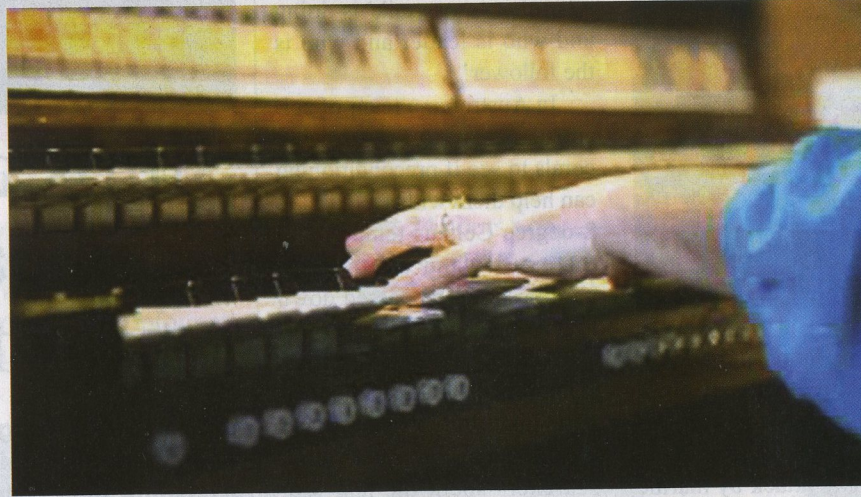


Amazing sounds to thrill the soul

By Alexander Pimenov

***Organs of Belarus* book, dedicated to the centuries-old organ culture, presented at National Library of Belarus**

The idea to prepare and release such a book belongs to the Petrus Brovka Belarusian Encyclopaedia Publishing House and was supported by Belarusian musical experts, since the organ culture of Belarus has more than 600 years of extremely rich and beautiful history. At present, churches of various Christian faiths, as well as concert halls, maintain 123 organs of historical and cultural value. The edition tells us about this, as well as about the history of the creation and technical characteristics of the instruments, while also paying attention to the problems of preservation of organs as part of a national identity and their reconstruction, as some organs from the 18th-19th century no longer function. The names of outstanding organ players and composers,



alongside organ masters, and technical characteristics of each of the instruments can be found in the edition.

Organs of Belarus includes scientific research and colourful illustrations. Readers are taken on an exciting journey into the history of organs and organ music in Belarus. One era replaced another, bringing life-changing events to the

country, while the sounds of the organ continued to fill the souls of Belarusians with peace and serenity.

The author of the edition, Alexander Burdelev, and photographer of the publishing house, Anatoly Dribas, have been on a scientific expedition aiming to study and take photos of all Belarusian organs. Alexander Burdelev, a teacher of

the Applied Mathematics and Computer Science Faculty at the BSU, has been involved in the problems of Belarusian organology for more than a decade. He began studying the organ in the organ class of the Moscow State University and then took private lessons. In 2015, he was granted the qualification 'performer of ancient music (organ)' at the Belarusian State Academy of Music.

The current project was supported by leading Belarusian researchers. The authoring team was involved in the preparation of the edition jointly with the Chairman of the Belarusian Fund of Culture, Tadeush Struzhetskyy, and Rector of the Belarusian State Academy of Music, Yekaterina Dulova. Reviewers were famous researchers and practical specialists from Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia and Ukraine. The book itself was released with financial assistance from the Information Ministry of Belarus and a disc of organ music by Belarusian performers is attached to the edition.