

= Lesopoval =

Lesopoval ( Russian : ???????? pronounced [ lʲɐˈsɔpɔˈvʲɪl ] , translated as " tree felling " or " logging camp " , a symbol of Siberian labor camps and also of the forced labor within the camps ) is a Russian band formed in 1990 by Mikhail Tanich and Sergey Korzhukov . Their music is in the style of Russian chanson , which is music from the perspective of the criminal underworld . The hero of many of their songs is often a criminal or ex @-@ convict , and their songs contain many references to the way such " marginalized " persons live . The songs in many way romanticize the life of criminals , many of them taking place in and concerning labor camps and prison .

Mikhail Tanich wrote the lyrics to every song the group performed until his death on April 17 , 2008 . In writing the lyrics to the songs Lesopoval performed , Mikhail Tanich drew on the six years he spent in a Soviet labor camp , during which time he came to empathize with criminals from all walks of life . In total , the group released at least 19 albums , including one after Mikhail Tanich 's death . Until his death in 1994 , Sergey Korzhukov wrote the musical melodies and performed most of the songs ; after his death , other artists wrote and performed the melodies . Musically , most songs feature a guitar , drums , accordions , and are often performed with strong vocals .

= = History = =

Mikhail Tanich , the co @-@ founder and lead songwriter of Lesopoval , was born on September 15 , 1923 in Taganrog , Russia . After being accused of " anti @-@ Soviet agitation " due to his praise of the German radio Telefunken while at the Rostov Civil Engineering Institute , he served six years in the Soviet labor camps from 1947 to 1953 in the Siberian city of Solikamsk . This was the same labor camp where his father served and was executed . When Joseph Stalin died , Tanich was granted amnesty , and he would leave to become a Russian poet .

He wrote many poems that would , after he met Sergey Korzhukov in 1990 , become the music of Lesopoval . The two met while Tanich was searching for a soloist to sing his songs ; Tanich 's wife had recommended Korzhukov . Sergey Korzhukov turned the poems into music by incorporating a melody , musical notes and a guitar accompaniment . He also sang the early songs of Lesopoval . The reason they named their musical group " Lesopoval " was that this was the term that people commonly used to refer to the Soviet Siberian labor camps , and the musical group was created from Tanich 's experience in these Siberian camps .

Together , Mikhail Tanich and Sergey Korzhukov wrote the early songs of Lesopoval . In 1994 , Sergey Korzhukov died at the age of 35 after falling from the balcony of his house , but he was still listed as a co @-@ author of all the songs through the 1996 album " New Lineup " ( ????? ????? . )

After the death of Sergey Korzhukov , many other writers and singers helped write the music for the songs , including Aleksandr Fedorkov . In 2008 , Tanich died in the hospital from kidney disease . Until his death , Mikhail Tanich continued to write the lyrics for all the Lesopoval songs , including the latest album - " Our life , " ( ????? ????? ) which was produced and released after his death . In his honor , the group performed in the Kremlin to memorialize his death .

= = Musical style = =

The music of Lesopoval places great importance on lyrical content , which tends to focus on freedom , labor camps , criminal life , and occasionally other topics such as peace and love . Mikhail Tanich has stated that his six years in the Russian labor camps gave him an inside perspective of all kinds of criminal life , and that his goal was to find the good in all sorts of criminals . Mikhail Tanich was a political prisoner , but he came to sympathize with many of the other prisoners who were serving in the camps , some who were falsely accused and some who were there for petty crimes . He has stated that Chanson music " blossomed wildly in Soviet times when the entire country was in camps , when these zones , barbed wire , guard towers with guards and machine guns , were everywhere , " and he has said that he feels that everyone in Russia is in some way connected to

the camps and to criminal life .

In his songs , Mikhail Tanich often touches on universal themes of Soviet life , focusing on criminal elements ( the camps , the buses that took people to camp , the life of ex @-@ convicts , etc . ) Some of his songs also deal with the political themes of the Soviet era , often with a humorous take . For example , the song " Tax " focuses on the tax on childlessness imposed during the Soviet Union , which was a 6 % tax on every adult who did not have a child . The hero of the song laments that he is forced to pay this tax while doing time in jail , yet the prison guards refuse to provide him any woman with which to reproduce .

The songs often include criminal slang , jargon and vulgarities , which the group says is necessary in order to accurately represent criminal life in Russia . However , official Governmental sources have denounced bands that sing in the style of Russian Chanson , with Vladimir Ustinov , the former prosecutor general , calling it " propaganda of the criminal subculture . "

Musically , the group builds upon the style of Russian bard music , which features strong vocals with a guitar accompaniment . The music mixes these more traditional instruments with an accordion , synthesizer , and drums .

### = = Reception = =

Due to the propensity of Russian piracy , it is difficult to measure how many Lesopoval records have been sold . Furthermore , the genre is typically relegated to late @-@ night broadcasts due to governmental pressure , and is not typically played on the radio , where Russian pop is more popular . However , Lesopoval regularly performs concerts , and is one of the most popular current Chanson bands in Russia .

Critically , the band has received positive reviews from critics . The Russian website Pravda positively reviewed their recent concerts , but stated that the group 's first hit -- " I will buy you a house " ( sung by Sergey Korzhukov ) -- remains their most popular and well @-@ sung song .

### = = Discography = =

Ya kuplyu tebe dom / I will buy you a house ( 1993 )

Kogda ya pridu / When I come ( 1993 )

Vorovskoj zakon / Law of thieves ( 1993 )

Poslednij kontsert s Sergeem Korzhukovym / The final concert with Sergey Korzhukov ( 1994 )

Amnistiya / Amnesty ( 1995 )

Novyj sostav / New composition ( 1996 )

Koroleva Margo / Queen Margo ( 1996 )

101 @-@ j kilometr / 101st kilometer ( 1998 )

Legendy Russkogo Shansona tom / Legends of Russian Chanson Volume ( 2000 )

Kormilets / The Feeder ( 2000 )

Lichnoe svidanie / Conjugal visit ( 2001 )

Ya - ottuda / I am from there ( 2002 )

Bazara net / No rumble ( 2003 )

Svobodna , blin ! / Freedom , darn it ! ( 2005 )

Vintorez / The Rifle ( 2006 )

Ulybnis , Rossiya ! / Smile , Russia ! ( 2006 )

Mama - ulitsa / Mother Street ( 2007 )

Nasha Zhizn / Our Life ( 2008 )