

Dear Friends,

Following our successful Chekhov jubilee celebrations at the Hampstead Theatre in January, we have been able to raise enough money to provide substantial aid for the Chekhov House-Museum in Yalta. We would like to thank all the actors, writers, and directors who participated in the week of performances, and we are also extremely grateful to our enthusiastic audiences and the management of the Hampstead Theatre for their support. As a result, we were able to raise £33 000, with a further £30 000 kindly donated by the Lebedev Foundation.

We would like to record the generosity of private individuals, and institutions such as Eltham College (London), which held a disco to raise money for the House-Museum and Philippa Chapple and fellow members of ADFAS in Mornington Peninsula (outside Melbourne, Australia), who staged fundraising performances of Chekhov's one-act play *The Proposal*. And we would also like to say thank you to Ala Osmond of Exeter International for facilitating the Chekhov Anniversary Tour to Crimea in May, which was an amazing experience for everyone who came on it. We will be posting pictures and an account of the tour in due course.

Although our aim was always to support the Chekhov house itself, the unforeseen damage of the archival/exhibition building caused by a hurricane on the 16th of February took priority. The Anton Chekhov Foundation was able to come to the rescue by sponsoring repairs to the roof of the building, which are due for completion by the end of June.



There is some positive news from the House-Museum staff. The new Ukrainian president Viktor Yanukovich has recognized the international importance of this unique museum, and has pledged his support for the structural repairs needed at the Chekhov house. Financial aid is expected by the end of this year, and we will be closely monitoring the situation. The restoration of Chekhov's original furniture in the house, as well as the museum's precious archive will not going be covered by the grant, however, so there is much work for our Foundation to do.

Accordingly, our next step is to look into providing specialist aid to restore some of the original fabrics. Many of these are at present covered by white cloth, as they are in too frail a condition to be displayed. Although bureaucratic obstructions previously prevented the use of foreign specialists, the new government seems willing to encourage them now. If you know of a textile conservator who might be interested in working on site in Yalta, with a help of a volunteer interpreter, please, write to us at yaltachekhov@gmail.com.

We will be posting a new report on our campaign soon, as well as details of more events and 150th birthday anniversary celebrations. Meanwhile, you might be interested in coming along to a talk Rosamund will be giving about the campaign at Pushkin House, on 16 June 2010 at 7:30: "Chekhov's Dacha in Yalta: Its History and the Campaign to Save It". The talk is one in a series organized by MAPS (Moscow Architectural Preservation Society).

[Click here](#) for further information or phone 020 7269 9770.

With best wishes

Rosamund, Elena, Alexander

