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Press release

RUSSIA'S FIRST TB AMBASSADOR

On January 27, 2006, as part of worldwide events to announce the Global Plan to Control TB Within Our Lifetimes, Vladimir Shakhryn, lead singer of the rock group CHAIF, joins international efforts as Russia's Good Will Ambassador of the Stop TB Partnership, housed by the World Health Organization. In accepting this honorary position, Vladimir Shakhryn said: "There are great numbers of unfortunate people who have tuberculosis and many others who may contract the disease. We must let people know that there is help available. My task is to promote the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis. I'll be like a bullhorn for the respected professionals at the Stop TB Partnership of WHO. Hopefully, the tandem of CHAIF and the Stop TB Partnership of WHO will change people's lives for the better."

CHAIF is one of Russia's oldest and most popular rock bands. The group started playing together in the mid-80s and still going strong today, with a fan base of rebellious twenty-somethings all the way to respectable middle-aged citizens. One of Russian music's pioneering influences in modern rock, CHAIF first hit the big time in the early 1990s with a ground-breaking blend of acoustic and electric guitars which create the band's trademark hard rock yet soulful sound. CHAIF writes all its own music and lyrics and manages to be simultaneously romantic, humorous and thoughtful in its contemplation of life, love and social issues. CHAIF's music is quintessential Russian rock 'n roll.

In 2005 CHAIF celebrated its 20th anniversary. Despite their popularity in Moscow, where for two years in a row crowds of over 20,000 fans have flooded their concerts in Russia's enormous Olympic Stadium, the group still lives in the Urals city of Ekaterinburg (2000 km from the capital). Vladimir Shakhryn and guitarist Vladimir Begunov went to high school together, and then served with drummer Valery Severin in the army. Their souls are in Russia's heartland.

CHAIF has a long history of social activism. The group has played concerts on the frontlines in Chechnya and on the Tadjik-Afghan border. They have performed in concerts "Rock for Clean Water" and in the countrywide efforts to get out the youth vote "Vote or Lose."

And this isn't their first association with the World Economic Forum at Davos. In 2005 CHAIF performed for world economic leaders at the Russian Night celebration in Davos. "The 'face' of Russian culture might be the Bolshoi Theatre," said Vladimir Shakhryn, "But in Davos we're showing the whole world that Russian culture has a body, too!"

Russian business press on CHAIF at Davos in 2005:

Kommersant, Febuary 1, 2005: "Davos Rocks": CHAIF lead singer Vladimir Shakhryn raised the roof with his songs and drew onto the dance floor Andrei Kostin (CEO of Vneshtorgbank) and his wife Natalia; Vladimir Pozner, head of the Russian TV Academy; Viktor Pinchuk, deputy in the Ukrainian Parliament, head of the corporation Interpipe and son-in-law of former Ukrainian Leonid Kuchma. Pinchuk was joined by his

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wife and the stars of Russian ballet. Finally Polish president Aleksander Kwasniewski and his wife took to the floor.

Bankir.ru, February 3, 2005: The hit of the Russian Night party was the group CHAIF, who played the most popular songs in their repertory. It turns out that Russian rock 'n roll as performed by CHAIF reaches foreigners as much as it touches Russians. When they played their hit, "Don't Rush," the entire hall held hands and swayed to the music.