



The walls and ceiling of the rehearsal area will be finished with KNAUF-Acoustic advanced coating to provide a perfect environment for musicians.



The Governor's Wind Orchestra often performs at events organised by Shchekinoazot.

700

THOUSAND

ROUBLES

Shchekinoazot allocated for repair works in the rehearsal area of the House of Nobility.

230

MILLION

ROUBLES

Shchekinoazot has donated in the recent years to various charity and social projects.

The Rehearsal Room in Tula's House of Nobility has been Refurbished for Wind Orchestra

Larisa Timofeeva.
Photos by Dmitry Dzyubin
and from the Sloboda archive.

The Governor's Wind Orchestra directed by Polislav Balin is one of the most popular musical bands in our region. Everyone in Tula knows and loves the orchestra. Its musicians work a lot, perform on different stages and venues across Tula Oblast. Unfortunately, they have recently been experiencing problems with their rehearsal room. Shchekinoazot was there to help them.

Music gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, flight to the imagination, and charm and gaiety to life and to everything. It is the essence of order, and leads to all that is good, just and beautiful. These words belong to the Ancient Greek philosopher Plato and we could not agree with him more.

Tula's most experienced and skilled musicians work at the Mikhailovsky Regional Philharmonic Hall and its branch, the House of Nobility.

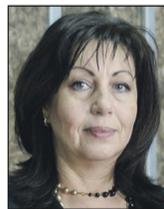
During restoration of the House of Nobility, the small hall and several rooms adjoining it were

refurbished specially for the Governor's Wind Orchestra. The band rehearsed normally for a while.

However, now the House of Nobility is actively used as a venue for forums, exhibitions, presentations, meetings, concerts and other official events. The Orchestra ended up without a room to rehearse in. They have a wardrobe, a room for sheet music, a library and a store room for instruments, but sadly, no rehearsal hall.

"The Orchestra' art director Polislav Efimovich Balin and the chief conductor Vladimir Ilyich Leer asked me to resolve this issue,"

Elena Rudneva, Director of the Tula Regional Philharmonic Hall, recalls. "We worked on the logistics of the existing rooms in the House of Nobility to determine a new rehearsal hall. The restaurant area will soon move to the left wing of the building, closer to the hotel. The right wing will be renovated for maximum comfort of the guests of the House of Nobility and musicians. The lounge area will become a lobby with facilities for exhibitions, book-crossing and a snack bar. We thought that the best choice for the musicians would be the big room with a sep-



Elena Rudneva

arate entrance. For the first time we have the chance to create a rehearsal hall for our orchestra that would meet all required standards: ceiling height, high-quality soundproofing, the most advanced materials, equipment for sheet arrangement, a library and a self-training room. At last we will have a modern hall fully equipped for rehearsals.

We applied for state financial aid, but it will only be considered in 2019, while the orchestra needs a rehearsal hall here and now. This is why we decided to look for sponsors.

Shchekinoazot immediately responded to our request and allocated RUB 700 thousand for repair works.

This amount will cover the renovation of the rehearsal hall, the doors, the entrance and the electrical systems."

The renovation started at the end of February 2018. The company Stroyproektinzhening won the tender with the subcontractor Palestra. According to Elena Rudneva, these companies are long-standing partners of the Tula Regional Philharmonic Hall and provide high-quality stable results. They are planning

to finish the renovation by the early April 2018.

"This facility is designed with the use of special 100% secure soundproofing,"

Nikolay Sushkin, Deputy Director of Palestra, says. "As

well as KNAUF gypsum coating to guarantee the best acoustic isolation. After the walls, we are going to mount the ceiling, soundproof it, and equip it with a suspended Armstrong system ceiling. This will be more than just a rehearsal hall – it will be a world-class room for wind orchestras."



Nikolay Sushkin

The lead conductor of the Governor's Wind Orchestra Vladimir Ilyich Leer is looking forward to finally rehearsing with his group in the new hall.

"This hall will be our second home," **Vladimir Leer** smiles. "Not every orchestra has such a large facility for rehearsing. This is where music is born and we are so happy to have an world-class area designed specially for us. The main factors are the territory, the air, the acoustic characteristics and the light falling on us directly from above. It is important to make sure that the produced sound is dense

and fills every corner of the room. The hall will be equipped with a three-tier podium so that every musician hears the others. The musicians in the back row should sit 20 cm above the ones in the front to see the conductor better and not deafen their colleagues. These are the world standards for rehearsal halls that already exist in Germany, France, Spain and some cities in Russia. Now we can also enjoy it.

Here we will create art and we have lots of plans. In the nearest future we will organise a jazz concert with famous singers from the Golos (Voice) project, a wonderful percussionist from Moscow, symphonic programmes, music by Paul Moriat; in the upcoming season we will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Alexandra Pakhmutova and Nikolay Dobronravov and many other exciting events.

We also have plans for a recording studio here.

We promised the Governor of Tula Oblast Alexey Dyumin that we will record a disc, and we will keep our word!"



Vladimir Leer