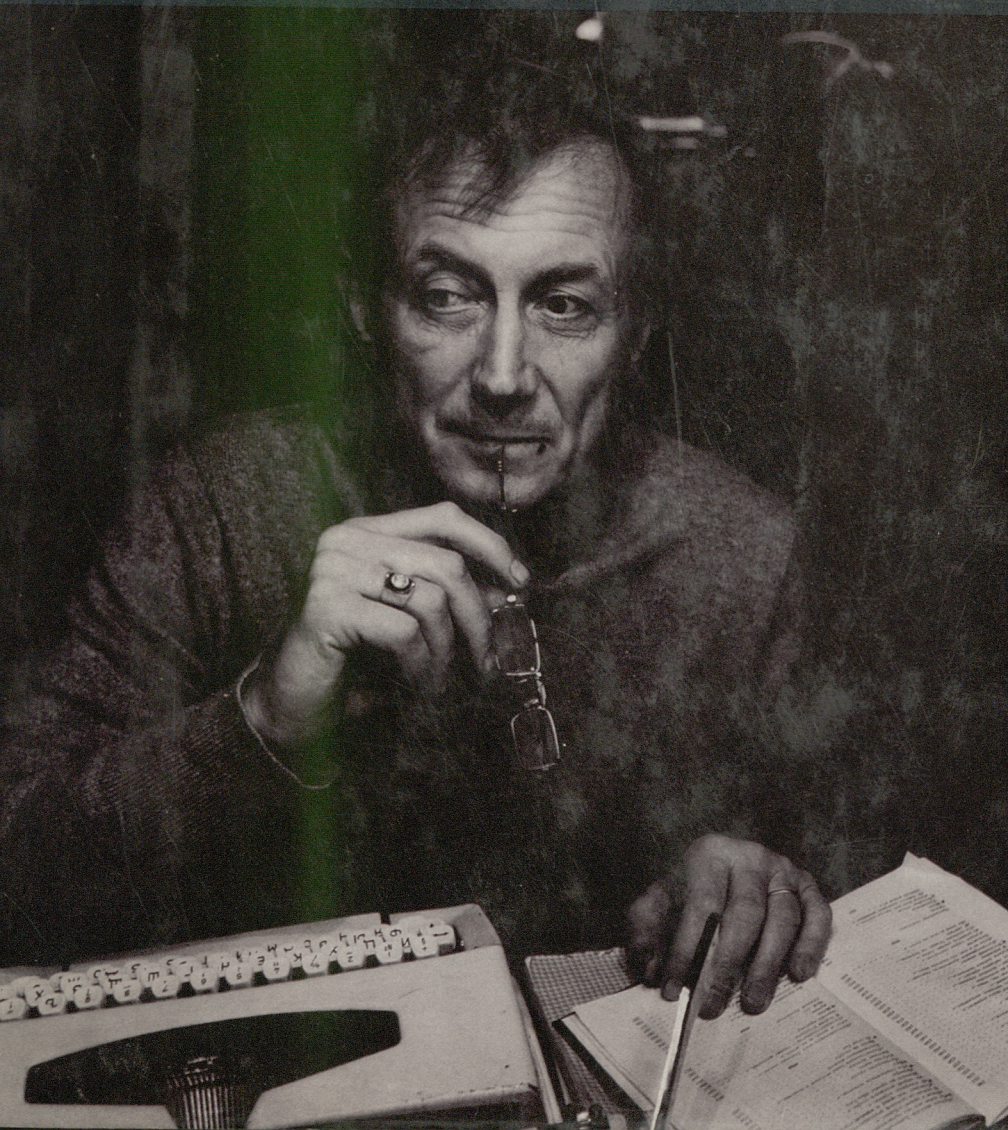


PEV TUSHENKO

THE COLLECTED POEMS

1952 - 1990



ΕΛΛΗΣ
ΕΛΛΗΣ ΚΑΙ ΠΑΝΙΟΥ
ΠΑΙΟΝΙΔΗ

"A sweep of vision whose leaps remind us that the major leagues of poetry still exist."
—Richard Eder

"His real virtue, now as formerly, lies in the sudden twist of perception, the change of tone whereby he seizes upon an 'ordinary' moment and opens up its hidden potential."
—The Guardian

"The words, images, the cries of anguish and exaltation pour forth like a torrent."
—Harrison E. Salisbury

"Yevgeny Yevtushenko has for three decades been the most famous poet in the Soviet Union, a country where poets often become national heroes."
—Time

Yevgeny Aleksandrovich Yevtushenko was blessed and permanently marked by family and childhood. He was born deep in the vast hinterland of Siberia close by the Trans-Siberian railroad town of Zima, not far from Lake Baikal. Few things are so fundamental to Yevtushenko's vision and sensibility as the physicality of his native Siberia, and its rivers are a geographic specific that run through countless pages of his verse. The formidable rivers of Siberia, like those in the north of European Russia, flow into the frozen Arctic Ocean—a cruel irony of nature. Rivers are used by Yevtushenko as images of thwarted power and wealth, and finally as roads to brutal enslavement, escape from which leads only to arctic wilderness.

A lover of narrative art and a people's poet in the tradition of Walt Whitman, Yevtushenko tells stories in his poems with plots drawn from life. A natural feeling for aphorism, combined with a broad use of folk language, makes his poetry sparkle with what appears to be authentic sayings and proverbs that are in real-

(Continued on back flap)

To my
beloved
Elie + Janos,
who discovered
for me a
great beauty
Cyprus.
Wharisto
his!
28 Feb/6 June
1992