

**Title:** Devalued Trophy of the Tsarist Era: The Return of Alexander Vertinsky to the Soviet Land  
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This paper focuses on the Soviet period of the life of Alexander Vertinsky, but also introduces and historically contextualizes the earlier chapters of his biography. Alexander Vertinsky was one of the most well-known music hall performers of the Silver Age. His melodramatic and philosophical songs were popular for invoking intense emotions and for reflecting the unsettled, perpetually lost nature of the Russian soul of the late Tsarist era. Later, after leaving bohemian circles of Russia, Vertinsky became the singer of nostalgia. Despite his increasing popularity in the Russian emigre community in Europe, USA and the Far East, Vertinsky always made attempts to go to back to his motherland. In 1943, he finally succeeded. However, his Soviet life and career did not meet his expectations. His artistry, recognized as fresh and unique during the Silver Age, was challenged throughout his career and life as an emigre exile. Upon his long awaited return to the motherland, Vertinsky was “caught in a cage” – the Soviet system – and became a victim of ideological repression. Ambiguous and mysterious secrecy around Vertinsky’s persona make his case particularly intriguing. Available materials on his life are limited and often controversial; my paper, therefore, explores the lacunae in the historiographical evidences of his performances.