

STOP BOOKING PRO-RUSSIAN ARTISTS UNTIL THE WAR IS OVER!

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: **Philip Gorbachev** and **Etapp Kyle**. Through their associations, words, actions and social media behavior, these artists are in the best case turning a blind eye to Russia's war, and in the worst cases, openly supportive of the war.

Philip Gorbachev is good friends with Mashkov, who runs System 108 in Moscow, and who has posted pro-Putin propaganda on social media. For example, when the war started, Mashkov reposted content from a pro war, patriotic Putin-loving anti-Ukrainian Telegram channel (https://pevdokim.github.io/system108_telegram.pdf). The original link, while it is not removed, is here: <https://t.me/system108/5410>). The fact that he has never removed the post, demonstrates without doubt that he supports Putin and Putin's war. Mashkov also has ties to big money in Russia. He collaborates with Mutabor (owned by an oligarch) and regularly throws parties there.

Philip Gorbachev has played at numerous System 108 parties and is still a resident, according to System 108's Telegram channel. Gorbachev has received money from the Russian Ministry of Culture (!) and is connected to the Russian Orthodox Church; which is one of Putin's main propaganda tools. He is apparently unashamed and outspoken about his connections to the Russian government and the Russian Orthodox Church (<https://daily.afisha.ru/music/13172-yaprostoprishel-v-hram-na-pashu-i-zazvonil-filipp-gorbachev-o-novom-albomekolokol/>). He stated in an interview that "the real reward comes from above. For example [...], we received money from the Ministry of Culture." He referred to Russian society as "our society" at a time when Russia already occupied Ukraine and was wrecking the Donbass. This suggests his allegiance and loyalty to Putin's values and Putin's war.

Etapp Kyle is also good friends with Mashkov and others in the Russian scene. He released podcasts on System 108, and was scheduled to play at Mutabor just days before the invasion. 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.

In 2019, Etapp Kyle was instrumental in bringing Nikita Zabelin to Berghain. Nikita is a known Putin supporter and fascist. In interview taken around the same time (<https://daily.afisha.ru/music/11798-tehno-prevratilos-v-konveyernuyu-vesch-dlya-festivaley-intervyu-s-nikitoy-zabelinym/>), Nikita shares his opinion on European 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 [in Russia].

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.

While not sharing European values is not a crime, I know based on personal connections that Nikita believes that Russia is doing the right thing in the current war.

Given the above facts, I respectfully demand on behalf of the Berghain community, that these artists' gigs are cancelled and they are not booked until the war ends. The same applies to all other Russian artists who “do not actively resist the actions of their government and do not explicitly take action to stop the Russian military invasion of Ukraine.” This is the position of the Ukrainian scene (https://www.instagram.com/p/CauxtETtS9_/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link).

I await your response or statement. Respectfully,

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