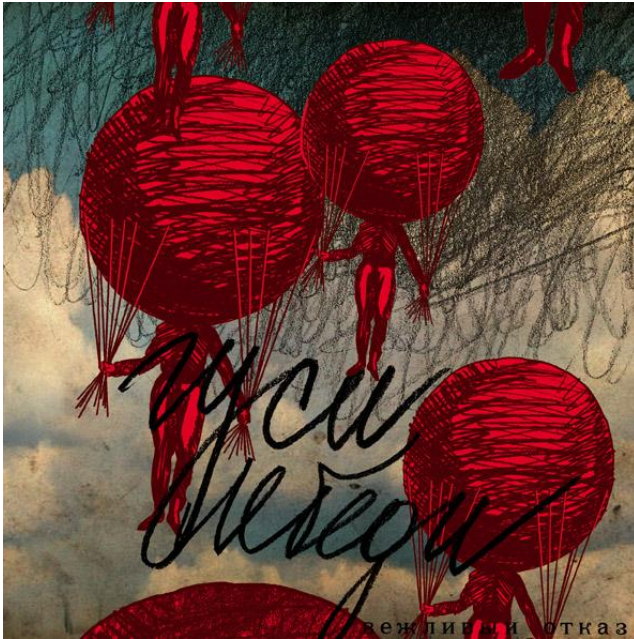


# VEZHLIVY OTKAZ

## (aka Polite Refusal)

|| avant-garde || experimental || modern jazz || futurism/constructivism || folk ||

“Vezhlivy Otkaz, which means “polite refusal” in English, is one of the most original and erratic rock bands in Russia. It was formed in 1985 with a then-popular reggae/ska blend. Since then, they have gone through numerous stylistic changes, flirting with everything from free jazz to Russian folk. Their sound, however, has always been unique and immediately recognizable. Roman Suslov’s rhythmic guitar work



and unusual high-pitched vocals gives VO’s music a precisely constructed, crystal-clear sound that is completely devoid of any of the extra noise so typical of rock-n-roll. The sound is so well organized that sounds almost academic.”

*Artemy Troitsky, “Moscow Times”*

“This Moscow sextet’s 2010 album, *Geese and Swans*, is truly unique and excitingly unpredictable.”

“Countless groups have used rock song forms to launch extended instrumental excursions. But rarely, if ever, quite like this.”

*Dave Lynch, www.allmusic.com*

“*Geese and Swans* incorporated few war songs but new material kept arising and has already been arranged into a *War Songs* suite. *Otkaz* has by far not for the first time turned to war matters

(*Civil War* doublet in *Geranium*, or *Waltz* in *Go to it!*..) but this time only the war is brought to the foreground of an entire album—devoid of propaganda and naturalism, tormenting, violent and obscure.”

“Some imprints of various music styles from Prokofiev to *tango nuevo* and *Soviet songs* might be found in the music of *Geese and Swans*. It has the undertone of both British progressive rock of the 1970s and continental orchestral *quasi-avant-garde* of the 1990-2000s. An unconventional band set, complex rhythm patterns, intricate melodies and junctions between piece parts produce a totally unique sound which VO seems to have been seeking for all this time.”

*Gregory Durnovo, “Kommersant”*

“As such, Vezhlivy Otkaz is virtually reconstructing the 1910-1920s of Russian history, namely, a combination of Russian musical avant-garde (*futurism&constructivism*) with the grassroots culture that never really happened.”

*Dmitry Ukhov, www.openspace.ru*



In 2002 VO printed *Geranium*, their seventh album that was written in 1996-1998 and recorded in 1999-2000, and declared the end of the project. After reunion in 2006 the band continued in a form of *Circle for Musical Studies* (the epithet they're using since 1985) alternating club concerts with recitals at large Moscow venues (Gorky's Art Theatre, Central House of Artists, Yauza Palace) or local festivals (Usadba Jazz, Martynov's Festival, Empty Hills.) In 2009 & 2011 VO initiated two actions under the name of 'Nichtzusammen' where not only new VO material was presented but also the works of Stravinsky (Ragtime for 11 instruments, Dumbarton Oaks), Mosolov (Four Newspaper Advertisements) and George Antheil were performed by PerSimfAns ensemble. In 2012-2013 they kept working on War Suite (seeking for material to complete the suite) and re-issuing of their back-catalog (*Steel and Stone*, *Ethnic Experience* and *Geranium* were released to date).

For long, Roman Suslov, the band leader and composer of all VO music since 1986, was dedicated to development of the first private horse farm in post-Soviet Russia and only became free for wider concert activity in 2012/2013. Now, for the first time after a long break, VO started looking for opportunities to perform at international venues.



Since January 2006 the band consists of six members (left to right): [Sergey Ryzhenko](#) (violin, vocal), [Pavel Karmanov](#) (piano, flute), [Mikhail Mitin](#) (drums), Roman Suslov (guitars, vocal), [Dmitry Shumilov](#) (bass, double-bass, vocal) and [Andrey Solovyev](#) (trumpet, vocal).

**LISTEN:** [Murka](#) ("Geese and Swans" CD)  
[LZ](#) ("Geese and Swans" CD)  
[We'll Win Over!](#) (War Songs)

**DOWNLOAD:** [iTunes](#)  
[Amazon](#)

**WATCH:** [Rockenroll](#) ("Steel on Stone" CD)  
[Wardrobe](#) ("Geranium" CD)  
[LZ & Luhta](#) (drums-free set)

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**CONTACTS:** [Technical rider](#)  
Mail - [v.otkaz.info@gmail.com](mailto:v.otkaz.info@gmail.com)

