

Music brings East, West together

Who is the real Stas Namin?

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Will the real Stas Namin please stand up!

There was a little bit of confusion late last month as to who Stas Namin really was.

During the excitement of more than 90 Soviets getting off the Aeroflot aircraft in Anchorage Feb. 20 many people thought that Alexander — Sasha — Losev, who is the lead singer for the Stas Namin group, was the man who goes by the name of his band, Stas Namin. And Sasha didn't mind all of the attention, either.

But the fact is that Stas Namin, himself, didn't arrive in Anchorage until early in the morning Feb. 25, and he arrived from New York, not the Soviet Union.

Stas Namin, another Soviet group called Rondo and American rock star Eddie Money wound up the Soviets' week-long visit to Alaska with a performance called the Superpower Rock'n'Roll concert at the George Sullivan Arena.

The concert wasn't a sellout, but 3,916 people attended, according to officials for the Sullivan Arena. Most of them came because they were curious to see if Soviet rock'n'roll was like American rock'n'roll.

The show opened with Rondo. This was their second performance ever in the United States. Their first performance was before a group of high school students at Bartlett High School in Anchorage earlier in the week.

Their only other performance outside of the Soviet Union was a performance in Finland.

The Stas Namin group has been playing rock'n'roll in the Soviet Union for more than 20 years, and their per-



Alexander Losev

formance in Anchorage brought the many in the crowd to their feet.

Few people in the audience knew that the man on stage was not really Stas Namin.

While a man was introducing the Stas Namin group, Stas Namin the man, was walking down an aisle without being recognized by the crowd because few people knew that the man on stage was Sasha.

During a brief interview before the concert Namin said he thought Alaska was a strange place to be invited to. But nevertheless he said he really liked Anchorage and wanted to come back. Neither he nor his band has ever been to Anchorage before.

"This event is symbolic," Namin said, referring to *glasnost*.

"I'm honored to be here, Alaska is a special place."

Namin didn't perform with his band during the concert. He roamed around during the performances and appeared to be enjoying all the energy being given off by both audience and performers.

The Stas Namin group is compared to the Beatles.

The Stas Namin and Rondo groups also performed in Fairbanks Feb. 27.