parties dedicated to the most outrageous, madcap and frivolous excuses: Complex-Free Day, Geisha Day, Ukraine Armed Forces Day etc. And all this in unforgettable interiors: Soviet politics-themed Baroque-style paintings, leopard print chairs, ostrich feathers, Pioneer bugles and oriental sofas with embroidered cushions that would delight an Arab sheik. As in any decent Russian restaurant, the menu includes Italian, French and Japanese dishes, as well of course as Russian classics like "herring in a fur coat," Olivier salad, pelmeni, pickles, pies, pancakes and homemade moonshine.

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STEAK HOUSE

Stroganoff



4 Konnogvardeisky blvd.
near St. Isaac's Cathedral,
tel.: 314-55-14

Stroganoff steak house is the only steakhouse in Russia that invests in dry aging and hand butchering of our best imported cuts from Australia, New Zealand and Argentina. We welcome business diners and tourists. All our steaks are grilled to perfection on real charcoal. Large steaks and chops as well as the best Beef Stroganoff in Russia. Your comfort food away from home. There are two banquet halls for from 10 to 200 people. Business lunches from 12:00 till 16:00 for 300 rubles. Children's room. Babysitter available on weekends. Open daily from 12 to 24.

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Choosing Between Arms and Allies

By Imants Liegis

It should surprise no one that many in Latvia view the sale by France of fully equipped assault warships to Russia with grave concern. Other European Union member states seem to be looking increasingly toward Russia as a potential purchaser of military equipment. But is it wise for EU and NATO members to enhance the capacity of non-allies to project their military power? After all, only 2 1/2 years ago, Russia invaded Georgia, a country that NATO had named as a potential future member, and has occupied part of it ever since.

The EU Council's common position on arms exports is legally binding on all EU states. Of course, competence and responsibility for arms-export controls and licensing rests with member states, not EU institutions. Indeed, under the Wassenaar Arrangement, a decision on exports is the sole responsibility of each participating state.

Implementation of the common EU position on arms exports has led to more exchanges of information, greater transparency and closer consultation. It has also harmonized export-control arrangements and procedures. But there are obvious limits to what can be achieved. Consultations are currently a bilateral matter, with no rules governing how they should be conducted — and no requirement that any final agreement on arms-export decisions be reached.

The effectiveness of this consultation mechanism is difficult to evaluate. According to the common position's provisions, before a member state grants an export license, it should consult with any member state that has previously denied a similar license. But the common position does not specify the extent to which another member state should be consulted. More importantly, it does not require the arms-exporting member state to consult with any other member state that might have concerns.

As a result, arms exports to third countries remain a contentious issue within the European Union. At the heart of the matter is a conflict between the individual member states' national interests — the competitiveness of European defense-related companies and the strategic importance of defense markets when linked to national foreign policy — and the Lisbon Treaty,



which refers specifically to enhanced solidarity and consultation.

If the Lisbon Treaty is to be respected, solidarity must be viewed as a political tool for moving toward a European defense policy that works for the common good. Pursuing solely national policies on technology transfer runs contrary to that goal. Clearer rules for the consultation mechanism need to be elaborated, and arms-exporting EU member states should consult all other member governments that might have concerns, not only those that have previously issued or denied an export license.

The European Union could work toward a common arms-export policy by seeking a shared understanding of the predictability and stability of third-party countries. Developing a common policy on arms exports to such countries should go hand in hand with the

creation of a common and internationally competitive European defense-equipment market.

This means that cooperation with non-EU countries should not be to the detriment of solidarity and common rules within the European Union. Consulting at an early stage would help manage misperceptions — often fueled by reports in the media long before deals are concluded — and thus strengthen convergence and unity among EU member states.

Giving the EU a greater role in situations where member states' views differ should also be considered. For example, member states could consult on sensitive or contentious issues within the Political and Security Committee. This would strengthen the EU Council's common position, which already defines general rules for the control of

exports of military technology and equipment.

As for NATO, the question of consultations among allies is addressed in Article 4 of the North Atlantic Treaty, which states that "the parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence, or security of any of the parties is threatened."

But Article 4 does not relate only to imminent threats. Decisions taken by a NATO country can have implications for other allies. The transfer of military equipment and technology to third countries could affect regional security and prompt a revision of threat assessments.

The North Atlantic Council would seem an obvious forum within which to enhance solidarity among members, reassure member states that have perceptions of greater vulnerability, and avoid

misperceptions. At a lower level, the Political and Partnership Committee and/or the Conference of National Armaments Directors could be used for initial consultations. These issues are of concern to all allies, so discussions should not be confined to bilateral agendas.

Arms sales and technology transfers inevitably raise complex moral and ethical questions. That is all the more reason to seek open, confidence-reinforcing discussions among allies. Solidarity cannot be achieved when our most important institutions are excluded. Indeed, some of the most dangerous decisions made in both the EU and NATO are those that are not openly discussed beforehand.

Imants Liegis, Latvia's defense minister until November last year, is now chairman of the European Affairs Committee of Parliament. © Project Syndicate

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CORRUPTION CORNER

Corruption Is a Mental Health Issue

By Galina Stolyarova

Using a mobile phone is forbidden, as is walking outside. Showers are once a week for 10 minutes. People are routinely sworn at, and it's not unheard of for them to be tied to their beds. Patients are not informed about their conditions, the details of their treatment and have no right to change doctor.

It may sound like a penal colony or gulag, but this is life inside Russia's psychiatric clinics. It may sound like an unlikely subject for a column about graft, but corruption has many faces, and Russia's prison-like, state-run psychiatric hospitals constitute a completely non-transparent system, in which cynicism and violations of people's rights thrive and in most cases stay unpunished.

Irina, a former patient, remembers a time when an elderly patient began to choke on a slice of tangerine. "The nurse rushed up to her and began to restrain her so roughly that she broke the poor woman's arm. And the nurse was swearing loudly throughout. The staff were really awful. They treated us all like human waste."

Needless to say, the nurse who broke the patient's arm has kept her job, Irina said.

Another former patient, Natalya, 26, who was admitted to a mental clinic after a traumatic divorce and a nervous breakdown, tells a horrifying story. Although Russian law obliges doctors to inform patients about their condition and treatment, she only realized she was in a psychiatric unit when she saw a hospital label on her pillow.

When she arrived at the clinic, she was crying frantically. To quiet her, she said, staff covered her head with a pillowcase.

"I was scared, I was literally suffocating, and I had no idea what was going on, and the nurses just smothered me until I fainted. They were rude as hell," she recalls. Even when she came to her senses, things did not improve immediately. She was tied to her bed with old cotton stockings.

"The next morning I woke up and saw a doctor, who was going around the room asking everyone the same questions, like, 'What date is it today?' 'What is your name?' and 'How do you sleep?'"

"He didn't stay with any patient for longer than a minute," Natalya recalls.



Galina Stolyarova

"Then he came up to me and asked if I knew where I was. I said I was in a hospital, but I was too weak and too drugged to move. At the time I actually had no idea it was a mental ward. I thought at first I'd had a stroke or something. And the man just walked away. And this was it, the same routine every morning. I realized after a while that nobody was going to discuss my condition with me."

When Natalya asked to change her doctor, she was ignored. One of the head managers of the clinic then hinted that a hefty bribe would perhaps solve it. Natalya and her family, who had neither the money, nor the intention of paying a bribe, soon realized they had nowhere they could go to complain.

Although such tragic incidents have been happening here for years, it was not until several months ago that the St. Petersburg Human Rights Council — an umbrella group of most of the city's human rights organizations — added a section on the rights of psychiatric clinic patients to its annual report.

The council is now campaigning for the creation of an independent body to

oversee conditions in the city's psychiatric clinics and to ensure that patients receive adequate medical treatment, under humane conditions, followed by help with rehabilitation.

According to official statistics, there are more than four million mental health patients and more than eight million people suffering "borderline conditions" in Russia. Independent experts believe the true figures may be twice as high, considering the likelihood of many undiagnosed or untreated cases.

One way to begin to eradicate corruption in mental clinics is to make the system transparent and the staff accountable. It is encouraging to see people starting to tell their stories to the Human Rights Council. It suggests that popular discontent over standards of mental health care is mounting.

It is time for the doctors themselves — at least those who are honest and respect their patients — to join forces and take their case to the Health Ministry to say they refuse to treat their patients like prisoners any longer, and suggest disqualifying those of their colleagues who take financial advantage of their very vulnerable patients or treat them roughly in order to milk their relatives.

TUESDAY, **FEBRUARY 22, 2011**

ARTS & CULTURE

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Restaurant review



Veteran Finnish band Kumikameli talks to The St. Petersburg Times about its genesis and evolution ahead of a local concert at Mod this weekend. See page 14.

CHERNOV'S CHOICE

Local punk band **PTVP** packed Shum club Friday, pumping out their songs about sex, drugs and revolution for nearly two hours. Singer and songwriter Alexei Nikonov dedicated one song with the chorus "It Rains in California, it Snows in Magadan" to political prisoners, "whom they say don't exist in Russia," and urged the audience to show their solidarity. Introducing his anti-Kremlin anthem "God Save Putin," Nikonov advised fans not to cooperate with the authorities and "not to sign any official papers," and called for anarchists and left-wingers to stop fighting and unite in the face of the bleak current situation, dedicating "Morning of the Workers" to the German left-wing militant Ulrike Meinhof of the Red Army Faction (RAF).

The letters RAF were shown on the backdrop during the final song "Happy End," the lyrics being — of course — "This is not a happy end."

Political content aside, it was simply a great rock concert, with excellent music and sound, "leaps of faith" and a huge black flag reading "PTVP: My Revolution" brought by one female fan.

Launched in September, **Shum (Noise)** is a cool new club, perfect for concerts, even if it's a little too small for bands such as PTVP, but worth visiting more often for smaller gigs.

This week, the **Iloasaari-rock Festival** comes to the city. But if the real thing is a three-day, five-stage major rock event that has drawn thousands since the festival was launched in the Finnish city of Joensuu in 1971, St. Petersburg will see a small event, featuring four bands, two Finnish and two local.

The Finnish bands are the punk veterans **Kumikameli** (see interview, this page) and **Dusha Pitera**, an unlikely band formed by Finns in St. Petersburg and performing their own songs in Russian, while the local Russian bands will be **Skvortsy Stepanova** and **Feddy**. It will be held at Mod on Saturday, Feb. 26.

The other concerts to check out this week are **Auctyon**, the veteran local art-rock band that will celebrate its showman Oleg Garkusha's 50th birthday with a large concert featuring **Yury Shevchuk** and other Russian rock luminaries at Lensoviet Palace of Culture on Thursday, Feb. 24, and U.S. pop punk band **Yellowcard** performing at Glavclub on Friday, Feb. 25.

"Perestroika rock" band **AVIA** will reunite for a large show complete with Derevo's **Anton Adasinsky** and a gymnastic group at Kosmonavt on Saturday, Feb. 26.

Two memorial events will be held at local clubs this week. A homage to Eduard Starkov, the frontman of the innovative punk band Khimera, who died in 1997, will be held at Manhattan on Saturday, Feb. 26, while Stranniye Igrы bassist/vocalist **Grigory Sologub** will be remembered with a screening of Alexander Lipnitsky's documentary at Chinese Pilot Jao Da on Sunday, Feb. 27.

— By Sergey Chernov



Kumikameli is known for its humorous lyrics and stage antics.



Koponen is the only founding member left in Kumikameli today.

Loud, fast and Finnish

Finland's Kumikameli will perform at a rock festival in the city this weekend.

By Sergey Chernov
STAFF WRITER

Finnish hardcore punk/metal legends Kumikameli perform loud guitar music now, but they deliberately avoided guitars and performed what were described as "children's songs" when they started out 25 years and ten albums ago in Joensuu, a North Karelian city 80 kilometers from the Finnish-Russian border.

"We started out in 1986 as a protest against guitar bands," vocalist and songwriter Jarmo "Toppo" Koponen said in a phone interview Friday with *The St. Petersburg Times*, mentioning that just before the conversation, he had listened to a Motörhead album and started to explore a new PJ Harvey record — to find "a relaxed mood for the weekend."

"During that era in Finnish music, they were all guitar bands, and a kind of guitar hero worship was going on, and we decided to make a band that would be totally different.

"I had been playing guitar for ten years by then, and I was totally bored and pissed off with guitar playing. So I switched to bass, and our lineup was bass, drums and keyboards — and we also did a lot of acoustic gigs with a banjo or mandolin, and accordion, and just a tambourine as a drum."

It all changed when the keyboard player quit and the band was unable to find a replacement, so Koponen had to go back to guitar-playing and a new bassist was recruited.

"Since then we have been going toward punk and metal style," Koponen said.

"Nowadays we play kind of oriental punk; short songs, fast songs, and also some very slow, very 'doomish' ones — but with an oriental twist... Loud, stupid, Finnish music."

Koponen is the only founding member in today's Kumikameli, a band still noted for its humor — if dark — both in its lyrics and stage antics, such as performing dressed as clowns at the Iloasaarirock festival last year. Bassist Jouni "Joppe" Vento joined in 1990, guitarist Jussi "Jute" Musikka in 1996, and drummer Olli-Matti Wahlström has played with the band since 2000.

Koponen switched from guitar to keyboards after an accident at a concert in 2006 when he fell off stage and

broke his left arm in two places. "I totally lost the ability to play the guitar at gigs — I can write songs with it, but I can't play at gigs," he said.

The band's original influences — "not directly, maybe in approach or whatever" — were everything from The Ramones ("the reason why we ever started to play anything") to KISS and Dead Kennedys. Koponen also cited The Cure ("one song that triggered the whole Kumikameli thing was 'Killing an Arab'") and Dutch band The Nits, "which shows that you can make beautiful music with a minimalist approach. They have a lot of calm, beautiful music, which is done very delicately."

The Cure's "Killing an Arab" also perhaps influenced the band's name, which means "rubber camel" in Finnish, Koponen admitted. "We wanted to make some kind of oriental thing — desert music, and a camel is a desert animal," he said. "And a rubber camel is the ultimate desert animal. That kind of logic."

Kumikameli's contemporary music may be different from its early joyous, childish songs, but Koponen's approach to his darkly humorous Finnish-language lyrics that the band is acclaimed for is pretty much the same.

"The first level of the lyrics was very childish; we were singing about Indians and imaginary animals," Koponen said.

"But at the second level, the imaginary animals were kind of references to real physical events, like children's fables. It's still going on, though we play music [that is different] from children's music."

"We sing about ants — how you can overlook one ant in your yard or house or factory, but if there are ten zillion ants, they can destroy your yard, house, or factory. How one person cannot do much, but if there's one zillion people, then you can do anything. The same with rats; we sing about rats, but we mean dishonest people."

Koponen applies his writing method to many things, from everyday life to politics, making his point in an indirect way.

"We disguise our opinions in those stories about small animals, like mammoths and ants and rats," he said.

"We work with open eyes and write facts down, and then we change the facts into children's stories about animals."

He chooses to write in Finnish, be-

cause he said the lyrics were of great importance to Kumikameli's music.

"It can be easier to write songs in English, because you can put some bullshit and nobody pays attention to it. Why bother? If you write lyrics in your own language, then you know what you're saying and you can stand behind your words."

The nature of the Finnish language contributes to Koponen's freedom as a lyricist, while simultaneously making the lyrics difficult to translate because of the many Finnish cultural references and puns.

"I write the lyrics, so I can translate them, but not word for word. Because I know the story behind the words, I can translate the idea," he said.

"But there is a lot of wordplay that cannot be translated. In Finland, we have one word that can have seven meanings, and the meaning changes depending on the word before or after it."

"The same word can mean anything, like *astua*, which could mean you take a step, or could mean you have sex with a cow or horse. The same word, but the meaning is changed totally by the words around that word. So we cannot translate it word for word, we have to understand the story and then translate it, so it's rather difficult for other people to translate it."

Koponen and bassist Vento also perform with Eläkeläiset, a band that takes international rock and pop hits and transforms them into *humppa*, an old Finnish dance music style. Formed in 1993, Eläkeläiset is due to perform its first St. Petersburg concert at Zal Ozhidaniya on May 7.

Translated as "pensioners," the band grew out of one of Kumikameli's early jocular projects and enjoys a following of its own in and outside Finland, including Russia.

"In the first years of Kumikameli, when there was no guitar, we sounded a lot like Eläkeläiset," Koponen said.

"We made a special project for Provinssirock and Down by the Laituri festivals for several years. We had been playing Black Sabbath's first three albums under the name Sement, or Cement. Our bass player sang and had a mike stand made from a real scythe, with the blade pointing downwards. Dangerous but fun."

Kumikameli's other projects included Papiillons, a band whose name

was inspired by the book by Henri Charriere. The band members dressed like prisoners and performed prison-themed songs, from "Riot in Cell Block #9" to "Jailhouse Rock."

"The sound engineer dressed as a prison guard and took us on stage in handcuffs and chains," Koponen said.

"The Papiillons did some gigs playing inside an old Volkswagen Kleinbus that was painted to look like a brick wall and had iron bars at the windows."

"So Eläkeläiset is one of those jokes that got kind of out of hand."

Switching between the two bands is easy, because the music is completely different, according to Koponen.

"If you put your grandfather's suit on and take your cheapest Yamaha keyboard out of its cardboard box, then you are Eläkeläiset, and if you put your normal clothes and take your Korg synthesizer, then you're Kumikameli," he said.

Kumikameli's audience is "a funny mixture of guys of our age who have been with us from 1986, and young people," Koponen said.

"There's a lot of young people who have got interested in the roots of weird music in Finland, so young boys and girls come and check out what the hell this one is."

"They stumble upon a Kumikameli song on YouTube or Spotify, and then they notice, 'OK, they are playing in our town,' and then they go to see us. So it's all ages from 18 to 45."

Finland still has a lot of offbeat music outside the mainstream to offer, Koponen said.

"I think it's the spirit of the Finnish people; we don't go for this mass production."

"Radios play the same songs on every channel, like Kylie Minogue, Britney Spears, Lady Gaga and things like that all day long. So people form their own bands to make music they like, because they cannot hear decent music on the radio, I think. Many small clubs have died, but still there are a lot of places to play, big university cities where students have parties and bands come to play. So we have an open mind to different styles of music."

Kumikameli will perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 26 at Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Metro Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 712 0734.

In celebration of Djangology

Django Reinhardt, the founding father of gypsy jazz, is paid tribute to by this year's Guitar Jazz festival.

By Olga Khrustaleva
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

JFC Jazz Club is preparing to host the 16th Guitar Jazz festival, which this year is dedicated to the centenary of Django Reinhardt, the legendary father of gypsy jazz, or manouche.

The composer of jazz hits such as "Djangology," "Minor Swing" and "Nuages," Reinhardt left an indelible imprint on the development of jazz.

One of the few jazz styles to originate outside of America, manouche was born on the streets of Paris out of classical music, and is influenced by jazz and gypsy folk melodies. Reinhardt, the father of manouche and a guru for many contemporary jazz musicians, was a self-trained musician who came from a family of Romany gypsies living in France. Having never studied music, he defied all expectations and career forecasts when he went on to become a guitar virtuoso despite injuring his hand in a fire at the age of 18.

"He was the first really brilliant solo guitarist I ever became aware of," wrote the eminent American guitarist Charlie Byrd. "I had records of his when I was 10 years old. It just blew my mind that anyone could play a guitar like that. Still does."

Although Reinhardt was notoriously unreliable, especially in later life — a passionate gambler, egotistic, and often late for his own performances — these imperfections were eclipsed by his talent.

"It was Reinhardt's guitar playing that stimulated me so much musically that I was drawn to the guitar like a magnet," said Julian Bream, an English



Django Reinhardt left an indelible imprint on the evolution of jazz.

classical guitarist and lutenist. "I felt his playing was so evocative, so powerful at times, so dramatic, and then other times so lyrical, that he seemed to hold within his musical grasp the whole gamut of human expression."

The festival brings together very different musicians who will include Reinhardt's compositions in their programs as tribute to his memory, but play them in their own way — in not

only gypsy jazz, but also funk and fusion styles. Local bands "Swing Couture," "Terminator Trio" and "Monsieur Manouche" are among the festival's participants, together with Ilya Lushtak's band from the U.S. and many others. What unites all of them is respect and the desire to pay homage to the father of gypsy jazz.

"Django Reinhardt was a genius composer and his music is still in de-



Ilya Lushtak.

The festival will see diverse musicians perform renditions of Reinhardt's compositions.

mand, though not all of us are aware of it," said Alexei Stankov, the leader of "Swing Couture."

"His compositions comprise the soundtrack for the computer game 'Mafia,' for example, and the famous film director Woody Allen often uses his music in his films."

Music can never be separated from the period when it was created, and Reinhardt's compositions form an excellent representation of his epoch — the time of optimism and great expectations between the two world wars — which continues to fascinate many contemporary figures.

The Gypsy jazz festival runs from Tuesday, Feb. 22 through Monday, Feb. 28 at JFC club, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. Metro Chernyshevskaya. For a full program, see www.jfc-club.spb.ru.



Alexei Stankov, the leader of the local band 'Swing Couture.'

in the spotlight

Volochkova vs. Groundhogs

By Anna Malpas

This week, ballerina Anastasia Volochkova was once again the subject of earnest political commentary, as she alleged in her blog that the shadowy Kremlin adviser Vladislav Surkov personally ordered Channel One to take off the air a trashy talk show about her birthday.

Absurd though this sounded, it was true that the channel pulled the show at the last moment on Friday, after airing it in the Far East, and that NTV also pulled a talk show with Volochkova on the same day, in what looked like a joint decision to cut off her oxygen. And the reason would seem clear: her surreal transformation into a political hot potato, after she called the United Russia party "shit" in an interview with Radio Liberty, and vowed to walk out, saying the party forced her to sign a letter against jailed oil magnate Mikhail Khodorkovsky.

Channel One told Kommersant that the show was pulled because it did not meet "ethical standards," and another reported reason was that Volochkova once used the word "shit." Russian television is still pretty prudish, but this did not hold water, as a bleep or edit would have fixed it. And anyone familiar with "Let Them Talk" would be surprised to hear it was overly concerned about ethical standards.

It's a tabloid of a talk show, recently moved to prime time because of its high ratings. Its first television interview with spy Anna Chapman was a real coup in December. It never



misses an opportunity for tears, however nasty the undertones. In a recent show, it forced a Russian girl who was adopted by a loving Irish family and had no wish to meet her birth family, to watch a harrowing video of her babbling, alcoholic wreck of a mother.

The show with Volochkova, posted on YouTube, is the usual mixture of sentimentality, with her small daughter lisping a poem; titillation,

Volochkova seemed upset that her birthday concert might not be shown.

with her nude photographs blown up on a huge screen; and bitchiness, with arch-enemy, it-girl Ksenia Sobchak making a surprise appearance and exaggeratedly air-kissing her.

Sobchak mocked Volochkova for posting nude photographs on her blog and explaining that she wanted to prove her breasts were not silicone. As a ballerina, "Nastya" should be thinking about

the latest ballet stagings or "a new way of life," Ksyusha advised affectionately.

Yelena Drapeko, a State Duma deputy for the Just Russia party, in turn attacked Volochkova for claiming that she was dropped from the Bolshoi because she refused to get roles via the casting couch. "They're all gay, there's no one to sleep with there," scoffed Drapeko, telling Volochkova that she had ruined pure young girls' dreams of dancing at the "temple" of ballet.

Actually, the bizarre thing is that Volochkova should be so upset about the show being pulled, since most people would class it as humiliating.

I spoke to Volochkova this week and she seemed most upset that Channel One was now likely not to show a concert for her 35th birthday that it filmed at the Kremlin Palace, featuring pop stars such as Filipp Kirkorov. She was rather sweet. What I liked most was her assistant asking me to wait on the line because "Anastasia is getting dressed."

Volochkova has revealed herself as a surprisingly entertaining blogger, in a step away from her usual frilly public persona. This week, she tried her hand at satire, with an entry about going to a hunting lodge where you can go on a groundhog shoot — or *okhota na surkov* in Russian, nudge, nudge. Groundhogs, presumably the derivation of Surkov's surname, are "very cowardly animals" and their meat has a "characteristic, horrible smell," she wrote pointedly, adding with regret that it wasn't the season so she wasn't allowed to shoot any.



Being a chef is almost like being an artist: you search for inspiration everywhere and in everything. Of course, I formed a multitude of impressions and ideas during my time working in various locations all over the world. But with my move to St. Petersburg in 2010, the impulse to be creative became even stronger.

It is no coincidence that I draw a comparison between chefs and artists: for example, when I have an idea for a new dish, I start by drawing it. Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night and sketch a future culinary masterpiece. But that does not mean that I will get up in the morning and make that dish: sometimes the drawings lie around for two or three years. Sometimes they need modifications or additions, in other cases, they need a story. For in any menu and any dish, the most important thing is the story, the concept. That is the lynchpin on which taste, color and aroma hang. Without a concept, it will not be a work of art capable of delighting gourmands, but merely a collection of ingredients.

I implement my ideas first of all at the Old Customs House restaurant. Despite the fact that the menu has remained virtually unchanged for 15 years (a fact of which we are extremely proud), every month I come up with something new. In March, for example, I have decided to take fresh vegetables as my main inspiration: in my opinion, spring is the perfect time for them. What will the result be? I will be delighted if you come and see for yourself. So see you in March in the Old Customs House restaurant!

Emmanuel Soares
Brand chef for
Concorde company



1 Tamozhenny Pereulok,
tel: 327 8980

Bach reinvented

Local institution the Terem Quartet will showcase two new albums at a concert next week.

By Galina Stolyarova
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

They adapt inviolable classical jewels such as Chopin's nocturnes and Schubert's "Ave Maria" for a quartet of Russian folk instruments. They mix J. S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D Minor with Russian folk tunes. They make their audiences' jaws drop — and the applause from the stunned audience is deafening.

The musicians in question are the Terem Quartet, and now they have a couple of new aces up their collective sleeve.

The ensemble's next concert at the State Academic Cappella on March 3 celebrates the release of two new CDs, "MyBach" and "Russian Schubert." The philosophy behind the titles — and behind both discs — is simple enough. The releases are meant as tributes to these composers.

The quartet, which will celebrate a venerable 25th birthday in November this year, will present a concert fusing arrangements from both recordings, which came to life thanks to the group's cooperation since 2006 with the internationally established classical music festival La Folle Journée. The festival's founder Rene Martin, who established the event in 1995, made it the project's mission "to overcome the prejudice that surrounds classical music, without deforming its values, in bringing the audience close to the music and the musicians without diminishing their stature, and in opening new horizons, while retaining the freedom of choice."

With events that last no more than 45 minutes, and audiences being free to move between various halls when they choose, the festival creates an unusual environment for listening to the musical program.

The concert on March 5 will also mark the beginning of a marathon of jubilee concerts that will be held across the country during the year.

Bach is a key composer for the Terem Quartet. The group's biggest-ever hit was the "Russian Sufferings on J. S. Bach's Toccata and Fugue" that also served as the title for their best-selling CD recording "Russkiye Stradaniya," ("Russian Sufferings").



The St. Petersburg-based quartet will celebrate its 25th birthday in November this year.

The Russian folk tunes that the quartet uses on the CD are signposts to historical Russian sufferers.

"Dostoyevsky wrote about these people ... They seek the truth, and every one of them has a dramatic background," says the quartet's Andrei Konstantinov, who plays the domra, a mandolin-like instru-

ment. "Some of them are happy, some sad, and some desperate — but all of them seek universal happiness."

The Bach toccata arrangement was born out of a spontaneous and casual gathering between the quartet's members with baritone Vladimir Chernov.

"We were just joking and fooling around," said Andrei Smirnov, the group's bayan (a Russian accordion) player. "One of us wondered if Bach, or anyone from his family, had ever been to Russia, and then we started fantasizing about what would have happened if Bach had discovered Russian folk tunes."

The Terem Quartet's lineup is slightly different from what it was when the group made its debut on Nov. 26, 1986. In 2000, alto domra player Igor Ponomarenko left to establish his own quartet, Magrigal. Konstantinov, Smirnov and bass balalaika player Nikolai Dzyudze found a replacement in the form of St. Petersburg Academy of Culture graduate Alexei Barshchev, who is now fully at home in his new surroundings.

Despite the fact that the group has been performing for nearly 25 years, its music has still not been properly classified. The usual descriptions — "world music," "fusion," "postmodernism" — are all reasonable enough, but do not en-

The ensemble's new discs — 'MyBach' and 'Russian Schubert' — are tributes to the two composers.

tirely ring true. The four are most happy with the term coined by composer Alexander Chaikovsky, who described them as "instrumental theater."

The musicians' performance style has always been highly interactive, involving the audience as much as possible: They strut the stage, puff out their cheeks, wink at the audience, snap their fingers, jump and twist — and never fail to make an impression.

Throughout the quartet's impressive history, the group has traveled widely, performing for the Pope, Mother Theresa and Queen Elizabeth II. At one stage, the restless "truth seekers" even made some appearances in maternity wards, playing to pregnant women. Those performances were sponsored by no less of an authority than Russia's Health Ministry, which expressed an interest in studying the effects of music on pregnancy and embryo development. As the group played, the mothers-to-be made notes describing their emotions. After studying the notes, the doctors then gave the musicians recommendations for further work.

word's worth

The Business of First-Class Partying

By Michele A. Berdy

Корпоратив: office party

A while back, when Moscow was plunged into pre-holiday madness, some of my dog-walking companions appeared red-eyed and miserable for

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the morning run in the park. Their one-word explanation for their hangovers: *Корпоратив!* It wasn't hard to figure out that this word meant "office party," especially when the sufferers regaled us with stories of the spread (lavish), the booze (abundant) and their co-workers' behavior (deliciously scandalous). Almost made me want to join the corporate world again.

As far as I can tell, *корпоратив* (or *корпоративчик*) is a newish addition to the Russian language, a slangy version of *корпоративная вечеринка* (office/business party). Runet is filled with thousands of companies advertising their ability to organize the absolute best office parties, complete with *ведущий* (master of ceremonies) or *тамада* (toastmaster). True, they tend to overpromise. One company maintains that their office parties "*повышают корпоративный дух, снимают стрессы и напряжение, несут просветительскую функцию, при этом повышая интеллектуальный*

уровень сотрудников" (raise company morale, relieve stress and tension, and are enlightening, while at the same time raising the intellectual level of the staff). Right. That certainly describes the office parties I've attended.

In some contexts, the adjective *корпоративный* (corporate) from the noun *корпорация* (corporation) can simply mean "relating to the business." For example, you may read about *корпоративная социальная ответственность* (corporate social responsibility) or *корпоративный имидж* (corporate identity). But, like English, in Russian *корпоративный* can refer to any group connected by professional or other ties, not just a commercial enterprise. For example: *В России действовали правила, которые оберегали корпоративные интересы судебного сообщества и делали судей практически недоступными для ответственности перед гражданами.* (In Russia there were rules that pro-

tected the corporate interests of the judicial community and virtually stripped judges of their responsibility before citizens.) Of course, Russia being Russia, sometimes it's hard to distinguish "commercial" from "group" interests: *Депутаты принимают законы, которые отвечают их корпоративным интересам.* (Parliamentarians pass laws that serve their corporate interests.)

Another commercial entity, *фирма* (firm, company), has an adjectival form — *фирменный* — with a range of meanings. Sometimes it's straightforward: *фирменный* can mean "having to do with the company," as in *фирменный бланк* (letterhead), *фирменный знак* (trademark), or that Moscow PR obsession — *фирменный стиль* (corporate identity, branding). Sometimes English demands a bit of specification: *Мы раздали нашим таксистам специальные фирменные кепки.* (We gave our taxi drivers special caps with the company logo on

them.) But beware of false firm friends: *фирменный магазин* — a store that only sells one company's products — is not a company store. That's a shop for employees inside a factory or business.

Фирменный can also mean "what the manufacturer is famous for." So *фирменное блюдо* is a restaurant's specialty of the house. Somewhat confusingly, in a private home, *фирменное блюдо* is not a store-bought, brand-name treat, but the hostess' homemade specialty. This can also be called "trademark."

Then, companies being companies, the notion of "trademark" can morph into the notion of "the best." *Фирменный поезд* is a premium-class train — a very good venue for your next *корпоративчик*.

Michele A. Berdy is a Moscow-based translator and interpreter, whose collection of columns, "The Russian Word's Worth," has been published by Glas.

HOW TO USE THE LISTINGS:

Dates and times are correct at the time of publication, but last-minute changes are not infrequent, so it's best to check using the phone numbers at the end of each entry or consult local directories. Unless otherwise stated, stage events start at 7 p.m.

All stage shows and films are in Russian unless noted.

S T A G E S

tuesday, february 22

opera
Elektra John Kent stages Richard Strauss' opera based on Sophocles' tragedy, conducted by Valery Gergiev. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Lukas Gerasimas Piano Recital Chopin, Liszt. Prize-winners of the 16th International Frederic Chopin Piano Competition (2nd prize). *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov*

Symphony Music Gounod, Mendelssohn, Slonimsky. St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Conductor Nikolai Alexeyev. Students Choir of the Rimsky-Korsakov St. Petersburg State Conservatory. Art director Valery Uspensky. Soloists Olesya Petrova (mezzo-soprano), Boris Stepanov (tenor), Boris Pinkhasovich (baritone). Narrator Samuil Lurie. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Jubilee Evenings Sofia Gubaidulina (To the 80th anniversary of the birthday). Soloists Alexei Vasiliev (cello), Sergei Chirkov (button accordion), Ilya Ioff, Lidia Kovalenko (both - violin), Alexei Koptev (viola). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

8th International "Musical Hermitage" festival Contemporary jazz. Soloists Igor Butman (saxophone), Andrei Kondakov (piano), Eddy Gomez (contrabass, U.S.) *Cappella*

wednesday, february 23

ballet
Ballet Evening Carmen Suite. Carnival. Chopiniana. Choreography by Michel Fokine and

Alberto Alonso to music by Chopin, Schumann, Bizet and Shchedrin. Conductor Mikhail Sinkevich. *Mariinsky Theater, Concert Hall*

opera
The Snow Maiden Rimsky-Korsakov's lyrical opera based on Alexander Ostrovsky's fairy tale. The Snow Maiden is born to Spring and Father Frost. Later, the cruel Sun God pursues her in order to convert her heart into the harmful flame of love. Alexander Galibin directs. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Symphony Music Dedicated to Defenders of the Fatherland Day. Admiralty Navy Band. Conductor Valentin Lyashchenko. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Symphony Music Military marches, polkas, waltzes. "Classika" St. Petersburg State Symphony Orchestra. Artistic director and chief conductor Alexander Kantorov. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

thursday, february 24

ballet
Cinderella Sergei Prokofiev's 1945 score, based on the timeless children's tale, gets adult treatment by Russia's top choreographer, Alexei Ratmansky. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Symphony Music Chopin. Conservatory Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Maxim Alexeyev. Soloist Janusz Olejniczak (piano, Poland). *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater, Small Hall*

Marcin Dylla Guitar Recital (Poland) Part of the 8th "Musical Hermitage" festival. Rodrigo, Regondi, Takemitsu. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

Choral Music Gavriilin. Choral Cappella. Conductor Vladislav Charnushenko. Narrator Andrei Pavlov-Arbenin. *Cappella*

Peter Eilander Organ Recital (the Netherlands) Brahms, Bach, Schumann, Andriessen, Debussy, Guilimant. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Symphony Music Weber. Mariinsky Theater Symphony Orchestra. *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov*

friday, february 25

opera
Macbeth Verdi's 1847 opera based on Shakespeare's play about the descent into madness of a Scottish thane. Staged by English director David McVicar. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Symphony Music Wagner, Beethoven, Schumann. Philharmonic Academy Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Thomas Sanderling (Germany). Soloist Daniil Tsvetkov (piano, U.S.) *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Symphony Music Debussy, Ravel, Dvorak. Cappella Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Alan Trudel (Canada). Soloist Vladimir Mishuk (piano). *Cappella*

Symphony Music Mariinsky Theater Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Pavel Smelkov. Soloists Olga Pudova (soprano), Irina Shishkova (mezzo-soprano), Andrei Serov (bass-baritone), William Yun (piano, Korea). *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov*

Piano Evening Mozart, Schumann, Stravinsky. Soloists Alexander Sandler, Pyotr Laul. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater, Small Hall*

Chamber Music Vivaldi, Piazzolla-Desyatnikov. Divertissement ensemble. Art director and soloist Ilya Ioff (violin). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

Chamber Music Firtich, Oskolkov, Lurie, Sveshnikov, Slonimsky, Blinova, Drukh. Soloists Yekaterina Blinova, Yekaterina Sveshnikova (both - soprano), Alexander Byron (baritone), Sergei Slonimsky, Georgy Firtich, Polina Fradkina, Sergei Oskolkov, Valeria Sveshnikova (all - piano). *House of Composers, 45 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul., tel. 312-2564*

saturday, february 26

opera
The Queen of Spades Yuri Temirkanov stages Tchaikovsky's opera based on Pushkin's story about a young soldier who seeks to learn the secret of winning at cards from an old countess. *Mariinsky Theater*

Tosca Yuri Alexandrov stages a revisionist version of Puccini's passionate opera. Sergei Stadler conducts. *St. Petersburg Opera*

concert
Chamber Music Part of the 8th "Musical Hermitage" festival. Brahms, Schumann, Ravel. Soloists Ties Mellema (saxophone, the Netherlands), Pascal Meyer (piano, Liechtenstein). *Hermitage Theater*

Chamber Music Kornakov. *House of Composers, 45 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul., tel. 312-2564*

Chamber Music Zgraya, Piazzolla, Brouwer, Kurlyandsky, Pujol, Tarrega. Soloists Artyom Chirkov (contrabass), Ksenia Kuelyar (flute), Maxim Pankov (piano), Konstantin Ilgin (guitar). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

Chamber Music Bach, Mozart, Pergolesi, Franck, Yanchenko. Soloists Ludmila Trifonova (mezzo-soprano), Alexander Novoselov (organ). *Mariinsky Theater, 26 Sadovaya Ul. Tel. 498-0669*

Boris Berezovsky Piano Recital. Metner, Liszt. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Symphony Music Mozart, Mendelssohn, Glazunov, Shostakovich. Mariinsky Theater Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Gavriel Heine (U.S.) *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov, 12 a.m.*

Choral Music Durufle, Schnittke. Smolny Cathedral Chamber Choir. Conductor Vladimir Begletsov. Soloist Oleg Kinyayev (organ). *Smolny Cathedral, 3/1 Rastrelli Square, M. Chernyshevskaya, tel. 271-9182*

Vocal Evening Oleg Pogudin. *Mariinsky Theater Concert Hall, 37 Ul. Dekabristov, 7 p.m.*

sunday, february 27

ballet
La Sylphide Marius Petipa's staging of Auguste Bournonville's 19th-century Romantic ballet about a young Scot who falls in love with a beautiful sylph on the eve of his wedding. *Mariinsky Theater, 11.30 a.m.*

opera
Il Viaggio a Reims Alain Maratrat directs Gioachino Rossini's one-act comic opera in a grandiose, modern revival. *Mariinsky Theater, 7 p.m.*

Lucia di Lammermoor Gaetano Donizetti's tale of love and betrayal set in a Scottish castle in the 16th century. *St. Petersburg Opera*

concert
Chamber Music Bach, Boccherini. Soloists Nadezhda Drobyshevskaya (soprano), Konstantin Kuchero (cello), Irina Rosanova (organ). *Mariinsky Theater, 26 Sadovaya Ul. Tel. 498-0669, 3 p.m.*

Symphony Music Bruch, Wagner. Philharmonic Concert Orchestra. Conductor Sergei Stadler. Soloists Andrei Dogadin (viola), Ints Dalderis (clarinet, Latvia). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Jubilee Evening Vladimir Suslov and his pupils (piano). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

Symphony Music Overtures, arias and duets from operas. Hermitage Orchestra. Conductor Mats Liljefors (Sweden). Soloists Nicolette Vitelaru (soprano), Roberta Kreska (tenor), Jeampiero Sobrino (clarinet, all - Italy). *Hermitage Theater*

monday, february 28

ballet
A Michel Fokine and Yuri Smekalov Evening Fokine's ballets "Petrushka" and "Presentiment of Spring." Music by Igor Stravinsky and Anatoly Lyadov. *Mariinsky Theater*

Swan Lake The Theater of Russian Ballet performs Tchaikovsky's romantic classic. *Hermitage Theater*

opera
Le Rossignol Mikhail Agrest directs a lyrical tale set to a libretto by Stravinsky and S. Mitusov, based on H. Lidsorsen's story. First staged in 1908-1914. *Mariinsky Theater, Concert Hall*

concert
Chamber Music Glinka, Tchaikovsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, Lyadov, Sviridov, Bibergan, Russian songs. Andreyev Russian Academy Orchestra. Art director and conductor Dmitry Khokhlov. Soloists Marina Fonina (gusli), Vladimir Fonin (bayan), Anastasia Fedoseyenko (domra), Alexander Shipitsyn, Alexander Milutin, Oleg & Rustam Gafarovs (all - balalaika). *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Grand Hall*

Symphony Music Tsabel. Conservatory Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Maxim Alexeyev. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater, Small Hall*

tuesday, march 1

ballet
Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare's tragedy set to Prokofiev's searing score with staging by Nikolai Boyarchikov. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

opera
The Snow Maiden Rimsky-Korsakov's lyrical opera based on Alexander Ostrovsky's fairy tale. The Snow Maiden is born to Spring and Father Frost. Later, the cruel Sun God pursues her in order to convert her heart into the harmful flame of love. Alexander Galibin directs. *Mariinsky Theater*

concert
Organ Evening Bach, Reger, Vierne, Widor, Eben, Caix, Arro, Latenas, Zarinsh. *Rimsky-Korsakov Conservatory Theater, Small Hall*

Symphony Music Mozart, Beethoven. Cappella Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Sergei Roldugin. Soloists Pavel Milukov (violin), Miroslav Kultyshev (piano). *Cappella*

Valery Vishnevsky Piano Recital Chopin. *Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall*

wednesday, march 2

ballet
A Michel Fokine and Yuri Smekalov Evening Fokine's ballets "Petrushka" and "Presentiment of Spring." Music by Igor Stravinsky and Anatoly Lyadov. *Mariinsky Theater*

Romeo and Juliet Shakespeare's tragedy set to Prokofiev's searing score with staging by Nikolai Boyarchikov. *Mikhailovsky Theater*

opera
Premiere! La Boheme Yuri Alexandrov stages Puccini's opera set in the Latin Quarter of Paris, tracing the interwoven romances of a poet-painter, musician and philosopher. *St. Petersburg Opera*



THE DISH

Literary feast

Gogol
8 Malaya Morskaya Ulitsa
Tel: 312 6097
Menu in Russian and English
Open daily, noon to midnight
Dinner for two people with beer: 2,860 rubles (\$64)

By Shura Collinson
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

It may seem like a fairly unlikely marketing decision to name a restaurant after a writer who famously starved himself to death. But the management behind the new restaurant Gogol clearly decided that the legacy of the writer, who set some of his most famous works in St. Petersburg, eclipsed the unsettling nature of his death. Now the melancholy satirical writer is remembered not only in the monument to him on Malaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa and that to the eponymous hero of his satirical tale 'The Nose' on Prospekt Rimskogo-Korsakova, but in a culinary establishment serving traditional Russian cuisine that, given its prime location just off Nevsky on the mini-hotel-peppered Malaya Morskaya Ulitsa, looks set to reel in the tourists.

The restaurant's namesake is referenced throughout the interior, at times overtly, as with the large overcoat

hanging inside the entrance, at other times more subtly, as with the historical prints of cities in which Gogol also lived, such as Rome.

The main emphasis, however, is not really on the writer himself, but on the period in which he lived. Accordingly, the restaurant is designed to resemble an apartment of the early 19th century. To the left of the entrance lies a homely dining room decorated in a simple, rural style with pale colors, wooden furniture and white tablecloths. To the other side of the entrance door are the smoking rooms: a living room and finally, a study, complete with dark oak furniture, bookshelves and a card table, but dominated by the restaurant's *piece de resistance* — a working Russian tiled stove.

All three of the rooms are compact and are decorated in an understated, elegant way, and despite attributes such as quill pens, the interior avoids taking its theme too far. The harmonious ambience is enhanced by the strains of classical music playing at just the right level and by the commendably professional service. Gogol's wait staff — never further away than a quick ring of the bell placed on every table — have accomplished a measured combination of welcoming, pleasant, informed and unintrusive.

Everything about Gogol oozes qual-

ity, from the oak furnishings to the menu itself, which is in the form of a small hardback book complete with quotes about food taken from Gogol's writings. While in the English version, some of the translations are somewhat eccentric — take for example, "soup of dried cepe mushrooms after the old fashion, of fascinating flavor" (290 rubles, \$10) — the dishes themselves match the high standards set by the interior and service, and the menu-book is after all a first edition. That same "fascinating" dish was a large bowl of thick broth with an abundance of chunky pieces of rich mushroom and strong yet natural flavors.

A salad of arugula, cherry tomatoes and feta cheese (290 rubles, \$10) confirmed that only topnotch, fresh ingredients go into Gogol's kitchen. If during the last days of Nikolai Vasilyevich's life, he had not refused all food apart from a watery cabbage broth, but had, say, broadened his horizons to the creamy, sapid cauliflower veloute with salmon caviar (150 rubles, \$5.15) served at the restaurant named after him, he would surely have lived to leave the world a few more literary masterpieces.

"Succulent meat cutlet with fried potatoes a-la Pushkin" was not cheap at 460 rubles (\$16) for what is a fairly humble and common Russian dish. Unlike at many of the cafes around the city

offering this dish, at Gogol the potatoes were fresh, refreshingly lacking in oil, and had an enjoyable crunch to them. The meat cutlet was stuffed with diced mushrooms and, as another element that managed to be filling while avoiding an oil slick, was another success.

No less impressive were the *pelmeni* stuffed with white fish and served with sour cream with pesto (410 rubles, \$14). While on paper, sour cream and pesto may not seem like the most promising combination, in fact the sour cream eclipsed the pesto almost entirely. What made the dish truly memorable was the expert preparation of the *pelmeni* themselves. The fish had a mild flavor that was just strong enough to stand out against the sauce and dough, and the consistency was soft without being mushy.

One of the pricier dishes on offer is venison with gratin dauphinois garnished with fried chanterelles in red bilberry sauce (750 rubles, \$26). The meat was decent, if just a little lacking in flavor, and was graciously complemented by the bilberry sauce. The accompanying gratin, however, was outstanding: The potatoes were moist, and there was just enough cheese to add flavor without making the dish too heavy. The chanterelles provided a pleasantly salty finish.

THE GUIDE: Writers' restaurants

St. Petersburg's rich literary legacy is inevitably reflected in the city's culinary scene, with a smattering of cafes, restaurants and bars devoted to some of the great poets and writers who were in turn once inspired by the cultural capital.

The Idiot ☹️
Named after Dostoevsky's epic novel and devoted to the father of existentialism himself, this cafe has been a staple of the local dining scene for well over a decade now. Its cozy, quaint interiors ensure it is a favorite with tourists, but its original meat-free variations of traditional Russian dishes keep the locals coming too. The business lunch is excellent value. 82 Nab. Reki Moika, Metro Sadovaya/Sennaya Ploshchad. Tel: 315 1675

Chekhov ☹️
An earlier brainchild of the people behind Gogol, Chekhov opened several years ago on the Petrograd Side of the city. In keeping with the settings of many of Anton Pavlovich's plays, the compact interior is tastefully decorated in the style of a late 19th-century dacha, complete with live songbirds in cages. The Russian cuisine served here varies from disappointing to divine. 4 Petropavlovskaya Ulitsa, Metro Petrogradskaya. Tel: 347 6045

Metamorfoz ☹️
Another Dostoevsky-themed restaurant, this time located in the Radisson Sonya Hotel, which is surely the only hotel in the world to take its inspiration from the story of a murderer: "Crime and Punishment." The traditional Russian and European cuisine served here is on the whole very good. 5 Liteiny Prospekt, Metro Chernyshevskaya. Tel: 406 0006



Local folk-punk band Iva Nova will throw a 'mulled wine party' at the Gallery of Experimental Sound (GEZ-21) on Saturday, Feb. 26.

concert
Chamber Music Russian Concert Orchestra. Art director and main conductor Vladimir Popov. Soloist Larisa Yudina (soprano). Shostakovich Philharmonic, Maly Hall

GIGS

wednesday, february 23

rock, etc.
Black Winter Days 2011, Day 1 Fangorn, Der Galgen, Buhurt. Metal. *Arctica*, 38 Ulitsa Beringa. Tel. 952 4696. 6 p.m.
Tractor Bowling Alternative metal. *Avrora Concert Hall*, St. Petersburg Hotel, 5/2 Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
Dr. I-Bolit & The Rainbow Army Band Reggae. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 Ulitsa Pestelya. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Vedan Kolod Folk. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Simon Patterson Acoustic. *Fish Fabrique (Maly Zal)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
PORT (812) Punk. Flat, 28 Sadovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
Kasta Hip-hop. *Glavclub*, 2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
Mikhail Yelizarov *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
Radio ROKS Anniversary Party *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Voland Rock. *Manhattan*, 90 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Suspension Community Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 6 p.m.
Maquis Stirka, 26 Kazanskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 314 5371. 8 p.m.
The Shchi/Stale Punch/Pi-Gusli Punk, hard rock, funk-rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Alexei Kanunnikov Jazz Band "Jazz dancing." *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Guitar Jazz Festival: Igor Butman, Andrei Kondakov, Andrei Ryabov and Andrei Svetlov Project Jazz, rock. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

thursday, february 24

rock, etc.
Rock Holiday Festival Britaniya, Vmeru, Roach Jack, Sounding, Audio-Fax. Rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 7 p.m.
Robert Lighthouse Blues. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Bliznetsy/Spirit *Fish Fabrique (Maly Zal)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Dead Rabinz Punk, hardcore. Flat,

28 Sadovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
The Bohemians Queen covers. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
End or Fin/Soul Security/Sobachye Serdtse/Zmey & K Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 7 p.m.
Tsvet Dozhdy/Conclusion Cafe/Indy Pop rock, indie rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.
Auctyon Oleg Garkusha's birthday concert featuring Yury Shevchuk, Chiz and Diana Arbenina. Art rock. *Lensoviet Palace of Culture*, 42 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt. Tel. 346 0438. 7 p.m.

jazz & blues
1900. A Jazz Musical Arseny Ivankovich, David Goloshchyokin and His Band. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Guitar Jazz Festival: Terminator Trio/Alexei Degusarov Funk, jazz rock. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

friday, february 25

rock, etc.
Markscheider Kunst Ska, Latin, reggae. Support: Radikl Beatz. *Arctica*, 38 Ulitsa Beringa. Tel. 952 4696. 7 p.m.
The Dartz Folk. *Avrora Concert Hall*, St. Petersburg Hotel, 5/2 Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
George Harrison Birthday Concert The Yellow Pillow, Griby, *Cheshire Cat*, 9 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 11:30 p.m.
Penguinsmeat/Madam Jarli Electronica, rock. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 Ulitsa Pestelya. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Inna Zhelannaya Folk. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Kenos Death metal. Flat, 28 Sadovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
Rajfajh/Koshchuny/Dom Vdovy/Deep Frozen Lands Ambient. *GEZ-21 (Gallery of Experimental Sound)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 52 58. 8 p.m.
Yellowcard Pop punk. *Glavclub*, 2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
Polyusa Acoustic. *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
Umka Acoustic. *Manhattan*, 90 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Tribute to The Krewmen Scary B.O.O.M., Coffin Wheels, Freddie & The Drillers. Psychobilly. Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 7 p.m.
5 Diez Alternative. *Orlandina*, 3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 8 p.m.
Danila Master/Defloratory/Kveks/Litry Punk. *Orlandina (Maly Zal)*, 3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 8 p.m.
George Harrison Birthday Concert Acts t.b.c. *Shum*, 45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.

Zimavsegda Pop. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
KOD/Bad Samurais Indietronica. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Pyotr Kornev Band and Elvira Trafova Jazz classics. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Kvadrat Jazz Club: Jam Session Mainstream. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Guitar Jazz Festival: Ilya Lushtak Band feat. Alexei Pitkevich Mainstream. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.
Boom Boom Vermouth Rock and roll. *Street Life*, 6 2-aya Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 575 0545. 9 p.m.

saturday, february 26

rock, etc.
Inquisitor Birthday II Acts t.b.c. *Arctica*, 38 Ulitsa Beringa. Tel. 952 4696. 4 p.m.
Brigadny Podryad Punk. *Avrora Concert Hall*, St. Petersburg Hotel, 5/2 Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya. Tel. 907 1917. 8 p.m.
Rock Holiday Festival Bitnik, The Heaven's, Evakuatsiya, D-50. Rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 7 p.m.
S.O.K. Pop rock, reggae. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 Ulitsa Pestelya. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Kurara Hip-hop. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Batiskaf 14/Malakhov And *Fish Fabrique (Maly Zal)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
Iva Nova Folk punk. *GEZ-21 (Gallery of Experimental Sound)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 52 58. 8 p.m.



Local rock legend Auctyon will celebrate the 50th birthday of its frontman Oleg Garkusha (above) with a concert at the Lensoviet Palace of Culture on Thursday, Feb. 24.

Tarakany! Punk. *Glavclub*, 2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 905 7555. 8 p.m.
The St. Petersburg Ska-Jazz Review Ska jazz. *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 9 p.m.
TopGun Hard rock covers. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
AVIA Pop rock, experimental. *Kosmonavt*, 24 Bronnitskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 922 1300. 8 p.m.
Eduard Starkov Memorial Concert Punk, alternative. *Manhattan*, 90 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713 1945. 7 p.m.
Iloaarrock: Kummikameli/Dusha Pitera/Feddy/Skvortsy Stepanova Punk, alternative. Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 8 p.m.
Roma V.P.R. i Festival Vsego Na Svete Reggae. *The Place*, 47 Ul. Marshala Govorova. Tel. 331 9631. 11 p.m.
The Toobes Indie rock. *Shum*, 45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.
Grot/D-Man 55 Hip-hop. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Pep-See Indie pop. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Leningrad Dixieland Band "Jazz dancing." *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Viktoria Urusova and Her Band Jazz songs. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Guitar Jazz Festival: Mikhail Edelshtein and Jerry Kim Mainstream, jazz rock. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.
Sergei Manukyan and Friends Jazz, soul. *Street Life*, 6 2-aya Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 575 0545. 9 p.m.

sunday, february 27

rock, etc.
Black Winter Days 2011, Day 2: Metal Edition Faktor Strakha, Stalwart, Lowriderz, Nu-Nation, Dorgmooth Kill-O-Matic. Metal. *Arctica*, 38 Ulitsa Beringa. Tel. 952 4696. 4 p.m.
Grigory Sologub Memorial Screening of Alexander Lipnitsky's film "Stranniye Igrы". *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 Ulitsa Pestelya. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Zarisovka Reggae. *Fish Fabrique (Nouvelle)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 4857. 9 p.m.
The Zombieops/Ankylm/Tvyordy Znak Punk, alternative. Flat, 28 Sadovaya Ulitsa. Tel. 310 0098, 955 7409. 7 p.m.
Brol/Vanya Dee/Zavtrak/Samorez Hip-hop. *Griboyedov*, 2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 764 4355, 973 7273. 8 p.m.
Robert Lighthouse Blues. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Delikatesy/Tut & Tam?/Model Neba/Dying for Mary Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 8 p.m.
Krasniye Zvyozdy/Nikogo Net Doma/I.O.W.A./Soyuz Sozidayushchikh Punk, alternative. *Orlandina*, 3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 5 p.m.
Tim Tyler/Sumerki/Bumazhnoye Sointse/Veter Nebes/Grani Rock. *Orlandina (Maly Zal)*, 3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 6 p.m.
Vaktsina/Repus Tuto Matos/White Vodevil/Ted Goodwin Punk, alternative. *Shum*, 45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.
Mavrin Metal. *Zal Ozhidaniya*, 118 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala. Tel. 333 1069. 8 p.m.
Secrets of the Third Planet/Flynotes Post-rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Calyppo Blues Band Blues. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Guitar Jazz Festival: Swing outure "Gypsy jazz." *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

monday, february 28

rock, etc.
Acoustic ChK Fest Olesya Petrova, Olga Kurshakova, Vera Ryzhkina, et al. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8 p.m.
Traditional Irish Party Folk. *Chinese Pilot Jao Da*, 7 Ulitsa Pestelya. Tel. 273 7487; +7 911 751 8339. 8 p.m.
Jungle Jam Covers. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
She Doesn't Know/Giallo Indie dance, trip-hop. Mod, 7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova. Tel. 712 0734. 8 p.m.
Al Jarreau Jazz, pop, soul, funk.

Oktyabrsky Concert Hall, 6 Ligovsky Pr. Tel. 275 1300. 7 p.m.
Limonady/Istok Pop punk, rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Gaivoronsky Volkov Kondakov Art jazz. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

tuesday, march 1

rock, etc.
Alexei Lapin Plays Thelonius Monk. *GEZ-21 (Gallery of Experimental Sound)*, 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 764 52 58. 8 p.m.
BlinBlues.com Blues. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Flame Attack Zabud Svoi Sny, NEvopros, R.A.I.N. Ost 1 One, ARimOR, Adrenalin, Zapiski Sumassheshhego. Rock. *Orlandina*, 3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa. Tel. +7 921 961 1911. 6 p.m.
Tantsy Na Vole/The Pulsar EBM, industrial. *Shum*, 45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.
Forol Electro, trip-hop. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Kvadrat Jazz Club: Jam Session Mainstream. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall (Ellington Hall)*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 8 p.m.
Apple Sin and Sergei Nagorny Funk, fusion. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

wednesday, march 2

rock, etc.
Kilimanjaro Pop rock. *Cheshire Cat*, 9 Ulitsa Lva Tolstogo. Tel. +7 905 251 6774. 8:30 p.m.
BMB Bon Jovi covers. *Jagġer*, 2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii. Tel. 923 1292. 8:30 p.m.
Otava Yo/Belorybitsa Folk. *Shum*, 45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 946 8969. 7 p.m.
Sindrom Vnezapnoi Smerti **Momentalnogo/Minus Odin** Alternative electronic rock, modern rock. *Zoccolo*, 2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 274 9467. 8 p.m.

jazz & blues
Valley of the Blessed Gennady Golshtein, David Goloshchyokin, Yana Radion, et al. *Jazz Philharmonic Hall*, 27 Zagorodny Prospekt. Tel. 764 85 65, 764 9843. 7 p.m.
Igra v Klassiki Crossover. *JFC Jazz Club*, 33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa. Tel. 272 9850. 8 p.m.

SCREENS

NEW! 127 Hours (2010, U.S.-U.K.) Danny Boyle's thriller starring James Franco, Kate Mara and Amber Tamblyn. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

8 Dates (8 citas) (2008, Spain) Peris Romano and Rodrigo Sorogoyen's romantic comedy starring Fernando Tejero, Jose Luis Garcia Perez and Belen Lopez. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son (2011, U.S.) John Whitesell's comedy starring Martin Lawrence, Brandon T. Jackson and Jessica Lucas. *Crystal Palace, Kolizei.* Starts Feb. 24.

NEW! Biutiful (2010, Mexico-Spain) Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's drama starring Javier Bardem and Maricel Alvarez. *Avrora.* Starts Feb. 24.

Black Swan (2010, U.S.) Darren Aronofsky's drama starring Natalie Portman, Mila Kunis and Vincent Cassel. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik, Rodina.*

Burlesque (2010, U.S.) Steve Antin's musical starring Cher and Christina Aguilera. *Avrora (in English with Russian subtitles), Mirage Cinema.*

Dark Blue Almost Black (Azuloscrocasinegro) (2006, Spain) Daniel Sanchez Arevalo drama starring Quim Gutierrez, Marta Etura and Antonio de la Torre. *Dom Kino.*

The Eagle (2011, U.K.-U.S.) Kevin Macdonald's historical adventure film starring Channing Tatum, Denis O'Hare and Julian Lewis Jones. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

Exam (2009, U.K.) Stuart Hazeldine's thriller starring Adar Beck, Gemma Chan and Nathalie Cox. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! The Fighter (2010, U.S.) David O. Russell's sports drama starring Mark Wahlberg, Christian Bale and Amy Adams. *Avrora, Dom Kino.* Starts Feb. 23. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema.* Starts Feb. 24.

NEW! Four Lions (2010, U.K.) Christopher Morris's comedy/drama starring Kayvan Novak, Nigel Lindsay and Riz Ahmed. *Dom Kino.*

The Ghost Writer (2010, France-Germany-U.K.) Roman Polanski's political thriller starring Ewan McGregor, Jon Bernthal and Kim Cattrall. *Avrora.*

Gigola (2010, France) Laure Charpentier's film starring Lou Doillon, Marie Kremer and Thierry Lhermitte. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Gnomeo & Juliet (2011, U.K.-U.S.) Kelly Asbury's animated comedy. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

The Green Hornet (2011, U.S.) Michel Gondry's action comedy starring Seth Rogen, Jay Chou and Cameron Diaz. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Neva, Pik.*

Happy End (Les derniers jours du monde) (2009, France-Spain-Taiwan) Arnaud Larrieu and Jean-Marie Larrieu's sci-fi drama starring Mathieu Amalric, Karin Viard and Catherine Frot. *Dom Kino.*

Home (2009, France) Yann Arthus-Bertrand's documentary depicts the Earth and its problems. *Rodina.*

How Do You Know (2010, U.S.) James L. Brooks's comedy/drama starring Reese Witherspoon, Paul Rudd and Owen Wilson. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

NEW! I Am Number Four (2011, U.S.) D.J. Caruso's sci-fi action thriller starring Alex Pettyfer, Timothy Olyphant and Teresa Palmer. *Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema. Starts Feb. 24.*

The Kids Are All Right (2010, U.S.) Lisa Cholodenko's comedy/drama starring Annette Bening, Julianne Moore and Mark Ruffalo. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Pik, Rodina.*

NEW! The King's Speech (2010, U.K.-Australia-U.S.) Tom Hooper's historical drama starring Colin Firth, Helena Bonham Carter and Derek Jacobi. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Mirage Cinema. Starts Feb. 24.*

NEW! The Last Circus (Balada triste de trompeta) (2010, Spain-France) Alex de la Iglesia's comedy-drama starring Santiago Segura and Antonio de la Torre. *Avrora, Mirage Cinema. Starts Feb. 24.*

London Boulevard (2010, U.S.-U.K.) William Monahan's crime drama starring Keira Knightley, Colin Farrell and Stephen Graham. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

NEW! Lovey-Dovey 3 (Lyubov Morkov 3) (2011, Russia) Sergei Ginzburg's comedy starring Kristina Orbakaite, Gosha Kutsenko and Denis Paramonov. *Avrora. Starts Feb. 27.*

The Misfortunates (De helaasheid der dingen) (2009, Belgium-Netherlands) Felix Van Groeningen's comedy/drama starring Pauline Grossen, Kenneth Vanbaeden and Valentijn Dhaenens. *Dom Kino.*

Mr. Nobody (2009, Canada-Belgium-France-Germany) Jaco Van Dormael's fantasy film starring Jared Leto, Diane Kruger and Sarah Polley. *Dom Kino.*

Norwegian Wood (Noruwei no mori) (2010, Japan) Anh Hung Tran's love drama starring Rinko Kikuchi, Ken'ichi Matsuyama and Kiko Mizuhara. *Dom Kino.*

Manticore 3D (Mantikora 3D) (2011, Russia) Vladimir Kitt's thriller starring Alexei Zavyalov, Katya Karenina and Sergei Burunov. *Crystal Palace, Kolizei, Pik.*

The Mechanic (2011, U.S.) Simon West's thriller starring Jason Statham, Ben Foster and Tony Goldwyn. *Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

New York, I Love You (2009, U.S.) Fatih Akin, Yvan Attal. Starring Bradley Cooper, Justin Bartha and Andy Garcia's anthology film starring Hayden Christensen, Andy Garcia, Rachel Bilson, Natalie Portman and Irfan Khan. *Rodina.*

On the Hook (Na Kryuchke) (2011, Russia) Natalya Uglitskikh's romantic comedy starring Yekaterina Vilko, Konstantin Kryukov and Marat Basharov. *Khudozhestvenny, Pik.*

Optical Illusions (Ilusiones opticas) (2009, Chile-France-Portugal) Cristian Jimenez's comedy/drama starring Ivan Alvarez de Araya, Gregory Cohen and Eduardo Paxeco. *Dom Kino.*

NEW! Sanctum (2010, U.S.-Australia) Alister Grierson's adventure film starring Richard Roxburgh, Ioan Gruffudd and Rhys Wakefield. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

NEW! Slove (2011, Russia-Germany-U.S.) Jurgen Staal's action thriller starring Alexei Chadov, Andrei Chadov and Pavel Derevyanko. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema. Starts Feb. 24.*

Three Warriors and the Shamakhan Tzaritsa (Tri Bogatyrya i Shamakhanskaya Tzaritsa) (2011, Russia) Sergei Glezin's animated fantasy film. *Mirage Cinema.*

NEW! Tomorrow, When the War Began (2010, Australia-U.S.) Stuart Beattie's teen adventure movie starring Caitlin Stasey, Rachel Hurd-Wood and Lincoln Lewis. *Crystal Palace, Mirage Cinema. Starts Feb. 24.*

NEW! Tricksters (Vykrutasy) (2011, Russia) Levan Gabriadze's romantic comedy starring Milla Jovovich, Konstantin Khabensky and Ivan Urgant. *Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Neva, Pik.*

True Grit (2010, U.S.) Ethan Coen and Joel Coen's Western film starring Jeff Bridges, Hailee Steinfeld and Matt Damon. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

NEW! Unknown (2011, Japan-Canada-U.S.-U.K.-Germany-France) Jaume Collet-Serra's thriller starring Liam Neeson, Diane Kruger and January Jones. *Crystal Palace, Jam Hall, Khudozhestvenny, Kolizei, Mirage Cinema, Pik.*

NEW! You Will Meet a Tall Dark Stranger (2010, U.S.-Spain) Woody Allen's romantic comedy starring Gemma Jones, Pauline Collins and Anthony Hopkins. *Avrora, Crystal Palace, Khudozhestvenny, Mirage Cinema.*

MUSEUMS

ACADEMY OF ARTS MUSEUM (The Scientific-Research Museum of the Academy of Arts) 17 Universitetskaya Nab. Tel. 323-6496, 323-3578 M. Vasileostrovskaya. Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. **NEW! Viktor Yamsshikov.** Painting. *February 17 through April 3*

ANNA AKHMATOVA MUSEUM AT THE FOUNTAIN HOUSE 34 Fontanka River, entrance from



Colin Firth stars as King George VI in 'The King's Speech,' now showing at local cinemas. The historical drama won seven BAFTAs and has been nominated for 12 Oscars.

53 Liteiny Pr. M. Gostiny Dvor, Mayakovskaya. Tel. 272-2211. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Wednesday of every month. www.akhmatoва.spb.ru

NEW! Veterans. What does war look like? Objects, photo, installation. *February 28 through May 8*

ARTILLERY MUSEUM (Military Historical Museum of Artillery and Engineers) 7 Alexandrovsky Park, M. Gorkovskaya, tel. 232-0296, 238-0704, Wednesday through Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Thursday of each Month **Artillery – Not Only the Roar of the Gun, but Science Too.** Rare manuscripts from the 16th to first half of the 19th century. *November 19 – closing date to be confirmed.* **Fortresses of northwest Russia.** Graphics. *January 21 through April 15* **Her Majesty's Sappers.** Painting, drawing and lithography dedicated to the feats of military engineers from the 18th – early 20th centuries. Exhibits include sculptures, rare objects, manuscripts and documents. *January 21 through April 15*

ALEXANDER BLOK APARTMENT MUSEUM 57 Ul. Dekabristov Ul., M. Sadovaya, Sennaya. Tel. 713-8631. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday.

ISAAK BRODSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM 3 Pl. Iskusstv. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel 314-3658. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday

CITY SCULPTURE MUSEUM Exhibition Hall 179/2a Nevsky Prospekt. Entrance through Chernoretskogo Pereulok. Tel. 274-2635, 274-2579, 274-3860. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursday, Friday.

DERZHAVIN MUSEUM 118 Nab. Reki Fontanki. M. Technologicheskoy Institut, Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 713-0717, 570-6511 **NEW! Patchwork Entertainment.** Decorative art. *February 28 through March 30* **NEW! Alexander Deryabin.** Painting. *February 20 through March 20*

DOLL MUSEUM 8 Kamskaya Ulitsa, M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 327-7224, 321-7869. Tuesday through Sunday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Saturday 10.00 – master-class in making dolls. **NEW! Honor and Glory of the Motherland.** Objects, decorative art. *February 22 through December 31* **NEW! Bears of Russia.** Antique and collectable teddy bears. *February 7 through April 10* **Covered With Beads.** Fashion models of Barbie dolls: Galina Simonova. *January 17 through March 13*

DOSTOEVSKY APARTMENT MUSEUM 5/2 Kuznechny Pereulok, M. Vladimirska. Tel. 571-4031. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and last Wednesday of each month.

KIROV APARTMENT MUSEUM 26/28 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt. M. Gorkovskaya, Petrogradskaya. Tel. 346-0217. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday

KUNSTKAMERA 3 Universitetskaya Nab. Tel. 328-1412. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Thursday of each month. www.kunstkamera.ru



A painting by Larisa Berlin from her exhibition 'The curtain is raised and music is heard' currently on show through March 13 at the Dostoevsky Museum.

HEROIC DEFENDERS OF LENINGRAD MUSEUM MONUMENT PLOSHCHAD POBEDY. M. Moskovskaya. Tel. 371-2951, 373-6563. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, Friday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Tuesday of each month. **NEW! Steps to Victory: Sergei Larenkov.** Photo collage. *February 23 through May 10*

HISTORY OF PHOTOGRAPHY MUSEUM 23 Professora Popova Ul. Tel. 346-1950. Daily 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday. **Workdays: Vita Buyvid.** Photo. *January 28 through March 1*

HISTORY OF THE POLITICAL POLICE MUSEUM. 6 Admiralteisky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor, Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312 2742. Daily 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Saturday, Sunday. **NEW! From World War II to the Cold War. 1940-1990s.** Objects, photo. *February 25 through March 31*

HISTORY OF RELIGION MUSEUM 14/5 Pochtamtyskaya. M. Nevsky Prospekt, Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 571-0495, 314-5838. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday. **The Storm of the Sky.** Kukryniksy art group, Viktor Deni, Dmitry Moor and others. Soviet anticlerical graphics from 1910-1970s. *November 3 through February 27*

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM PETER & PAUL FORTRESS. M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 230 0329. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Wednesday. www.spbkrepost.ru **Permanent Collection** The St. Peter and Paul Cathedral, housing the graves of most of the Romanov dynasty; History of the Mint; Museum of Old Petersburg; and more. Exhibits are housed in various locations in the Peter and Paul Fortress. **The History of the Trubetsky Bastion Prison** 1872-1921 The Peter and Paul Fortress was Imperial St. Petersburg's main jail and this exhibition tells the story of the

famous revolutionaries and opponents of the Tsar who were imprisoned there. **The Peter and Paul Cathedral** and the Great Princely Necropolis of the House of Romanov The story of the last resting place of the Romanov Dynasty from Peter the Great to Nicholas II, who was finally reinterred here in 1998. **Petersburg through the Eyes of Englishmen.** John Atkinson, Matthew Dubourg, John Clark, Josef Hirn and others. Engraved views of St. Petersburg in the 18th-19th centuries. *December 10 through February 27* **Representing Time:** Three Centuries of the Russian Calendar. Editions from the 18th-21st centuries. *December 17 through March 1*

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM 7/9 Universitetskaya Naberezhnaya. Entrance from Mendeleevskaya Liniya. Tel. 328-9683

HISTORY OF ST. PETERSBURG MUSEUM: Rumyantsev Mansion 44 Angliiskaya Naberezhnaya. M. Vasileostrovskaya, Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571-7544. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Wednesday and the last Tuesday of each month. **Old Petersburg.** Capital and Surroundings. Fyodor Alexeyev, Ivan Aivazovsky, Maxim Vorobyev, Benjamin Peterson (Sweden-Russia), Luigi Premazzi (Italy-Russia), Vasily Sadovnikov. Painting, graphics. *October 21 through February 27*

MILITARY MEDICINE MUSEUM 2 Lazaretny Pereulok. M. Pushkinskaya. Tel. 315-5358, 315-7287. Daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed at weekends

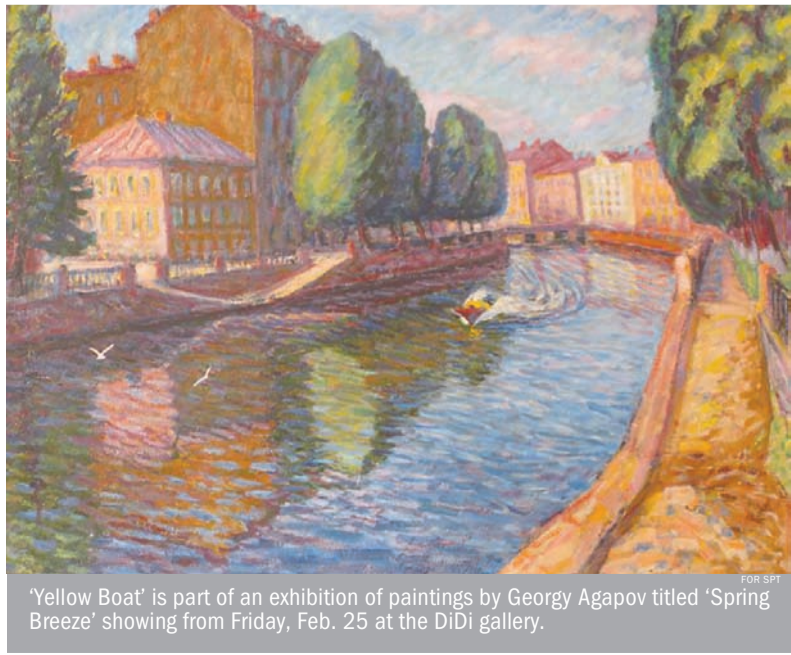
MUSIC MUSEUM AT THE SHEREMETEV PALACE 34 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 272-4441. Wednesday through Sunday 12 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed last Wednesday of each month. By prior appointment only. **Sacred People.** Enamels by Tatyana Kiselyova. *January 27 through February 27.*

VLADIMIR NABOKOV APARTMENT MUSEUM 47 Bolshaya Morskaya. Tel. 315-4713, 717-4502. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Weekend 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. www.nabokovmuseum.org **NEW! Structures: Boris Shapovalov.** Painting, objects. *February 23 through March 15*

NIKOLAI NEKRASOV APARTMENT MUSEUM 36 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Chernyshevskaya. Tel. 272-0165. Daily, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Tuesday and the last Friday of each month. **NEW! The Code of Painting is Color: Polina Kudelkina.** Painting. *February 19 through March 19*

POLITICAL HISTORY OF RUSSIA MUSEUM 2/4 Ul. Kuibysheva, M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 233-7052. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Thursday. **The Polish Path in Karelian History.** The fate of Polish immigrants and prisoners of war, and history of their life in the Russian North. Photo, objects. *February 11 through March 2*

POPOV CENTRAL MUSEUM OF COMMUNICATIONS 3 Pochtamtysky Pereulok. Tel. 323-9718. Daily 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday and the last Thursday of each month. www.rustelecom-museum.ru **The History of the Postal Service in Russia.** Permanent exposition.



'Yellow Boat' is part of an exhibition of paintings by Georgy Agapov titled 'Spring Breeze' showing from Friday, Feb. 25 at the DiDi gallery.

PUSHKIN APARTMENT MUSEUM

12 Nab. Reki Moika. Tel: 571 3801. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.peterlink.ru/spb/pushkin/
NEW! Poetry in the Pocket: Alexander Deryabin. Objects, decorative art, photo. *February 25 through March 17*

Rimsky-Korsakov Apartment Museum

28 Zagorodny Prospekt, Courtyard. M. Dostoyevskaya. Tel. 713-3208, 315-3975. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday and last Friday of each month.
NEW! The Snow Maiden. Dedicated to 130 years of the Rimsky-Korsakov opera. Objects, decorative art. *February 26 through May 26*

NIKOLAI ROERICH APARTMENT MUSEUM

1 Line 18, V.O. Daily 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday. Tel. 325-4413. www.roerich.spb.ru
If Not For the War... Painting, installation. *January 27 through March 6*

RUSSIAN ETHNOGRAPHIC MUSEUM

4/1 Inzhenernaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 313-4421. Daily, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and the last Friday of each month.

SIGMUND FREUD MUSEUM OF DREAMS

18a Bolshoi Prospekt of Petrogradskaya Side. M. Sportivnaya. Tel. 235-2929. Tuesday and Sunday 12 a.m. to 5 p.m.

SMOLNY HISTORICAL MEMORIAL MUSEUM

3 Ploshchad Rastrellii. Tel: 314-2168. Monday through Friday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment, groups only. Friday, 3 p.m. open to individual visitors.

ST. PETERSBURG AVANT-GARDE MUSEUM

(Mikhail Matyushin Apartment) 10 Professora Popova Ul. M. Petrogradskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Wednesday
NEW! Transgeometry of Memory: Sergei Kovalsky. Painting. *February 11 through April 26*
Group CoRN. 1930. Mikhail Matyushin and Pupils. Installation, objects. *November 12 through March 30*

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM

34 Dvortsovaya Naberezhnaya. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571-3420, 571-3465. Daily, 10.30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 10.30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday. www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_Eng/index.html
Permanent Collection Three million items in six buildings along the Neva and around Palace Square. Unless otherwise stated, temporary exhibitions are displayed in the Winter Palace, the museum's main building.
NEW! Prado at the Hermitage. The best of the classic collection of the Prado Museum in Madrid. Painting. *February 26 through May 29*
NEW! Thomas de Thomon. Works from the Hermitage Collection. Architecture, graphics. *February 22 through May 29*
The Glass Beaded Salon. Presentation of panels from the Chinese Palace in Oranienbaum, restored at the Hermitage Museum. Halls 169-173 of the Winter Palace. *December 8 through March 20*
Presentation of a bronze arm with a Roman two-headed eagle (1st century A.D.) from the Archaeological Museum in Alicante (Spain). Part of the "Masterpieces of the world's museums at the Hermitage" cycle. St. George's Hall. *December 9 through March 9*

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM: MENSHIKOV PALACE

15 Universitetskaya Nab. M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 323-1112. Daily, 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. A branch of the State Hermitage Museum.

STATE HERMITAGE MUSEUM: GENERAL STAFF BUILDING

Daily, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 10:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday.
Museum of The Guards. A permanent addition to the Hermitage in the General Staff Building.

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM

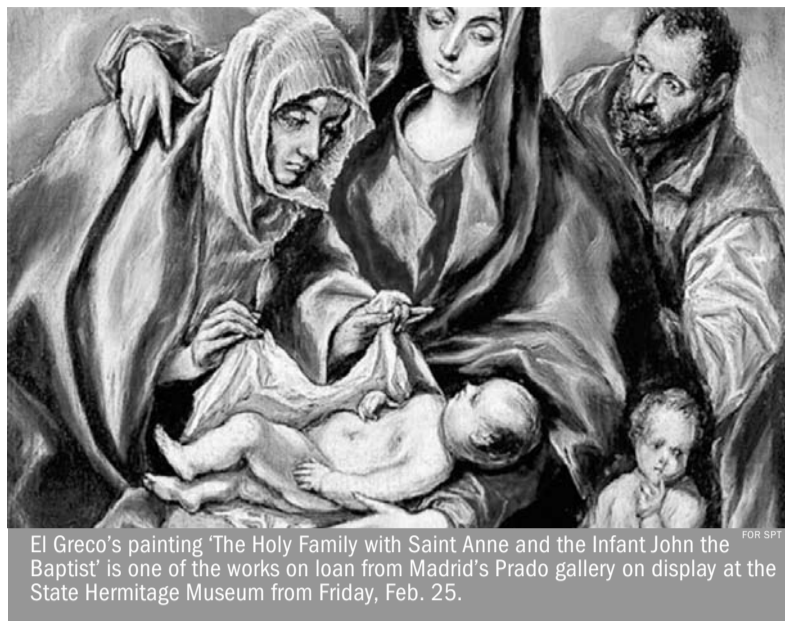
2 Inzhenernaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314-3448, 595-4248. Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.rusmuseum.ru/eng
Permanent Collection The world's finest and most extensive collection of works by Russian artists, from 12th-century icons to some of the latest movements in contemporary art exhibited in the Mikhailovsky Palace and in associated buildings listed below.

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: GENERAL STAFF BUILDING

Daily, 10:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday, 10:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Closed Monday.
Museum of The Guards. A permanent addition to the Hermitage in the General Staff Building.

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM

2 Inzhenernaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314-3448, 595-4248. Monday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Tuesday. www.rusmuseum.ru/eng
Permanent Collection The world's finest and most extensive collection of works by Russian artists, from 12th-century icons to some of the latest movements in contemporary art exhibited in the Mikhailovsky Palace and in associated buildings listed below.
Chosen by Clio. Heroes and Villains of Russian History. Repin, Surikov, Nesterov, Serov, Makovsky, Vasnetsov. Painting, graphics, sculpture. *December 8 through April 17*
Saints of the Russian Land. Icon painting, decorative art, objects. *December 8 through April 30*



El Greco's painting 'The Holy Family with Saint Anne and the Infant John the Baptist' is one of the works on loan from Madrid's Prado gallery on display at the State Hermitage Museum from Friday, Feb. 25.

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: MARBLE PALACE

5/1 Millionnaya Ul. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312-9196. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.
NEW! Existential Alchemy: Rafa Forteza. Installation. *February 24 through March 27*

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: MIKHAILOVSKY (ENGINEERS') CASTLE

2 Sadovaya Ulitsa. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 313-4112. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.
Grigory Gagarin. Dedicated to the 200th anniversary of the artist's birth. Painting, graphics. *December 23 through March 27*

STATE RUSSIAN MUSEUM: STROGANOV PALACE

17 Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 571-2360. Daily, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Closed Tuesday. A branch of the State Russian Museum.

THEATRICAL AND MUSICAL ART MUSEUM

6 Ostrovskogo Pl. Tel. 315-5243. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Tuesday.
NEW! Theater Architecture of St. Petersburg. Objects, installation, graphics. *February 19 through April 3*

TOY MUSEUM

32 Nab. Reki Karpovki. Entrance from Vsevolod Vishnevsky Ul. M. Petrogradskaya, Chkalovskaya. Tel. 234-4312. Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Monday and last Tuesday of the month.

GALLERIES

AL GALLERY

76 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Tel. 713-35-34 info@album-gallery.org; www.album-gallery.org
NEW! Proselok: Iliia Orlov. Painting. *February 18 through March 15*

ANNA NOVA

28 Zhukovskogo Ul., tel. 275-9762. Tuesday - Saturday 12 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Folding Screens: Yury Alexandrov. Opening *January 21.* Closing date to be confirmed.

ARKA

6 Bolshaya Morskaya, M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 312-4012. Daily 12 p.m. to 9 p.m.
Muza Oleneva-Degtyareva. Painting, graphics. *January 26 through February 16*

ART CENTER PUSHKINSKAYA 10

Galleries open from 3 p.m. through 7 p.m. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Entrance at 53 Ligovsky Prospekt. <http://en.p-10.ru/>
Art-Liga Gallery Open Saturday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Life Will Never End. Photo. *February 12 through March 13*

Navicula Artis gallery

Tel. 764-5371, Wednesday-Sunday, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
New Academy of Fine Arts Museum Room 405. Tel. 272-8222. Saturday 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Timur Novikov.

Installation. *January 15 through March 13*
Nonconformist Art Museum Floor 4. Tel. 764-5371. Wednesday through Sunday 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. www.nonmuseum.ru/

International "Poetry-Art" Visual Poetry Festival.

Graphics, videoart, performance. *February 12 through March 13*
"Improvisation." Exhibition of work by contemporary art school graduates. Painting, graphics. *February 12 through March 13*

St. Petersburg Archive and Library of Independent Art

Tel. 272-8222. Monday and Saturday 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

FOTOImage Office 1.

Tel. 764-5371. Saturday 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.
GEZ-21 Outbuilding B, 3 Floor. Tel. 764-5258, Daily 3 p.m. to midnight.
Kino-FOT-703 Office 703. Tel. 764-5353.
Art-Project "Parnik" Open Wednesday-Sunday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! The Throne of the Drawing-pin: Andrei Chezhin. Objects. *February 19 through March 17*
The Door Floor 3. Wednesday through Sunday 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

ART. OBJECT

13 Oranienbaumskaya Ulitsa. Tel. 498-0625. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
NEW! Damascus Gate: Irina Razumovskaya. Painting, objects. *February 22 through March 12*

ART RE.FLEX

5 Bakunina Ul. Tel. 332-3343. Daily 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. www.artreflex.ru
NEW! In the Reflection: Robert Gettich (Germany). Painting. *February 25 through March 30*
The Intention in the Convergence: Olga Golos. Light installations. *February 6 through March 3*

ARTISTS UNION OF RUSSIA EXHIBITION CENTER

38 Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. Tel. 314-3060. Daily, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! Russian North. Painting, graphics. *February 17 through February 27*
NEW! France-Russia. Painting, graphics. *February 17 through February 27*

BLUE ROOM

38 Bolshaya Morskaya. Daily 12 a.m. to 7 p.m. Tel. 553-5009

BOOK AND GRAPHICS CENTER

55 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Mayakovskaya. Tel. 272-9535. Daily 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! The Magic of Silk Threads. Decorative art. *March 1 through March 9*
All the Colors of Life - for Children. Tarasov's Family Studio. Charitable master-class for deaf and mute children. Painting, graphics. *February 11 through February 26*

BOREY

58 Liteiny Prospekt. M. Vladimirskaia, Mayakovskaya. Tel. 273-3693. Tuesday - Saturday 12 p.m. to 8 p.m.
NEW! Collection from the Era of Change. Painting. Gleb Bogomolov, Mikhail Shpagin, Sergei Dobrotvorsky, Vladimir Opara and others. *March 1 through March 5*
NEW! Place of Residence: Olga Shonova. Photos about the contemporary life of ex-Gulag prisoners. *February 22 through March 5*

Arabesques: Yury Gertsman.

Photo. *February 15 through February 26*

BULTHAUP. GALLERY OF DESIGN

2 Bolshaya Konyushennaya, Monday-Friday 11 a.m.-8 p.m., Saturday - Sunday 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

D-137 GALLERY

12 Zvenigorodskaya Ul. 3 Floor. M. Pushkinskaya. Tel. +7 981-687-6051. Thursday - Saturday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., www.d137.ru
NEW! Americanism. Painting, sculpture, installation. *February 25 through March 19*

DIDI ART GALLERY

62 Bolshoi Prospekt of V.O., M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 320-7357. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sunday.
NEW! Georgy Agapov. Painting. *February 25 through March 22*
Alexander Rummyantsev. Painting. *January 28 through February 24*

DK GAZA CONCERT HALL

72 Prospekt Stachek. M. Kirovsky Zavod. Tel. 783-3278

DMITRY SEMENOV GALLERY

63/19 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tuesday, Friday and Saturday 12 a.m. to 8 p.m., or by appointment; call 164 5323.
Corporate Dream: Vita Buivid. Photo. *January 23 through February 28*

DOM KINO

12 Karavannaya Ul. Tel. 314-0638. Daily 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. www.domkino.spb.ru

ERARTA MUSEUM

2, 29th Line of Vasilyevsky Island, lit. A. M. Vasileostrovskaya. Tel. 324-0809. Daily 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Wednesday. www.erarta.com
Depot of Genius Mistakes: AHE Theater. Installation. *December 17 through February 27*

FINNISH INSTITUTE IN ST. PETERSBURG

64 Ligovsky Prospekt, 4 Floor, tel. 325-3205, Daily 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. www.instfin.sp.ru

GLASS GALLERY

1/28 Lomonosova Ul. M. Sadovaya, Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 312-2214. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

GUILD OF MASTERS

82 Nevsky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 279-0979. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Poetry in Color: Yevgeny Vasilyev. Painting. *February 10 through March 10*

IFA EXHIBITION HALL

60 Nevsky Prospekt, tel. 717-0315. Daily 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday

JULY 12 GALLERY

100 Nab. Kanala Griboedova. M. Sennaya, Sadovaya. Tel. 954-0459. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 3 p.m. to 8 p.m., www.12-july.ru
NEW! Selected Works: Grigory Molchanov. Objects, sculpture, painting. *February 25 through March 31*

KARL BULLA PHOTOSALON

54 Nevsky Prospekt, 3 floor, tel. 312-2080

KGALLERY

Nab. Reki Fontanki 24, M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 273 0056.

KREMLIN GALLERY

3 Teleshny boulevard. M. Ploshchad Vosstaniya, Ploshchad Alexandra Nevskogo. Tel. 640-2401, 640-6829. www.kremlingallery.ru

KVADRAT

28 Kuibysheva Ulitsa, M. Gorkovskaya. Tel. 232-1238. Wednesday through Saturday 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

SERGEI KURYOKHIN CONTEMPORARY ART CENTER

93 Sredny Prospekt, V.O. Tel. 322-4223. Daily 12 a.m. to 12 p.m. www.kuryokhin.ru

LAZAREV GALLERY

6 Line of Vasilyevskaya Island, 5/5. Tel. +7 921 945 6810. M. Vasileostrovskaya. www.ivan-slavinsky.com

LOFT-PROJECT ETAZHI

74 Ligovsky Prospekt. Tel. 339-9836. Daily 12 a.m. to 10 p.m.
NEW! ZH8/Lzhe: Oleg Kotelnikov. Analytical art. 11 painted vinyl snowflakes, music. *February 16 through March 21*
BACKSTAGE 3rd Floor. Tel. +7 911-2368160. Daily 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday.

FOTOWALL

Townverslibre: Natali Arefyeva. Photo. *Through April 5*
FORMULA GALLERY
GLOBUS 4th floor.

MANEZH CENTRAL EXHIBITION HALL

1 Isaakiyevskaya Pl. M. Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314-8859. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Thursday
Ancient Petroglyphic Art From Remote European Areas: From the Mediterranean to the White Sea. Photo, graphics, objects. *February 14 through February 28*
Between Eros, Closer to Thanatos: Valery Lukka, Nikolai Sazhin. Painting, graphics, objects. *February 11 through February 28*

MANEZH CENTRAL EXHIBITION HALL, SMALL HALL

103 Nab. Kanala Griboedova. Tel. 312-2243

MANSARD OF ARTISTS

7 Pushkarskaya Ul. Tel. 230-9150. Daily 12 a.m. to 8 p.m. www.sneg.su

MART GALLERY

35 Ul. Marata. Tel. 710-8835, 315-2768.

M. Vladimirskaia, Dostoyevskaya. Daily 12 a.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday
NEW! Yelena Skinder. Decorative art, graphics. *February 17 through March 12*

MARINA GISICH GALLERY

121 Nab. Reki Fontanki, tel. 314-4380. Daily, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday. Open by prior appointment.

MAYAKOVSKY LIBRARY

46 Nab. Reki Fontanki. Entrance through the courtyard.
NEW! Magic Light: Yury Vasilyev. Painting. *February 19 through February 28*

THE MIKHAIL SHEMYAKIN FUND

11 Sadovaya Ul. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 310-2514. Tuesday - Thursday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

MITKI. MUSEUM OF THE ART UNION.

36/38 Marata Ul., apartment 120. Saturday 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

MOKHOVAYA 18 GALLERY

M. Chernyshevskaya. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Sunday, Monday. Tel. 275-3383. www.gm18.ru
NEW! On Their Own in Wonderland: Yelena Bazanova. Painting. *February 18 through March 5*

MONTMARTRE ART GALLERY

33 Nab. Kanala Griboedova. Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 12 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sunday. Tel. 571-5517. monmartr-2007@mail.ru

NEW MUSEUM GALLERY

29 6th Line of Vasilyevsky Island. Tel. 323-5090. M. Vasileostrovskaya. www.novymuseum.ru
New Sculpture: Chaos and Structure. Anatoly Osmolovsky, Vitali Pushnitsky, Khaim Sokol, Anya Zhelud, Ivan Plush and others. Objects, sculpture, installation. *February 11 through March 20*
Aslan Chekhoyev Collection. Mikhail Shwartsman, Alexei Belyayev-Gintovt, Anatoly Yamukumb, Anatoly Osmolovsky, Dmitry Gutov and others. Painting. *February 11 through March 20*

PETERSBURG ARTISTS' MUSEUM-EXHIBITION CENTER

1 Glinki Ulitsa. Tel. 314-0609. Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Closed Monday, Tuesday, www.piter-art.com

PHOTODEPARTMENT GALLERY

32 Nevsky Prospekt. Tel. 314-5925, +7 901 301 7994. M. Gostiny Dvor. www.fotodepartment.ru
NEW! Adaptation: Alexander Tikhonov. Photo. *February 19 through March 13*

PRO ARTE PETER & PAUL FORTRESS

Nevskaya Kurtina, left side. Tel. 233-0553, 233-0040 www.proarte.ru

RAKHMANINOV ART WAY

5 Kazanskaya Ulitsa, Second Courtyard, tel. 312-9558. Daily 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
NEW! Alexander Dymnikov. Photo. *February 18 through March 22*

ROSPHOTO STATE CENTER OF PHOTOGRAPHY

60 Nevsky Prospekt. M. Gostiny Dvor. Tel. 318-4737, 318-6133; 314-1214 (branch at 35 Bolshaya Morskaya). Daily, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed at weekends. www.ncprf.org

The Density of Silence. Frank Dituri and Elio Ciol (Italy).

Photo. *February 11 to April 10*
<

CLUBS AND VENUES

ROCK, ETC.

ArcticA
A rock venue mostly featuring heavy metal concerts.
38 Ulitsa Beringa. Metro Primorskaya
Tel: 952 4696
www.arctica-club.spb.ru

Avrora
A new concert venue located at the St. Petersburg hotel.
5/2 Pirogovskaya Naberezhnaya.
Metro Ploshchad Lenina
Tel: 907 1917
www.avrora-zal.ru

Cheshire Cat
A new, third location for the underground club. Singers/songwriters and lesser known rock bands.
32 Zagorodny Prospekt
Metro Vladimirskaia/Dostoyevskaya
Tel: 575 6151
www.catartclub.ru

Chinese Pilot Jao Da
A local branch of the notorious Moscow underground rock club, which also has a branch in Montenegro. Seva Gakkel of Akvarium rock band and TaMtAm club fame is the venue's art director. Live rock, jazz and electronic music.
7 Ulitsa Pestelya
Metro Gostiny Dvor/Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 273 7487; +7 (911) 751 8339
www.spb.jao-da.com

Fish Fabrique
One of the oldest surviving local music clubs has expanded and now also has a larger room called Fabrique Nouvelle which hosts concerts and film screenings.
53 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 764-4857
www.fishfabrique.spb.ru

Flat
A small underground rock club.
28 Sadovaya Ulitsa
Metro Sennaya Ploshchad
Tel: 310 0098, 955 7409
www.flat-club.ru

GEZ-21
Part of Pushkinskaya 10 alternative art center. Mostly experimental and improvised music, some rock and electronic acts. A very limited selection at the bar.
53 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 764-5258, 764-5263
www.tac.spb.ru

Glavclub
A larger venue for big Russian and international rock and hip-hop bands.
2 Kremenchugskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 905 7555
www.glavclub.com

Griboyedov
Located in a former bomb shelter, Griboyedov is one of the oldest and most respected local clubs, with live concerts in the evenings and DJ sets at nights. Griboyedov Hill is a more recently opened restaurant on top of the bunker, where concerts are also held.
2A Voronezhskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ligovsky Prospekt
Tel: 764 4355, 973 7273
www.griboedovclub.ru

Jagger
A rock music club and a brewery. Mostly cover bands.
2 Ploshchad Konstitutsii
Metro Moskovskaya
Tel: 923 1292
www.jaggerclub.ru

Kosmonavt
A larger concert venue launched by the team behind the now-defunct A2. Pete Doherty played here.
24 Bronnitskaya Ulitsa
Tel: 922 1300
www.kosmonavt.su

Manhattan
A rock club with a restaurant and billiards.
90 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki
Metro Pushkinskaya/Zvenigorodskaya
Tel: 713 1945
www.manhattanclub.ru



Yellowcard, a California-based pop punk band, will showcase its upcoming album 'When You're Through Thinking, Say Yes' at Glavclub on Friday, Feb. 25.

Mod
A new location for the popular youth-oriented bar. Live concerts and DJ sets. Enter through the courtyard.
7 Naberezhnaya Kanala Griboyedova
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 712 0734
www.modclub.info

Money Honey
A rockabilly club with a fixed schedule of cover bands. More diverse bands perform upstairs.
28 Sadovaya Ulitsa
Metro Gostiny Dvor
Tel: 310 0549
www.money-honey.ru

Orlandina
Yet another new location for the rock club, five minutes from the old one. Metal, rock, alternative.
3 Instrumentalnaya Ulitsa
Metro Petrogradskaya
Tel: 958 3888
www.orlandina.ru

PiR.O.G.I. on Fontanka
A branch of the hip Moscow network of restaurants with live concerts and art events launched last summer. A dining room and a bar with performances by bands and DJs.
40 Naberezhnaya Reki Fontanki
Tel: 275 3558
www.piterogi.ru

Shum
A new addition to the club scene, perfect for live rock concerts.
45 5-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: +7 (921) 946 8969
http://shumclub.ru

Zal Ozhidaniya
A rock and pop concert venue. Part of Varshavsky Express retail and entertainment complex located in the former railroad station building.
118 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala
Metro Baltiiskaya
Tel: 333 1069
www.clubzal.com

Zoccolo
An underground rock club managed by the people from the now-closed Moloko club.

Punk, indie, alternative and some experimental electronica.
2/3 3-ya Sovetskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 274 9467
www.zoccolo.ru

JAZZ

Jazz Philharmonic Hall
The oldest local jazz venue directed by local jazz patriarch David Goloshchyokin. Ellington Hall is a bar located in the upstairs area with a stage used for smaller concerts. Mainstream, Latin jazz, blues.
27 Zagorodny Prospekt
Metro Vladimirskaia/Dostoyevskaya
Tel: 764 8565
www.jazz-hall.spb.ru

JFC Jazz Club
A smaller jazz club that operates daily.
33 Shpalernaya Ulitsa
Metro Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 272 9850
www.jfc.spb.ru

The Other Side
A bar and restaurant with jazz and blues concerts at weekends. A popular expat hangout.
1 Bolshaya Konyushennaya Ulitsa
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 312 9554

Street Life
A pop-jazz club and restaurant.
6 2-ya Krasnoarmeiskaya Ulitsa
Metro Tekhnologicheskyy Institut
Tel: 575 0545
www.street-life.spb.ru

DJ BARS

Datscha
A notorious DJ bar, popular with students and expats.
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
9 Dumskaya Ulitsa

Dusche
An art bar launched by several members of rock band Leningrad. DJs, fashion shows, occasional concerts.
Metro Ligovsky Prospekt

50 Ligovsky Prospekt
(Korpus 6)
Tel: 610 1990

Fidel
A DJ bar next to Datscha.
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
9 Dumskaya Ulitsa

HelsinkiBar
A new art bar celebrates St. Petersburg's northern neighbor. DJs, poetry readings.
31 Kadetskaya Liniya
Metro Vasileostrovskaya
Tel: 995-1-995
www.helsinkiBar.ru

Radiobaby
A DJ bar launched by the Achtung Baby team.
7 Kazanskaya Ulitsa,
in the courtyard
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
www.radiobaby.com

Siny Pushkin
An art bar conceived by Sergei Shnurov and Ivan Ushkov. DJs, occasional concerts.
43/12 Khersonskaya Ulitsa
Metro Ploshchad Aleksandra Nevskogo
Tel: +7 (953) 347 6676
www.spushkin.ru

Stirka
A launderette bar. DJs, small live concerts.
26 Kazanskaya Ulitsa
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 314 5371
http://40gradusov.ru

GAY

Central Station
The city's premier gay club.
1/28 Ulitsa Lomonosova
Metro Nevsky Prospekt
Tel: 312 36 00
www.centralstation.ru

The Club
A recently opened gay club.
17 Shcherbakov Pereulok
Metro Vladimirskaia
Tel: 912 11 69
www.the-club.fm

Cabaret
The city's oldest gay bar, much loved for its shows.
181 Naberezhnaya Obvodnogo Kanala
Metro Baltiiskaya
Tel: 575 4512
www.cabarespb.ru

Golubaya Ustritsa
A self-described "trash" gay club, close to Central Station.
1 Lomonosova Ulitsa
www.boyster.ru

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1A Prospekt Pyatiletok
Metro Prospekt Bolshievikov
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www.newarena.spb.ru

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42 Kamennostrovsky Prospekt
Metro Petrogradskaya
Tel: 346 04 38
www.lensoveta.ru/

Music Hall
4 Alexandrovsky Sad
Metro Chernyshevskaya
Tel: 232 9201
www.musicHall.spb.ru

Oktyabrsky Concert Hall
6 Ligovsky Prospekt
Metro Ploshchad Vosstaniya
Tel: 275 1300
www.bkz.ru

Peterburgsky Sports and Concert Complex
8 Prospekt Yuriya Gagarina
Metro Park Pobedy
Tel: 388 1211, 378 1710
www.spbckk.ru

Yubileiny Sports Complex
18 Ulitsa Dobrolyubova
Metro Sportivnaya
Tel: 498 6033
www.yubi.ru

Please send updates and listings to **Sergey Chernov**, chernov@sptimes.ru

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1-ROOM APARTMENTS

Nevsky Pr./Fontanka River. Clean. Cozy. Quiet. 24,000 rub./month. Evgenia +7-921-389-18-89

Zakharievskaya Ul. Building after reconstruction, stylish furnished apartment. Total area: 120 sq.m.. One bedroom and large lounge (50 sq.m.), modern fully fitted kitchen (27 sq.m.), air conditioners, concierge. **For details contact Olga, Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

2-ROOM APARTMENTS

Nevsky Pr. One bedroom apartment just after renovation, modern and comfortable. Living room with a fire place, panoramic view of Nevsky Pr. and Palace square. **Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Konstantin /"K-KESKUS".**



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k-keskus@mail.ru

Italianskaya Ul. Two-bedroom apartment in a prestigious building with concierge. Total area: 100 sq.m.. Fully fitted, furnished. **For details contact Olga, tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

Bolshaya Morskaya Ul. 2-bedroom apartment, modern renovation, 100 sq.m., kitchen combined with lounge, street entrance with intercom system. 55,000 rub/month. **For details contact Olga, tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

Fontanka River. Comfortable 1-bedroom apartment with a view of Fontanka and Neva. Natural furnishing, convenient layout, secured building. 80 sq.m. 60,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1259**

Paradnaya Ul. New prestigious complex, newly renovated cozy apartment decorated in the Western style. Two bedrooms, kitchen combined with lounge, fitted, furnished, parking, security. **For details contact Olga, Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

Nakhimova Ul. 1-bedroom apartment on Vasilevsky Island. Beautifully designed home benefiting from modern and stylish fixtures and fittings. 53 sq.m. 45,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty, e-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1853**

92 Moika Emb. Modern 1-bedroom apartment with a view on Moika River. Fully furnished and equipped with all necessary household appliances. Modern design, parking. Total area: 45 sq.m. 50,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1484**

Morskaya Emb. Comfortable 2-bedroom apartment on Vasilevsky island, 10 min drive to the city center. Brand new secured building, guarded parking. Never lived-in condition. Total area: 110 sq.m. 90,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1920**



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ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z2061

Voznesensky Pr. Comfortable 2-level apartment with two bedrooms, in the city center in a brand-new building. Guarded area, underground parking, all necessary appliances. Total area: 110 sq.m. 110,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-911-732-28-82, Ekaterina / Penny Lane Realty. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1920**

3-ROOM APARTMENTS

Nevsky Pr./Mayakovskogo Ul. Total area: 120 sq.m. Stylish design. Evgenia +7-921-389-18-89

Robespiera Emb. Newly renovated apartment, total area: 140 sq.m., three bedrooms, two bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, quiet, secure entrance. **For details contact Olga, tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

Furshatskaya Ul. High level of renovation, furnished. Total area: 200 sq.m. Three bedroom, two bathrooms, sauna, fully fitted kitchen, balcony, secure entrance, parking. **For details contact Olga, Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

23 Griboedova Emb. 3-min. walk to Nevsky Pr. and metro, 2 bedrooms, living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, windows overlook the canal and Kazansky Cathedral. Fully furnished and equipped. **Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Konstantin /"K-KESKUS".**

Millionnaya Ul. close to field of Mars. Total area: 160 sq.m. Newly renovated to Western standards, two bathrooms, two bedrooms, has a secure entrance from the court with concierge and parking. 150,000 rub/month. **For details contact Olga, Tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

10 Karpovka River New elite building by M. Petrogradskaya. Stylish, fully



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furnished, well-equipped. 4th floor. Total area: 100 sq.m. Two bedrooms, kitchen-dining room (41 sq.m.), two bathrooms, balcony and loggia with a nice view. Underground parking. **Tel.: +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

1 Fontanka River Inside Mikhailovsky Garden and near Summer Garden. Total area: 167 sq.m. Two bedrooms, sitting room (55 sq.m.), kitchen and two bathrooms. Balcony. Magnificent view of Mikhailovsky castle and greenery. Fully furnished and equipped. Parking place in a garage. **Tel.: +7-921-957-07-63, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

22-24 Nevsky Pr. Quiet and comfortable. Top 6th floor (lift). Total area: 114 sq.m. Two bedrooms, kitchen-sitting room, two bathrooms. Wonderful view: windows overlook greenery and church. Renovated staircase. Secure entrance from pedestrian precinct. Parking available. 80,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-921-957-07-63, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

97 Moskovsky Pr. Total area: 67 sq.m. 2-bedroom apartment. Top-grade light apartment with a fabulous view of the city. This beautifully interior-designed home benefits from modern and stylish fixtures and fittings. All necessary household equipment, convenient lay-out, guarded area. 55,000 rub/month. **Penny Lane Realty, Tel.: +7 (812) 326-26-26, +7 (911) 732-28-82. E-mail: ekaterina@realtor.ru, photos at www.realtor.ru/z1994**

25 Fontanka River Splendid view of Fontanka river and Anichkov bridge.



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4th floor (lift). Total area: 120 sq.m. Two bedrooms (14+14 sq.m.), sitting room (42 sq.m.), hall, kitchen (14 sq.m.) and three bathrooms. Balcony. Fully furnished and equipped. Very beautiful staircase. Entrance from the embankment. Concierge. Guarded parking. **Tel.: +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

4-ROOM APARTMENTS

64 Moika River Newly renovated, spacious, modern. Total area: 230 sq.m.. European standard, two bathrooms, fully fitted kitchen, parking, concierge. **For details contact Olga, tel.: +7-921-963-74-54; e-mail: olestate@gmail.com, olga@ctinvestments.ru**

Moika River. Close to Nevsky Pr. Total area: 100 sq.m. 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, spacious living room with open fireplace, modern-style, very light. Great view of water. Renovated entrance, parking in the closed courtyard. Photos available. **Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33 Konstantin /"K-KESKUS".**

11 Millionnaya Ul. Comfortable duplex apartment. Wonderful location: close to Field of Mars, Summer Garden, Neva river. 1st and 2nd floors. Total area: 95 sq.m. First level: sitting room (25 sq.m.), kitchen (14 sq.m.) and bathroom with sauna. Second level: two bedrooms, study and bathroom. Modern furniture. All necessary domestic appliances are available. Parking in a locked courtyard. 80,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

5-ROOM APARTMENTS

4 Millionnaya Ul. 2nd floor. Freshly renovated. Well-furnished and equipped. Total area: 127 sq.m. Three bedrooms, sitting room, kitchen-dining room, laundry-room and two bathrooms. Guarded parking in the courtyard. 150,000 rub/month. **Tel.: +7-921-903-20-34, +7-921-992-15-22, 325-38-38, NEVSKY PROSTOR AGENCY, E-mail: rent@spb-estate.com, www.spb-estate.com**

6-ROOM APARTMENT

64 Moika River Clouse to Isaac's square. 230 sqm. Just after renovation. 4 bedrooms, spacious living room (50sq.m.), 3 full bathrooms. Stylish and elegant, furnished, equipped. Secure front door from embankment, parking in the court yard. **Tel.: +7-921-937-75-33, e-mail: k-keskus@mail.ru Irina /"K-KESKUS".**

APARTMENT FOR SALE

For sale from owner: charming 3-room apartment two minutes walk to metro Moskovskaya. 5,500,000 rubles. Photos: www.flat-spb.com e-mail: alexikatia@mail.ru. Tel. +7-911-039-80-34

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Elizar Hotel. Pr. Obuhovskoy Oboroni, 89A
Hermitage. Millionnaya Ul., 11
Herzen House. Bolshaya Morskaya Ul., 25
Ibis Hotel. Ligovskiy Pr., 54
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High End Living on London's High Street for Russians

By Howard Amos
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

LONDON — A short walk from Harrods, one of London's most prestigious department stores, and buried deep in the plush backstreets of Kensington and Chelsea, is Britain's oldest Orthodox cathedral.

Converted from an Anglican church in the 1950s, the Cathedral of the Dormition and All Saints has an icon screen salvaged from the chapel of the imperial Russian Embassy in London in 1918. On a mild Thursday evening in February the daily service — conducted in Church Slavonic and English — attracted a congregation of about 20, mainly well-dressed, young and middle-aged women.

In Kensington and Chelsea, the London borough with the country's highest property prices, the cathedral is well placed to serve London's high profile population of wealthy Russians. Stratford, the hub for more humble economic migrants, is an hour's journey away by public transport.

There are no reliable figures for the total number of Russians in London but Natalya Chouvaeva, editor of the Russian-language London Courier newspaper, put the quantity of Russian-speakers in Britain at about half a million — a figure that has more than doubled in the last 10 years.

London's well-heeled ethnic Russians, however, make up a fraction of this total that is principally made up of less affluent migrants from Eastern Europe and Russia itself.

The community of rich Russians in London, however, has a profile out of all proportion to its numerical size.

One of Britain's biggest estate agents, Knight Frank, has a dedicated Russia and CIS desk. Elena Norton, the desk's head, said the firm's clients are typically looking for large apartments, with porters and parking, in purpose-built buildings costing upward



The Cathedral of Dormition, Britain's oldest Orthodox cathedral, housed in a former Anglican church, looms in the distance.

of £5 million (\$8 million) — or large detached houses in prestigious London suburbs, like Hampstead, with a price tag of at least £10 million (\$16 million).

"They are totally self-made," said Norton of her Russian clients. "And they are very, very realistic."

London has been well known as a destination of choice for wealthy Russians for many years, but the demand for luxury properties shows no sign of falling. In 2008, Russian and CIS clients made up 12 percent of Knight Frank's customers for prime central London real estate; in 2010 this figure rose to 17 percent.

Sought-after properties — which can be expected to double in value within 8

to 10 years — are not the only reason rich Russians are drawn to Britain.

"The Russian community in the U.K.," said Ivanna Chevliakova, managing director of Law Firm, which specializes in immigration issues, "is mainly highly skilled workers and business people."

Unsurprisingly, such immigrants are attracted by Britain's favorable tax regime, world-class banking facilities, clear immigration laws and central location for accessing European, American and Asian markets. London is also a global financial center, and Russian firms regularly conduct international public offerings on the London Stock Exchange. Analysts predict that 2011

may see Russian companies raise up to \$30 billion in London.

In recent years, Britain's Russian community has not just been confined to London but has started to spread out to the Home Counties — the countryside surrounding the capital. Manchester and Edinburgh also have very large Russian presences.

The education system in Britain, particularly its private schools, is another big draw for wealthy Russians. The offspring of such Russian luminaries in London as exiled tycoon Boris Berezovsky and poisoned former KGB-agent Alexander Litvinenko have attended prestigious London private schools.

Sollers and Ford Agree Joint Venture Foreign Workers Not Welcome

By Irina Filatova
and Anatoly Medetsky
THE ST. PETERSBURG TIMES

Sollers and Ford Motor said Friday that they tentatively agreed to combine their Russian plants into a joint venture to produce Ford cars, vans and pickup trucks in a plan that could boost sales to at least 300,000 by 2015.

Earlier that day, Sollers announced that it decided not to partner with Fiat in a \$3.3 billion domestic car assembly project. The government had said the Russian-Italian alliance would be one of the two mainstays of the local car industry.

Having begun local production in 2002, Ford now appears to have replaced the Italians as one of the leading foreign automakers working in Russia. Sollers made the announcements a day after President Dmitry Medvedev ended his visit to Italy.

The government is also counting on the AvtoVAZ venture with France's Renault to help bring the industry to the next level of modernization.

The joining of forces by Sollers and Ford is in line with the government strategy to develop the domestic car industry through 2020, which is largely based on establishing "strong alliances" with foreign carmakers, a spokeswoman for the Industry and Trade Ministry said.

Ford and Sollers said they were seeking to sign an assembly agreement with the government — a formal commitment that would require them to increase output over the next four years

in exchange for reduced import duties on car parts.

Though Ford declined to name the production target of the joint venture, manufacturers have to reach a target of at least 300,000 vehicles per year under such an agreement to qualify for government benefits.

Carmakers that want to take advantage of this benefit have until Feb. 28 to sign up.

The 50-50 venture between Ford and Sollers will include the Ford plant in Vsevolozhsk, outside St. Petersburg, and two Sollers facilities in the Tatarstan republic, the companies said in a joint statement that announced their memorandum of understanding.

Expected to start operations by the end of this year, the company will manufacture and distribute "a range of Ford passenger cars and light commercial vehicles," the carmakers said.

The Ford St. Petersburg plant produced 80,000 Mondeo and Focus models last year, but has the capacity to produce 125,000 cars per year. Sollers has the capacity to make 195,000 vehicles in Tatarstan.

"We are delighted to be taking this next step for Ford in Russia," Ford Europe chief executive Stephen Odell said in the statement.

Sollers chief Vadim Shvetsov was quoted in the statement as saying he was "inspired" by the chance to team up with Ford and confident that their joint efforts would ensure them a leading position on the Russian market.

Ford brings to the proposed joint venture its manufacturing experience, an extensive existing dealer network and access to the global range of Ford's latest products, the statement said.

Sollers would contribute an "invaluable knowledge of the market and state-of-the-art manufacturing capacity," said Ford spokeswoman Yekaterina Kulinenko.

Car sales have been bouncing back in Russia, fueled by the government's cash-for-clunkers program, which is expected to end this spring. The government is considering a similar program for commercial vehicles.

In addition to vehicles, the Ford-Sollers joint venture would produce engines, operate a stamping facility to provide more local parts and establish research and development activities.

It will also handle the import and distribution of Ford brand products, parts and accessories in Russia.

Ford slid one notch to become No. 5 carmaker worldwide last year, according to the Truthaboutcars.com portal.

Fiat will not abandon plans to expand in Russia, it said in a joint statement with Sollers.

"Fiat and Sollers have now determined to pursue independent strategies to further develop their respective presence in Russia," the companies said.

A Fiat spokesman in Italy contacted by The St. Petersburg Times declined to elaborate on the issue. Reuters reported that the company planned to build a plant in Russia on its own with an annual capacity of 500,000 vehicles.

By Anatoly Tyomkin

VEDOMOSTI

It is necessary to decrease the number of foreign workers in St. Petersburg, Governor Valentina Matviyenko told a session of the city government last week.

"There's no need to bring in just anybody, and then deal with illegal immigrants, crime, and living conditions," said the governor, explaining her position. She went on to clarify that this does not concern managers and experts invited from abroad by companies for their experience. Before approving companies' requests to import labor, it is necessary to thoroughly investigate whether or not local workers could be used to fill vacancies, Matviyenko instructed Pavel Pankratov, chairman of

the city's Labor and Employment Committee. Pankratov said that quotas for foreign labor were shrinking annually.

According to data from the Office of Federal Migration Service for St. Petersburg and the Leningrad Oblast, the quota for foreign workers in 2009 was 213,000 people. In 2010 the figure was 210,066, and this year it has been reduced to 197,253. However, companies are not even filling those quotas, said Darya Novikova, a spokesperson for the FMS. Due to the financial crisis, since 2009 the demand for labor has significantly decreased.

According to statistics from state statistics office Petrostat, St. Petersburg had a total of 16,800 unemployed citizens in 2010 — 0.6 percent of the economically active population.

Eberspaecher to Open Factory

By Anatoly Tyomkin

VEDOMOSTI

German company Eberspaecher will open a factory producing automobile exhaust systems later this year, said Dmitry Osipov, general director of the company's Russian offices.

The company has rented around 3,000 square meters of factory space at the Elektropult plant in the Rzhnevka district of St. Petersburg, said Osipov. He said that the enterprise would initially assemble systems from imported parts for the St. Petersburg Nissan factory, but in the future hopes to find a partner to press components locally.

Eberspaecher's European and Japanese factories already produce exhaust systems for Nissan. Investment in the project could reach \$10 million, Osipov added.

Gennady Lokotkov, president of REP-Holding, which manages the plant, confirmed that Elektropult had leased part of its workshops to Eberspaecher.

Last year, Nissan's Petersburg plant produced 24,500 Teana and X-Trail automobiles. This year, the Murano crossover model has been added to the range, and from April the plant will change to a three-shift regime, aiming to produce around 47,000 automobiles this year.