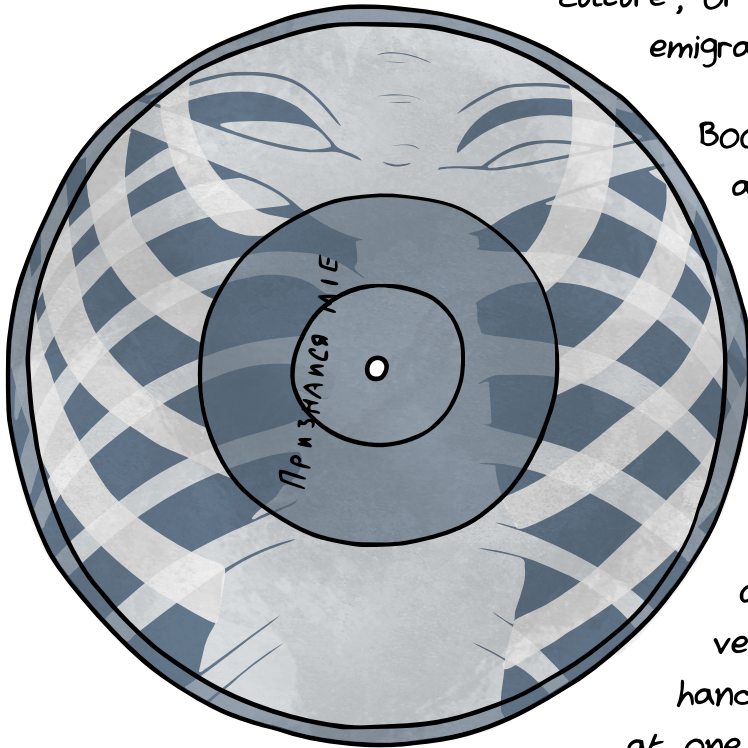


FACT OF THE DAY #9

BONE MUSIC

«—————»»
In stalinist russia, music was heavily controlled and censored, lest the russian people be harmed by the enemy's culture. As well as western music such as rock and roll and jazz, even certain russian music was banned, either because it was folk-music that was considered "low culture", or because it was made by traitorous emigrants.



Bootleg records of such music were available if you knew where to get them, but they were often prohibitively expensive. To get around this some bootleggers started making records out of discarded x-rays from local hospitals.

often called "bones" or "ribs", the quality of these records was usually very poor, and most only played a handful of times before they broke. But, at one to one and a half rubles each, they were very cheap, and allowed a musical experience outside of stalinist censorship, which was probably worth the poor sound quality.