

INTERVIEW IS TAKEN BY ANASTASIA MURZICH



Alizbar, a multi-instrumentalist and the founder of the group “Ann’Sannat” tells about healing powers of music and fairy-tales, heroism and true (divine) love...

Alizbar.

He worshiped love only

**Alizbar, it seems to me that you come from a fairy-tale.
There is an air of mystery in you, as if you are not real.**

— Yes, recently the epithet of a story-teller and a magician follows me and even gets new variations. The main reason for it could be probably my line of work as a narrator of musical tales, and the most magical time-machine that I possess – the celtic harp. This is an instrument of the finest shape, incredible sound, it has vibroacoustic qualities and the ancient origin. When a person listens to it with an open heart, its abilities to transform and structure psyche and physical state are incredible.

That is indeed a peculiar musical time-machine that can carry a listener through time to the wondrous world of his childhood, awake his inner longed-for fairy-tale, his fantasies and reminiscences of the past – all by movements of sound vibrations. It is magic, isn't it? Naturally, people take me as a guide and both children and adults are grateful for this journey.

Many people associate you with Tolkien's characters. Is this reality close to you? What happened when you got in contact with this world for the first time? Did you recognize yourself in it or find something new and appealing?

— First I read this trilogy when I was 20 y.o. and, of course, I recognized myself in it. It did resound in me so much that I started acting without hesitation and created a group and gave it a name in the Elvish language that was invented by Tolkien (in my opinion he didn't invent it, he just overheard it in the Space).

It was a miraculous group. From the Elvish language "Ann' Sannat" is translated as "fairy-tales narrated in music or song tales of the Elves". We started playing music that is the narrator itself, and it tells its own fairy-tales.

I was genuinely happy when I entered the labyrinth of this incredible fable, thus having received and apperceived many lessons. After all, a fable, a myth is a remarkable mechanism of inward transformation. I'd like to cite Richard Bach: "What a caterpillar calls the end of the world the master calls a butterfly"

A child goes through a tale in the following succession: he experienced it, let it through himself, through his senses and won a victory in this fairy-tale together with the main character who strives for the Good (usually it is an exemplary person and a child wants to imitate him or her). In Tolkien's tale it's Frodo, and a reader overcomes all burdens and miseries with him. The reader wins with him! He defeats something that was inside him. Something that tied nerves in a knot was in his or her psyche. It is blocked energy of the psyche which is delivered. Then freedom from the unresolved problem comes as a reward, such things are practiced in Gestalt-therapy - psyche held suffering and fears in a tie, and suddenly in a moment they are overcome.

Thus, read to children fairy-tales where the Light wins over the Darkness.



A fairy or a wood-goblin or even Santa Claus - in a child's consciousness they are reflections of God and Love. And we could say that he sees Love and in other words God with his own eyes - even in forms of such strange creatures. And that teaches him to see Love everywhere and reflect it.



What is a hero in your opinion? Do you identify in yourself certain characteristics that only heroes may possess?

— A hero is a person who performs a sacrificial deed in the name of love. I believe that a deed where love is not that mainspring is not a sacrifice. That is to say any sacrifice in the name of love is heroism.

Musicians frequently choose unusual instruments when they are in search for their niche. Why did you choose the harp?

— It's more likely that the harp chose me and for my part I was inclined to the harp. We were moving to each other at the speed of our tastes and predispositions.

I suppose that the harp “saw” in me something that “she” could embody in reality and I saw in the harp that only this instrument could help me bring into being the music that sounds in my soul.

In the universe there exists a law according to which “like attracts like”. Since childhood I was in love with fairy-tales and wondrous miracles. Hardly one can deny that the harp itself and its melody are enchanting.

Have your choice changed you? Generally speaking, what do you think about changes and developments? Have you ever changed fundamentally all of a sudden? What brought about such changes?

— Certainly there were some changes, but the core of my beliefs is still the same. I have enriched it, expanding and extending it.

After I had begun playing a harp my life speeded up in an unreal manner. It is not accidentally believed that a harp is an instrument of God. Its sounds are absolute magic, it is an entry into another reality and enrichment of our reality.

A harp is a certain stepping stone into another world. I don't require dopes or drugs. I only have to sit down at the harp and I will fly up high. It a time machine, a stepping stone, one can describe it using infinitely many epithets.

You were christened as Alizbar. Are you orthodox? How do you combine in your ideology the Orthodox beliefs and magic?

— Orthodoxy (“Pravoslavie” in the Russian language) is a magical thing, isn’t it? On second thought “pravoslavie” (the roots of the compound word “Prav” and “Slav” denote “truth” and “glory”) stand for “the glory of the truth”.

Remember the deeds of Jesus? He walked on the surface of the water, raised people from the dead, restored eyesight, taught and healed people, fed thousands of people with five loafs of bread, turned water into wine. Can’t we compare it with miracles in fables? But the truth is that Jesus was real, it is not a fairy-tale. And the truth is also that in gratitude his people crucified him.

Such miraculous “gratitude” is at the heart of many deep fables - when a hero is repaid with evil for his good doings.

Now I’d like to return to the point about heroism and here there is something that I want to add. To do good things even if you know your kindness will be repaid with rudeness and misunderstanding – that is the true sacrifice and the meaning of life. That’s why the strength is in the truth.

Well, let’s take fairy-tales. What do they tell us about? When a child reads a fairy-tale he sees the main character that performs a heroic exploit. The hero struggles against the Evil that is personified in Koschei the Deathless, for example. On his way he shows his kindness, concerning and helping little animals, trees, a stove, spirits of the woods, a hedgehog, an ant. These creatures see his kindness do their best for him in return. Every little bit helps and thanks to it the hero defeats the great and mighty (at first sight) Evil.

And the child who reads or listens to a fairy tale identifies himself or herself with this character and goes through all these metamorphoses, he goes through transformations together with the main character because at that moment he is that character.

That’s why it’s necessary for children to know fairy-tales and to read them, they get morals of the story that afterwards they can apply to their life when they grow up.





I dare not do to amend the World, but I am firmly convinced that when you make yourself better, the World around you and people around you change and it is very good. I just want to deepen our music and everything that important for us.

You often go on tour, communicate with a huge amount of interesting people, have pupils... However, it seems to me that you are a loner. Am I right?

— Each of us is as solitary as we let ourselves to be solitary. Of course, I am not alone and I always see many amazing people around me, the warmth of their hearts, the Sky above me. I think it's not loneliness at all. I just could lament that few people want to go alongside. Nevertheless, it's just a little complaint, on the whole I am happy with everything (he smiles).

People gather because of their kindred warmness (in my opinion). And what do you think about people surrounding you? Tell me about your musicians.

— Yes, you are right, warmness and gladness of co-creating – it means a lot. People gather because of their warmness, and resonance, and harmony, uniting everything. I think musicians playing with me are heroes. I am very exacting and treat them as once I treated myself. There are three men playing with me. They are...

My pupil Anna. We became friends and I accepted her in our group because of her love for my instruments and style, manner. She started out as a harp pupil. But, having seen her great zeal, step by step I started teaching her my own program and she learnt to play more and more instruments. I am a multi-instrumentalist and I started teaching her the system and principles that I had worked out. And now, after one and a half years, she is playing and composing with five different instruments including harp.

Andrey Samoylov – he is a contrabass player. He is an astonishing musician and, besides, an actor of theatre. When I met him at the shop, he was buying a cello. As I am a cellist myself I gave him a piece of advice (he smiles). And he is a very good jazz contrabass player and at first I invited him at the concert and then at a rehearsal. And everything turned out well. He is a very warm, kind and honest person.

A long story ties me with Sasha Samodum. We have been playing together for about sixteen years, since the group Ann'Sannat appeared. He is an amazingly sensitive and deep musician, apart from his being cheerful and funny at the same time. He plays in many ethnic groups now.

Moreover, I work with many other guys, and I like them for their approach and musical deepness.

Are you tied by music only? Or music is Light and Beauty in itself? Or the mission is more important for you? For instance, to make the World a little better?

— Music has tied us... (he smiles). Once Boris Grebenshikov said very wisely “I should like to give a little light when it is getting dark”. I think I could subscribe to it. If it has become dark in your soul - come to us! We will share the vibrations of light that we have.

I dare not do to amend the World, but I am firmly convinced that when you make yourself better, the World around you and people around you change and it is very good. I just want to deepen our music and everything that important for us.

Your musicians practice music therapy?

— Of course, the musicians playing with me practice art-therapy because it is a fine goal.

You have said that musical instruments belong to their own elements. To what element do you belong? What does it mean for you?

— I'd rather not say which element I belong to. I think I combine - and if I doesn't - want to combine in myself all the elements. However I can definitely tell you about the main element I have in me – love in my heart.





What else gives you the feeling of harmony apart from music?

— Purpose, when I feel that I am on the right way. The feeling that I am in my place. Fearlessness and, what is the most important for me – love. The words of my favorite fairy-tale might be written instead of my answer: «He worshiped love only».

What would you like to advise to those who are looking for the harmony but don't play musical instruments?

— Come to love harp music, fall in love with a harp and start playing it. The rest will come on its own.

The legend about Tudor Rees

There were many fairies living on the Kader Idris who often walked down to villages to feel people's cordiality. As a rule, people were friendly and got gifts for it. Once Tudor Rees was sitting at home alone waiting for his wife to come back. He was singing when somebody knocked the door. Three tired wayfarer entered the house and asked for a little food. Rees set the table with everything he had; he was disappointed that he couldn't give them any fresh food as his wife was out. Wayfarers thanked the host and offered him to make a wish they could fulfill as a benefit for his hospitality. First he courteously rejected, but then cautiously made a request that wasn't understood by others before and he was laughed at because of that. He wanted to get a harp. And in the twinkling of an eye the harp appeared out of thin air in front of him. He didn't manage to thank them in time as they disappeared without trace.

Rees could play miraculous melodies no matter how awkward his hands were. When people heard this music they couldn't help dancing. Everyone danced: his wife, when she got back home, her fellow-travellers, their friends and also village residents and guests coming from everywhere. Once an enemy came at Rees's to insult him. Rees started playing his harp and he had been playing till his enemy fainted. When he departed Rees wanted to continue his playing again but it kept silent. Sweet voice proclaimed that miraculous music shouldn't serve for animosity. After a sleepless night Rees decided to play his harp again, but the harp had disappointed...

There is an expression: «People, do not grow up, it is a snare». “Re-find” a child inside yourself, look at the world through the eyes of a child, do become open-hearted like a child.

Remember what Christ was saying: “Be like little children”.

I wish that you had things in your life that make you happy and delighted. And to those who has closed the doors of their hearts from fairy-tales because of their adulthood I wish a fairy tale to appear in their life. I wish to those who had forgotten that the notions “God”, “fairy-tales”, “kind fairies” are synonyms to remember it. If you don't like your job, try to find something that brings you happiness. The labour should be associated with gladness. Nowadays only lazy ones can't earn money... Miracles and magic are things virtually lying on the ground. You just need to stop, make them out and pick them up. May goodness and love be with you!

