

DIARY, or the secret notes of Yuri Egorov.

The book contains Yuri Egorov's private diary notes, which he wrote between 1986 and 1988. These notes were only shared by Yuri with Claire Obolensky, his closest friend.

Yuri's original handwriting and its English translation are both included in this book. The diary notes were translated by Claire Obolensky. Yuri kept this diary during his last three years of life, however there were often large gaps between his writing.

*Who is the intended reader of this book?*

These diary notes are published for the first time. On the left-hand pages there are the original handwritten notes by Yuri Egorov, and on the right-hand pages the translation into English by Claire Obolensky. The original diary was an A5 exercise school book with two sections. However, as mentioned, there were sometimes large gaps in his writing; Yuri did not write in it every day.

If you are only interested in Yuri Egorov's music and do not need to know who he really was, this book may not be for you. Yuri certainly was a very lovable person, sweet and genuinely good, but as you might be aware of, he occasionally drank (too much) and smoked hash. Furthermore, the manner he managed his life as a gay man may cause concern and take away from your listening pleasure. These points are certainly confirmed in this book. Of course, music and other musicians also came up. This book gives an unusual perspective on Yuri Egorov's life, which was filled with doubts, uncertainty, discomfort and difficult decisions.

Foreword by Claire Obolensky

In June 1986 at the Hôtel L'Hermitage, La Baule, Yuri gave me his diary to read. He had started writing a diary rather recently and was quite proud and happy about it.

He had always been interested in diaries, as, for example, Ivan Bunin's. By the way, he mentions it in his own diary. Writing a diary gave Yuri the occasion to be fully himself, without pretending anything. And when reading his diary which he regularly let me do I could see Yuri as I knew him.

It was as if hearing him speak to me because he always told me everything, hiding absolutely nothing. This was the kind of relation which linked us so strongly: absolute openness.

In one of his letters he wrote to me: "In the beginning I sometimes lied to you, yet I loved you; it is so good now loving you without lying to you."

And that is why for me there was nothing unexpected or strange in Yuri's diary: it was Yuri, just Yuri, the person I loved.

Wim de Haan

Editor 'DIARY, or the secret notes of Yuri Egorov'.