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GOLDEN VOICE OF THE WORLD

For a long time I didn’t know how to start my essay about Engelbert. So happened that being a President of Engelbert’s Russian Fan-Club I can say a lot about this amazing person. But to make a start is always quite difficult.

And suddenly... This magic word “suddenly” appears quite often when I start speaking about my hero.

Suddenly I got a certain text from the Internet spaciousness. As it often happens in such cases it was written by an unknown author. Thus it became a so long awaited beginning.

«Among usual human beings there happen to be people-festivals...

Whenever they appear they generate a wonderful mood and special atmosphere... illuminating everyone and everything around by their own light.

They fill hearts with an ocean of happy memories and moments – and together with them here comes that boon which always exists, existed and will exist. They are such people who can drive us to remember something happy, kind... old as the world... but so important to us...

People-festivals... not everyone gets the chance to meet them... but those, who are acquainted with them personally, know – this is an inimitable feeling.

They always come suddenly and always on time to present us with a small, but important festival called “happiness”...

For many of his fans worldwide Engelbert Humperdinck, who was born in India into a British officer family and got the name of Arnold George Dorsey, became such a festival person. The Russian fans of Engelbert waited this festival in Moscow for long seven years...

“He appeared at the stage with a kingly walk of a lion...” a Moscow journalist would write afterwards, and he would be absolutely right in this not quite a new definition. The King of Romance as he is called throughout the world looked the most real bearer of his honourable title at the Moscow stage as well. Tall and smart golden-haired Engelbert didn’t seem youthful – but he was youthful in his “slightly over...” a man in the prime of his life!

During the concert something surprising started to happen. I was sitting in a so called dress circle box – arm-chairs on the staircase leading to the enormous balcony. I felt a huge, warm wave of love moving from the balcony to the stage right through me. The second wave was raising from the stalls...I am sure sensation of the majority of the spectators was one and the same: the heart seemed to jump out of the chest and to roll down to the stage right to the feet of the owner of this

gorgeous baritone, who was singing at that moment only for you. Never in my life I have had such an experience though I have watched quite a few popular crooners (at least many soviet cinema- and pop-stars)...

Engelbert seemed quite nervous delivering first songs, his voice was trembling a little. I noticed, this happens to him every time at the beginning of his concerts abroad. During the long years of his stage career King of Romance managed to retain both awesome voice and rare sincere singing, and stage charm, and the most surprising – this ability of a young person – to feel nervous before the concert and during its beginning. He confessed it sincerely from the stage (“I am very, very nervous...”), and the audience started applauding in response. The more applauds he was getting the more passion and heart the singer was devoting to performing his romantic ballads that were loved so much by his fans. Every ballad of his was met with great delight and enthusiasm. “Applause is the food of the artist”, Engelbert keeps saying, adding, “I am still hungry...” Sometimes right in the beginning he can remark discouragingly: “I hope you will not keep me hungry...?”

Obviously it didn't happen in Moscow! The best and the most modern hall of the capital – Crocus City Hall equipped with the finest acoustics housed more than five thousand spectators that night who gathered there looking forward to watch the legend of the world stage. Despite awful advertising or better to say in spite of its total absence.

I had arrived in Moscow a fortnight before the concert, travelled it far and wide during those two weeks and nowhere I saw any posters about the coming tour of Engelbert Humperdinck! In contrast to many representatives of the Russian pop music whose concerts were advertised with enviable persistence. Though to say the truth, after the news programme on TV several days before the concert there was a short clip showing the singer in his younger years, but one should have managed to come across this clip...

Nothing could spoil this staggering concert! Two hours without any break, two hours during which the singer never left the stage... Of course it was LIVE singing; Engelbert never uses phonograms, and, I must say, it is not so widely spread abroad... Popular for many years and favourite old songs together with quite new ones... Jokes and spicy stories. One of the most gentle was the joke about the colour of his hair, which was changed: "I'm trying to get back to my roots..."

Not everyone knows that naturally Engelbert has brown curly hair. “Radical black colour” of his youth was connected not only with the early grayness, but also with a stage image of a southern macho which was gained with the help of the black colour.

Audience was singing together with Engelbert. Especially active was youth gathered on the balcony. It was the very place from which Engelbert was getting numerous requests to sing another great ballad when youngsters cried out the names of popular hits. “Everything is coming,” was the answer of the touched singer. “I am greatly impressed – even young people today know my songs!” – he added. And he was singing these songs! Could it be otherwise? Could he fail our hopes?..

“For the first time I heard Engelbert's voice in the country house in the suburbs of Moscow,” – one his old fan told me after the concert. “Along both sides of the river Ruza there were pioneer camps and rest houses. These were the places where Engelbert's voice was resounding all over through the whole of the day. When I start remembering this it still seems that his voice came from heaven... Still there is a feeling that the air which we breathed was permeated by his voice. “The Last Waltz” I remember somehow better than others. Perhaps because for the first time I came to understand English words promising that waltz would last forever. And by the way it really lasted endlessly for many years. You know, people need the sense of stability, especially children. This comforting feeling has always been kept by Engelbert. As he had promised that waltz would last for ever, so happens till now. Only imagine, 40 years have passed, and he as if nothing has happened came into the stage and sang this song. As if there were no 40 years..!”

“His singing enchants and you start counting your years back to youth when we sang exactly

alike beautiful and serene songs, and we loved... loved!" another remark that I got later from Engelbert's fan Alla Petrova, who lives in Tver (800 km to the north from Moscow).



But at that moment I was sitting and thinking – if I were told that out of all the world show business there could be left only one entertainer for me, then without saying this could be only Him. Storing all the rest singers regretlessly only in my memory... No other singer dissolves and absorbs the listener in his voice like Engelbert. I would say, it is a kind of unusual mutual penetration: you get dissolved in his voice and his voice gets dissolved in your soul; the soul is overwhelmed by this voice as by happiness in rare minutes of our life. And it concerns not those three and a half octaves, not only them, and not the unquestionable mastering of the artist... It concerns... his big heart without which no real art is possible.

*Engelbert Humperdinck.
April 2010, Moscow*

“In his songs there are always great emotions which are higher than tears,” agrees with me his fan. “Being an eminent master he is higher than all the rest... I don't mean solfeggio, style or taste. Even a plain love-song he sings with such high emotions that head goes round...”

For the first time I heard Engelbert's voice in summer 1972. I was hardly fifteen then... It seems, we – people living in the Far East of the Soviet Union were captured by him earlier than others in Russia due to tape-recordings which were brought by sailors from abroad. So, I heard this tremendous voice to which there is no comparison in all the pop world on one of Japanese tape recordings. Slightly later I got a disc, released in the USSR with the photo on the envelope which I immediately put behind the glass window of the book-case. This face with unquestionably sensual masculine beauty always attracted attention of all the guests. “Oh! Who is he?” – kept asking my curious friends on stepping into my room.

Alas! We knew very little about WHO IS HE. A foreign singer... obviously not from the socialist camp. We never knew that artistic path of this performer wasn't smooth at all. Having a perfect exterior and a marvelous voice of unusual beauty he couldn't get a wide popularity for a long time, up to his thirties. To this added a serious disease of tuberculosis which nearly crossed his further fate. In these years full of hardships when a young singer hardly managed to earn a living he always had beside him his Pat, Patricia Healey devoted life-mate who became his wife and mother of his four children. Wife for the rest of life – it is such a seldom happening among pop stars!

It is known that a great role in the fortune of Gerry Dorsey (it is the real name under which the singer started his stage career) was played by his friend and producer Gordon Mills who suggested such a resounding pseudonym. The year 1967 became really a breakthrough – the whole world heard the song “Release Me” and came to know the name of the performer – ENGELBERT HUMPERDINCK.

Most of what I have learnt from foreign sources astonished me by its unusualness, peculiarity and generosity of the soul of this person. I would even dare to say that there are only few people like him among numerous representatives of the world show business if any. This generosity of his soul and natural kindness are very seldom to be common among stars as such people are called worldwide.

I can't imagine another entertainer of his level who would make a cell phone call to an unknown old lady-fan staying in a hospital and say he was praying for her and wholeheartedly hoping for her recovering. The fan immediately forgot about her illness (why should she die if He himself gave me a call?!), left the hospital for good and at her age of 82 took up an active work in his fan club (where she was invited after that case) collecting resources for clinics and medical centers. Engelbert keeps patronizing many of such establishments, though due to his modesty doesn't like to mention such things. The singer also supports and maintains County Air Ambulance charity in his native town of Leicester in Britain.

"Fans can say anything about their idol," someone might say mistrustfully. "Idol is idol just to spread legends about him..."

Legends might happen in any other case, but here we deal with the facts. And facts should be trusted...

It is interesting to say that it was the elderly lady-fan – a positive example of active attitude towards life who became the heroine of a newspaper article, but not the Singer number one, Golden voice of the World. He was mentioned only as a participant of a curious episode in his fan's life.

Such stories like this one can keep mentioning...

Engelbert can give a call to the relatives of a fan who left a hospital on crutches for his concert and warmly reprove that he had been unaware of this fact otherwise he would have welcomed her from the stage and invited to the dressing room after the concert along with the other fans to socialize with him.

As for the cases of particular help that are quite unknown to omnipresent foreign newsmen they are the so called club classified information rendered by fans to one another and usually stays within the fan-clubs – whom and how helped Engelbert. As for me, I know the names of only two people with serious diseases who for many years get their costly operations paid by Engelbert preserving their lives. But there are so many others alike!

"What could I become if not a singer?" Engelbert repeated another provocative question. "I guess, I would be connected with medicine..."

It seems that he possesses this gift – to help people. Also to his relatives... Through all his life they meant a great deal to Enge who was brought up in a big and friendly family. Often happens that a person becoming famous, passes into the category of stars and breaks his connections with the family whom he doesn't want to know any more. Such things can never be applied to Engelbert who always remembers about everyone in the family either his brother or sister, cousin or uncle. He is happy that many of them still belong to his native Leicester where he hopes to be settled for a tranquil life after he will have completed his stage career.

In 2006 Engelbert got the news which drew him in a real shock: his elder brother became seriously ill – brain tumour of an orange size! The shock was so strong that he lost his voice... Engelbert cancelled all his concerts and hurried to his brother.

He spent much time with Irwin. Not only serious operation, but the presence of loving brother played its positive role. After this complicated period the singer looked tired, but heartened up: Irwin overcame terrible disease and even started work. The most interesting thing is that right after that his unique voice returned back to Engelbert again. Moreover, the voice became richer, lower and deeper. Though in his years singers quite seldom manage retain their real voices.

It seems, his name has not been chosen by chance: Engelbert in ancient German means Shining angel.

A young journalist Harriet Lane managed to make Enge (he is often called by this name by his overseas' fans) say a few words about his extraordinary abilities. Soon preparing to replenish the

numbers of people celebrating Mother's Day Harriet decided to make an interview with one of the most charismatic representatives of the males' class.

After strolling along the singer's estate during which the host paid her attention to local sightseeing such as a quiet heavenly corner where his wife Pat likes to sit and be quiet, Enge invited the journalist home and led to a big sitting room with a big fireplace. Considerately offering her a big armchair, Enge set opposite her and asked with a smile: "I presume, you are certainly aware of who you are expecting?"

No, honestly and with a certain bewilderment answered Harriet, she didn't know. She had some prejudices against such medical check-up.

"You are right, don't do that," Enge said, tenderly looking at the young woman with his green eyes. "You are going to have a baby-girl". And added: «I am always right», as if he was going to hear her objections after his verdict.

(Two months after the interview Harriet Lane delivered a lovely baby-girl.)

"Will you say a few words about your skills?" Harriet asked.

"I never speak about it", Enge gently answered.

Harriet felt a kind of regret and even resentment. Is it possible to neglect the request of an expectant mother? And he started...

Some years ago being tired of useless recommendations of the official medicine on a long lasting infection, which had caught him and didn't stop, Engelbert went to see a healer from Hamburg for a consultation. The specialist cured him, but another moment is interesting. The doctor suddenly said to Engelbert: "Two healers work along with me, but you are better than both of them. You have a remarkable aura, you possess an immense power to help people. Are you aware of it?"

Following the lessons of the representative of a non-traditional medicine Enge decided to check his abilities on his own family. Actually he wanted to prove his skills in healing by applying hands. The first experience proved to be a staggering result: light pricking in his hand and migraine of his patient disappeared in three minutes!

Engelbert went silent as if thinking over if he had said anything superfluous. It was that single episode that he had revealed to curious Harriet.

And what about his spectators? Usually his healing goes along with the third song in every performance though the audience is quite unaware that it is going on.

"I never tell them I do such things. Do I have extraordinary skills? Oh! It is God who cures, not me. Healing comes from above. And me..." added he modestly, "I am only a channel..."

The singer never leaves the icon of God Mother. It is always with him in every tour of his. "Anywhere – be it in a hotel suit or in a dressing room first of all I arrange the place where I could pray before the concert", he confesses. "And after. I always thank Her that my voice didn't let me down, that I managed to give people what they expected from me..."

By the end of Moscow concert something unexpected and unusual started to happen. People sitting in the back rows silently stood up and in silence went along towards the stage to singing Engelbert. In the quiet silence. It looked as the influence of a magic pipe from the fairy tale about Neels's travel with wild geese. People were approaching the stage one by one, one after another. As if he called them mentally! Spectators from the back rows were followed by spectators from the stores. With fortitude I stayed in my seat though it was not an easy deal to stay...

"Tell me, how he sings?" my Moscow relative asked after the concert.

I confess it was a difficult question for me.

Let's turn for help to my friend musicologist from Moscow:

“I think you will agree with me that Engelbert’s voice is extremely sexy, there is wideness of his soul in it, together with this the voice lifts you and takes to an ideal spiritual space. Frankly speaking, I don’t know any other singer with such a diapason. I am speaking not about his 3,5 octaves as you can guess. People usually sing with the capacity in one or two. The voice can be simply sexual and a little bit of soul (Ramazotty as an example), Edit Piaf – Soul (Spirit); Obodzinskiy – Soul, by the way crying soul, Rafael – Spirit and a little bit of Soul, etcetera. Singers have such qualities in different quantities. But to have them like Engelbert – everything in full quantity... That is why a man sitting beside me at the concert asked: is he a human being...? He can do with his voice whichever he wants... He sings in three dimensions. You know – there is mono sound and stereo sound... but Engelbert is much cooler; it is quadro...”

In the end of Moscow concert the spectators saw tears of the singer. Standing on the edge of the stage surrounded by people, deeply touched by love of his Russian fans, he was singing as a farewell one of his most famous songs “The Shadow Of Your Smile” practically without microphone. And suddenly, quite spontaneously he included mentioning of Moscow into the words of the song.

Driven by the cordial reception that he experienced here in the capital of Russia he would often remember Moscow in his numerous interviews. His Moscow photos will be added to his official site. No other country is represented there in photos neither before nor after!

“Such a pity that Russia is so far,” Engelbert said to the President of Michigan fan-club Marilynn Sacker before coming to Moscow. “But people are very nice!”

The first tour of Engelbert to Russia happened in 2003 when he gave two concerts at the Kremlin Palace in Moscow. (Statements of electronic encyclopedia as if the first concert of Humperdinck was in 1997 and didn’t have any press coverage are mere fraud. There was no concert at all, it was cancelled due to illness of the singer, Engelbert gave his excuses in the press.) On June 10, 2003 we heard interviews with Engelbert over the radio. They were broadcasted by the radio stations “The Silver rain” and “The Echo of Moscow” showing Engelbert as an interesting and witty person. The next concert which I was happy to participate we waited for seven years...

Russian fans of Engelbert were very lucky with the concert in April 2010. So happened that the president of Crocus Company and the owner of Crocus City Hall Aras Agalarov needed the star of Engelbert’s level to open the splendid hall which houses more than 6,000 people. At first it was thought to open the hall with the concert of Humperdinck in autumn 2009. But the hall wasn’t ready, so the singer went to Kiev instead of Moscow. The concert was postponed till next spring. By that time the big Hall of Crocus City hall had been opened – with the memory concert dedicated to a great soviet singer Muslim Magomaev. Agalarov is said to be his friend and married to his niece. There was another positive moment in postponing Engelbert’s concert. Rumors said that Agalarov sponsored the building of a new metro station constructed next to Crocus City. Thus, nearer to the time of the concert on 3 April, 2010 lots of metro trains full of people hurried right from the city centre to Crocus City Hall. Moscow was moving to Engelbert...

Imagine, Engelbert not only loves people – he has a unique skill to draw them to one another despite huge distances, different countries and continents...

The necessity to organize his fan-club in Russia became too obvious after the concert.

After the concert it became clear how necessary was to organize a fan-club in Russia. The concert gathered numerous old fans from all far distant corners of the country: Saint Petersburg, Krasnodar, Voronezh, Rostov-na-Donu, Novosibirsk, Vladivostok... They came to Moscow using all kinds of occasions. A bit later I came to know that the same happened during the concert in Kiev (Ukraine). People from Moscow, Saint Petersburg, other Russian cities came to Kiev only to listen to the favourite singer. In Moscow all of us were sitting together in one hall not knowing one

another yet and only after the concert got acquainted and became friends in the space of the Internet. The pleasant thing is – among Engelbert’s fans there are also quite young people who understand and admit real art.

Undoubtedly, Engelbert and his creative work – they are a part of the world culture, one of its best parts. Information about this extraordinary personality should be distributed among as many people as possible. He attracts people of different social levels, so it was impossible to build a serious fan-club on the grounds of an elitist group. Thus appeared the idea to organize Russian fan-club on the base of a big social Internet hosting which gives numerous opportunities to put out videos and audio with Engelbert’s songs and besides many fans had already had there own pages in this hosting. I decided that the Internet hosting “My world” can provide the best ground for the society. And I was right – it was the place where Engelbert’s Russian Fan-Club was registered and I became its organizer and president.

In “My World” on the pages of Engelbert’s fans we can find unique collections of his songs and videoclips from different concerts made both by foreign and Russian fans of the singer. At present our society encompasses hundreds of people from all Russia, from the former Soviet Union republics, from foreign states (Russian speaking people who have lived for a long time abroad; in Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, former Yugoslavia, Greece, USA).

Engelbert with his wonderful songs collects around himself quite interesting and self-sufficient people from all corners of the world. As a rule, they are the people who found their own place on Earth long ago and who have been quite successful in their chosen careers: artists, professional singers and musicians, teachers and doctors, engineers, economists, historians, philologists, art critics and simply music lovers. (Among his fans as a member of our society there is also a known song composer from Ussuriysk – Lyudmila Bondar.) I will not be mistaken to say that some of the society members became not only my true helpers to run the society life but close friends. One of them – Irina Pismennaya from Archangelsk on the White Sea – a very organized, thoughtful and cordial lady – told me about a certain theory – people from one basket. People feel one another according to the similarity of their souls, to a certain cordial likeness and gather in one place. They only need to be gathered. And this was done by Engelbert!

He connects his fans from all distant corners of the world by close ties of friendship. The most friendly and immense correspondence I have with the above mentioned Marilyn Sacker, who runs organized by herself the fan-club in Michigan. She has been personally acquainted to Engelbert and his family around 40 years, numerous times attended his concerts and visited the dressing-rooms. Marilyn, extremely energetic in her green years, often visited other American cities to attend concerts of her favourite Enge. For a long time she has been working in her club and helping the singer to raise money for his charities. Like many of his fans abroad Marilyn as well could apply the words of an unknown fan under one of his videos to herself:

I fell in love with his voice, then saw him in person, got to know him, spoke to him, met his family (as many fans do.) Now I realize I didn't just fall for a voice from Heaven, I fell for a wonderful, humble man, who strives so hard to please his audience, knows many by first names, and cares what goes on in our lives. He is a Special Gift.

Yes, that is true... And this gift is usually given to people with kind hearts if to judge the fans of Engelbert. From my experience of contacting Marilyn and others, his American fans are kind and friendly people, deeply devoted to their families and have a good sense of humour.

I was pleasantly surprised by the following moment. Joan from the United States sent me a video after having visited Engelbert’s concert in May 2010. In response to my traditional “*From Russia with love, Elena*” she signed her letter: “*From Great United States with love, Joan*”.

As for the annual meeting of Engelbert’s clubs it is not under discussion if your club is invited, one fan wrote to me. (And really some months later after this conversation we got an invitation from Engelbert’s office to come to Las Vegas for the evening with Engelbert together

with other fans! A very special evening timed to the opening of the next Star of our favourite singer on the Alley of Glory.) For example, Yuki Saito... Only here it became clear to me a certain non-understanding of my American friend: President of the Japanese club Yuki Saito with several other ladies every time attends such meetings coming from Yokohama! And Japan whose inhabitants love beautiful voices and melodic songs adores Engelbert greatly from old times. Besides, Japan is quite near to Primorskiy kray...

Japanese fans just like other his foreign fans make wonderful videos on his songs. One of them, made by a young Japanese lady and displayed in "YouTube" in 2011 shocked many members of our society by its prophetic content: on the screen the pictures of Japanese shore so resembling in its contours our Primorye alternated with strange photos of clouds one of which looked like a nuclear explosion... The video impresses more when you know the time when it was made – 4 March 2011 – before tragic events in Japan! Engelbert's voice sounds here as a saving prayer...

Engelbert's appearance in Jurmala as a prominent guest of the "New Wave" in July 2010 once more stressed the poverty and wretchedness of the modern Russian show business – both low level of contestants and real level of national notorious "stars". Many of them were sitting with bated breath in the hall during his performance. Engelbert sang four songs there, one of them was presented for the first time. It was the song that was cut out by valorous Russian TV as if there was nothing and nobody else to be cut out at the "New Wave". But we were grateful to him that a million TV audience got the real possibility to watch the great singer in reality.

It goes without saying – he was the only one who could be listened to at this "New Wave" and who was pleasant to be watched. A SINGING singer with a tremendous voice dressed modestly, strictly and with taste, who behaves on the stage with dignity, who doesn't whisper, doesn't cry out any abracadabra from the stage – a real rarity in the present Russian show business! And as always Engelbert's image fully responded to his inner world, when charm and immensity of the Personality are too evident!

Doesn't the problem lie here, if to speak about the representatives of the modern Russian show business? Having weak voices, lacking masterly performance, shocking spectators by defective inner life they become "stars" only due to pushing efforts of "prima donnas" and producers. But to become a Personality in show business one ought to be a real personality in life... Thus it is not accidentally after Engelbert's enchanting appearance in Jurmala statements like the following could be heard: "One of the best show business singers of all times and nations! So much nobleness apart from voice and timbre, such charm!"

Of course, Engelbert possesses a very strong character. If without it, I think, we wouldn't listen to him today. He is a romantic and together with this a realist who values the current moment. He lives for the day and together with this considers about the future... He can have very deep emotions judging from his autobiographical book "Engelbert: what's in a name?" He remembers for many years such things that other people would forget long ago. He remains very thankful to people who once helped him. Even if they are simple neighbours who fed Pat and him when they were hungry in his hard years. He speaks in his book about his wife with a great respect. I would even say that there is more respect than simple love. Only once he mentions her prettiness, but most of all he speaks about her mind, tact, wonderful mother qualities and honesty. He writes that he has never met people like Pat in his life. Many will be surprised, but Engelbert hasn't pronounced any other women's name in connection with himself in contrast to our konchalovskiys... Yes, he has retained a solid family in spite of all, despite all his extraordinary popularity among ladies. And this is the example which could be taught to many so called stars that keep collecting husbands or wives.

"There is no positive hero in our life," – one fan continues my thought. "There is no standard to follow. Youngsters love Engelbert because he is stable in everything, in his creative success as well. Engelbert – is the last of the Mohicans, a person of vanishing culture, a legend-man."

“I am surprised, why there is not a single channel in the Russian TV which would make a programme about him?” asked me one Russian fan. “Are they afraid of competing with our old masters? Even early on Saturday mornings we can not find anything... Perhaps I don’t understand what happens...”

Judging from what happens many people do not understand...

“The way he lives, the things he does causes both – admiration and boundless respect!” confessed to me one day muscovite Lidia Stankevich, one of my assistants in Engelbert’s Russian Fan-Club.

“I wish us to meet such PERSONALITIES at least once in our lives,” wrote to me Nadya Semertzidu from Greece, also a member of our club. “You touch something high and kind and want to become better yourself.”

By the way, Nadya Semertzidu asked me to tell her beforehand about next concert of Engelbert in Moscow, so that she could come to Moscow by air to attend it. At first all the efforts of our club to organize this concert seemed in vain – concerts in Russia promised by Engelbert’s office didn’t appear in his tour list for a long time (until autumn 2011). We thought that even his office failed to “suppress” drastic and sluggish officials from the Russian cultural quarters. But we were happy to be mistaken. I was unbelievably happy when saw Engelbert’s reply to my request on his official site that the negotiations about his concerts in Russia were coming to a positive completion and quite soon we were going to see them in his schedule for the year of 2011. “I can’t wait to tour in Russia!” added he.

Many Russian fans of his also could not wait for the concert. Imagine, in 2010 due to the lack of advertising by no means all interested Muscovites managed to listen to live Engelbert. Most of them were simply unaware of the concert. “Engelbert Humperdinck – lyrical singer number one in the world”, say Muscovites. “Thanks God, he exists and presents people with such happiness – to watch him and to listen to him! We are looking forward to his coming to Moscow!”

Soon we came to know the dates of the concerts: 6 December 2011 in St.-Petersburg and 8 December 2011 in Moscow.

In October 2010 one more award was added to Engelbert: it was a prestigious award The Music Legend which was given to him by the American Society of Young Musicians supported by huge ovations of numerous fans, who had come over to Hollywood from different American cities and foreign countries. Jarvee Hutcherson, National President of the non-profit foundation said: «in these tough economic times, we need to encourage the human spirit through music now more than ever.”

Certainly this event was widely covered by the world Mass Media. With the exception of the Russian ones. On the day of the important jubilee of the great singer our “cultural TV” (channel Culture) was showing a “jubilee” concert of Barbra Streisand whose jubilee had happened four years before that...

Another landmark got the worldwide coverage – opening of Engelbert’s star on the Alley of Glory in Las Vegas. The place from where his way to the world glory started. Journalists were very impressed by the speech of the hero of the occasion at his concert after the solemn ceremony. They happened to watch many foreign entertainers, including British, who made their careers due to the US, but Engelbert was the first to confess in his deep gratitude towards the American spectators and their country before singing famous “America, America!”.

There is one moment which is not entirely clear to some Americans – Engelbert still hasn’t acquired the citizenship of the United States. Though he truly admits how comfortable he feels living in Los-Angeles in a cozy house on the top of the hill, far from busy roads. Engelbert loves the Americans and the Americans adore him, then one should ask: “Why..?” Even some heads of states

are not against to get themselves a double citizenship. Only it is not the case of the King of Romance!

“For me my home is Britain. Because I have been brought up here and have become what I am now. I am British,” firmly Engelbert says while asked about this problem. “There is only one Motherland...”

“Which of my songs do I want to be remembered for?” – Engelbert said in one of the interviews. “All my songs. I recorded songs with a great deal of meaning, songs of lasting material. That’s the legacy I want to leave behind – a Legacy of love.”

Translated by Dr. Elena Lavrina, consultant of the President of Engelbert’s Russian Club.