

Chervona: New Video vs. Old Russian New Year

by Stephanie Salvey on January 13, 2012



Each year around this time the cheapest round trip to Russia is a ticket to Chervona's *Old Russian New Year* party. [Chervona](#), Oregon's premiere Russian gypsy-pop punk-brass band, annually celebrates their bolshoi (big) traditional Russian winter holiday with a concert at one of many central Portland nightclubs. This coming week, Chervona's *Old Russian New Year* will be held at Dante's downtown at Third and Burn' on Friday the 13th.



Snegorochka and Ded Moroz (holiday grandfather and his granddaughter the snow girl) have extra to celebrate this year as [Chervona](#) will debut their nearly-naughty holiday music video "Bottoms Up". This music video drew the input and participation of many creatives within and outside of the eight piece Chervona group: Lyrics by Alma Laskoniene and Andrei Temkin (Chervona's vocalist and guitarist); music and arrangements by Andrei Temkin, [Anton Van Oosbree](#) (Chervona's trumpet/accordion player) and Roman Tchamkin (Chervona's tuba/bass player); art design by Alma Laskoniene; and set art by the Russian painter [Andrey Nedashkovskiy](#). The video was produced by Alma, Andrei and "V" (Vernon Vinciguerra) of [Visual Producers](#). This party music video speaks loudly of the creativity, humor and artistic talent that surrounds Chervona.

Fans and friends of [Chervona](#) were invited to participate in their video shoot of "Bottoms Up", including immigrant writer [Peter Korchnak](#) who now lives in the river city of Portland. On his website [American Robotnik](#), Korchnak offers a cultural and social written sketch of an immigrant with a Central European slant and he is qualified to do so having resided and studied in another river dissected city...Bratislava, Slovakia, the great European cultural center.

American Robotnik recently describes the December 2011 production of the Chervona Bottoms Up video on as seen here below.



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Article and Photos by Peter Korchnak

I discovered the band Chervona by missing their street concert at the Polish Festival. I listened to their music online every time I postponed going to one of their bi-monthly shows around town. So I was going to be damned if I were to miss the video shoot for their Xmas song "Bottoms Up".

Advertised on Facebook with a call for talent, extras, and production help, the shoot took place last

Thursday, December 8th, 2011, at Lents Commons, a Southeast Portland Coffee House. The "Russian genius painter Andrey Nedashkovskiy" created a beautiful, festive, and slightly bizarre set. I showed up well into the shoot's 2nd day to help as an extra for the mass party scenes, take a few photos, and witness the creation of what "NW America's (and the world's) ultimate party band" dubbed their "present for Chervona's 5th birthday". The 4.5 hours I spent on the set seem like a blur now. Here's what stands out two days later.

Meet the Muse-I enter Lents Commons and stand in the back, by the counter, to take the set in. Nothing seems to be happening, yet the place is buzzing. A man in a green ball cap who turns out to be Steve asks me for a cigarette, and when I say I don't smoke, he asks, "Why?", then recommends I get a beer. (Later he will tell pedophile jokes.) They only have PBR, but it's cheap. I ask the barista to point out the person in charge. He gestures toward a woman in red. "I hear you're in charge," I tell her. She confirms it, welcomes me, and suggests I get situated. Her name is Alma. That being a Hungarian word for apple, I think of an apple. I ask her how she knows the band. Smiling, she says, "I'm the muse."



The Videographer "V" and The Muse (in pony tails)

Vodka Drink, Lager Drink-The next person to walk in, a librarian named Al, looks just as curious and clueless as me. But only for a minute: he brought help. The barista says we can't drink the vodka inside. With an air of experience, Steve stuffs the Monopolowa bottle in an inside pocket of his vest, the three of us grab coffee cups, and slip out. Steve is a long-ago immigrant from Wales. He makes the dive bar across the street sound amazing. Al's coworker is Czech or Slovak; by the name I'm guessing the former. As the vodka begins to seep through the cup seams, it occurs to me the season of sharing can happen—is happening—without anyone having to remind us. Later I buy Al a beer.

"Have You Seen Them Live?"-There's a lot of standing and waiting around between scenes. At least there's filming to watch, people to talk to, and PBR to sip (the vodka's gone). Most people who aren't in the band seem to be either their chance acquaintances or Facebook friends. The music brought us together. The band's live performances come up a lot. "No, I haven't, yet," I admit, over and over, "but I'm going to their Russian New Year's Party at Dante's." It sounds like many people will be there. I misplace another half-full beer. On the sofa, the Big Bad Wolf is reading a picture book.

Sickle and Hammer-On camera, I'm a member of the background party crowd. I wear an ear-flap hat (ushanka in Russian, baranica in Slovak) the director handed to me. The hat is white, furry, and too small for my big head. It's also too hot, so I carry it in my hand or under my arm between scenes. Andre the frontman notices the hat's lack of decoration just as he's looking for somewhere to stick a large pin featuring a red star backing a gold sickle and hammer. He starts connecting the two pieces, pauses as I try to stop him. Hoping to clarify the matter, I say, "I'm from Slovakia." He nods, shrugs, hands me the hat back, sans the star. The director calls for the next scene.



Osama Santa-A dancing scene on the stage: sweating underneath the ushanka, I accidentally hit one of the school girls in the back of the head with a champagne bottle. She's okay. We laugh about it later. Osama bin Laden photoshopped into a Santa

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costume is smiling from a Christmas card stuck in the tree. The blow up doll makes a lot of friends until someone stuffs her in the oversize stocking hanging over the fireplace.

Happy Birthday, Jesus! In the dinner table scene (my last) we sway sideways, left, right, left, right, take after take. Maria sitting next to me says the song reminds her of the “Feliz Navidad” tune. I confuse her employer’s acronym with another, then clink my shot glass (water) with her champagne flute (diluted wine), and join the chorus, “Bottoms uuuuup!” It’s chilly outside.

The Old New Year tradition has been kept in Russia, Serbia, Armenia, Ukraine, Moldova, Georgia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and the Republic of Macedonia.

Старый Русский Новый Год 2012!



Old Russian New Year Party Featuring:

CHERVONA,

[PAVA](#) (Ancient Russian traditional songs)

[VERAPANITCH](#) – (First violin of Denmark is a Russian Girl)

DJ EUGENE (Portland) vs. DJ MAKEDON (Seattle)=Russian Disco vs. Balkan Grooves

Fri. Jan 13, 9:30, [Dantes](#), 350 W. Burnside, \$15, 21+

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Tags: "V", Alma Laskoniene, Andrey Nedashkovskiy, Anrei Temkin, Anton Van Oosbree, Chervona, Dante's, DJ Eugene, DJ Makedon, Pava, Peter Korchnak, Robotnik, Roman Tchamkin, Vera Panitch, Vernon Vinciguerra, Visual Producers

One Response to “Chervona: New Video vs. Old Russian New Year”

“Russian Old New Year 2012. Party!” on Friday the 13th Promises a Party » American Robotnik says:

January 13, 2012 at 12:31 pm

[...] to Stephanie Salvey’s intro to the reprint [pdf] of my article about the video shoot on Oregon Music News, “Each year around this time [...]

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Stephanie Salvey

This fourth generation Portlander has been a business player in the Oregon music scene since the early nineties when she owned a live music club near the downtown waterfront. Her music industry past include gigs as a music journalist, publicist,



concert promoter, band manager and record label gal. She is currently a partner in Portland-Austin fledgling music company Shiftone Records, is on the Board of Directors for The Jeremy Wilson Foundation and manages Portland rock group Wilkinson Blades. Weekdays are for a rural county legal writing gig. Nights are spent at a flat in NW Portland or out in two-tone Tony Lamas, chasing live music as an insider and fan. Contact Steph: red dirtboots@oregonmusicnews.com

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