

Hi,

This is an open letter from Piotr Evdokimov and other concerned members of the community to Berghain and the bookers.

I am a Russian citizen, a Berghain regular and have been coming to the club since 2018, attending regularly, and I have personal friends in the Ostgut family.

It has recently come to my attention that several Russian collaborators will be playing at the club in January/February, and based on the ongoing war and these peoples' tacit and in some cases overt support of Putin's campaign of murder, I demand that Berghain stop booking these artists until Russian aggression stops.

These artists include:

Vlada
Philip Gorbachev
Etapp Kyle
Daria Kolosova

The problem can be traced to Mashkov, who runs System 108 in Moscow, and Nikita Zabelin.

Nikita Zabelin is a Russian DJ from Yekaterinburg. My wife (Santa Valentina) knows him for years because she is from Yekaterinburg too. He came over to our house when we lived in Moscow for breakfast and talked for a long time about how close he is to Etapp Kyle, who put him on the guest list for Berghain multiple times (for which he flew to Berlin from Moscow), and with whose help (and that of Nina Kraviz) he played at Berghain too.

My wife knows Zabelin's Berlin agent and met her for lunch. The agent told my wife that after the war started, Zabelin told her that Ukraine deserved to be attacked. She was in shock when she heard it and is not his agent anymore, to my knowledge.

Zabelin explains his views here: <https://daily.afisha.ru/music/11798-tehno-prevratilos-v-konveyernuyu-vesch-dlya-festivaley-intervyu-s-nikitoy-zabelinym/> :

Why did you decide to tie up with Berlin for a while? Or not on time?

No, I did not decide to stop for a while. I just had a lot of internal and external conflicts related to values. European ones are not close to me: those things that concern them do not concern me - and vice versa. This led me into a state of some

kind of slight insanity, I became aggressive, and began to oppose myself to the society that I did not like.

In general, this is an interesting topic - moving from Berlin, but I would not like to discuss it in a negative way. Although I did not find any positive aspects there. Although no, there is one: having lived there, I realized that it is closer to me here.

Europe does not feed me: neither culturally, nor creatively, nor internally. I feel empty there, and I have my own inner, again not very positive vision of their cultural development.

Therefore, I considered it [right] to leave there, so as not to become a hater who will say that he hates Germany. At least for a while.

Mashkov's partner has ties to big money in Russia (or had prior to the war - perhaps they are not together anymore). When the war started, Mashkov reposted something from a patriotic Putinloving anti-Ukrainian Telegram channel. He never removed the post, and is a Putin supporter as far as I can tell. He is also generally a nasty person. He, his very close friend Philip Gorbachev who played at a ton of System 108 parties, and my wife played at the same party in Moscow a couple of months before the war. My wife was not having the best set (empty dancefloor, etc), and I remember very well how Mashkov and Gorbachev were standing next to the DJ booth when she was playing looking judgmental and not supportive at all. I knew then and there that these are not good people with little regard for the community.

Gorbachev also received money from the Russian Ministry of Culture (!!!) and is connected to the orthodox church, which is one of Putin's main propaganda tools. I don't know if he received any money from Russia after the war began, and he should explain the situation here. Disclose your finances, Phillip! Do you pay taxes in Russia?

He is outspoken about his connections to the Russian government and the Russian Orthodox Church (<https://daily.afisha.ru/music/13172-ya-prosto-prishel-v-hram-na-pashu-i-zazvonil-filipp-gorbachev-o-novom-albome-kolokol/>). He stated in an interview that "the real reward comes from above. For example [...], we received money from the Ministry of Culture." He refers to Russian society as "our society" at a time when Russia already occupied Ukraine and was wrecking the Donbass.

Etapp Kyle is also good friends with Mashkov and others in the Russian scene. He cut his teeth at Arma (Mutabor's precursor), which was run by nasty people, including right-wingers. For instance there is the promoter Melik, who flew Nina Kraviz in to Signal Festival on a helicopter, and when the war started posted some illuminati right wing anti-Ukraine stuff on Telegram. Etapp Kyle left Ukraine illegally when the war started.

Daria Kolosova messaged me on Instagram and threatened me to "watch your back" when I started making all this public. She does not provide financial support to Ukraine. Someone asked her to get involved in a fundraiser last summer, and she said that she "doesn't live in Ukraine anymore." She is seemingly a selfish person after her own interests only and not involved in the scene, in Berlin or Ukraine, other than through her connection to Etapp.

Given the above facts, I respectfully demand on behalf of the Berghain community, that these artists' gigs are canceled and they are not booked until the war ends.

I await your response or statement.

Respectfully,
Piotr Evdokimov