





Ogonyok, no. 7, February 1987.

Musicians for Trust.

The telephone rang in the editorial office.

*Can I come and see you?*

-It's Joanne Stingray from America, who you criticized. We remembered the article in issue 49 from last year; The good-intentioned patron of rock music. It was about the illegal release, with Joanne's help, of a double album of Soviet rock music in the States. Certain newspapers and magazines were quick to react to this event, commenting on it in a spirit of evil anti-sovietism and containing blatant lies, as if the record gave succour to 'oppressed Soviet rock music'. Over the ocean even books came out on this theme, and in one of them a whole chapter was devoted to 'persecution' and to the 'rejection of Boris Grebenshikov' by the Soviets. Now the leader of the Leningrad rock group Aquarium, one of the most popular bands in the country, was sitting beside the foreign visitor.

\*I'd like to offer my apologies\* Joanne began. It was extremely unpleasant for me to read the scribbles in USA Today and Newsweek... They twisted my words beyond recognition, we were talking about one thing and they printed something completely different, it was horrible! After that I went back to the editorial offices to protest, they explained to me; according to those who prepared the interview, nothing happened.

Such are the whims of the 'free' press. With regard to the conflict between VAAP and Stingray Productions, this has been settled by the payment of a fine for the use of recordings by Soviet musicians for commercial purposes. It is a firm itself, as yet only Joanne, who relates.

-The success of the record surpassed our expectations. I have been overwhelmed with invitations to visit schools, the children are listening to the music and loving it. They write me letters in which they candidly admit; 'we didn't even suspect that there could be such great rock music in ~~the~~ Russia'.

We asked our compatriot to comment on the American girl's tale. Boris Grebenshchikov was short in his answer;

-Evidently rock music remains the universal language of communication of youth the world over...-

In the course of our conversation with the musicians (Joanne, it turns out herself performs on stage and writes both songs and music) we found out about a fascinating idea, put forward by the American side. The plan - to put on a series of concerts for charitable causes, with the participation of rock stars from all over the world. As is well known last year and earlier various actions were organized to help the starving in Africa, and for the Children's fund of UNICEF.

and Aquarium to Come to the States. Famous performers and musicians have contacted with Soviet musicians-Bruce Springsteen and Cindi Lauper...In conjunction with the record we are releasing a video version, we want to see the record companies Melodiya and Columbia among those promoting these actions.

These plans for ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ collaboration between Soviet and American musicians is being discussed in the firm 'Mezhdunarodnaya Kniga' which is ready to act as a mediator in concluding the contracts.