



JUNO-Nominated Lemon Bucket Orkestra Heads Artistic Mission to Ukraine

April 4th, 2014

TORONTO - Fresh from celebrating their first JUNO nomination in Winnipeg - where the Winnipeg Free Press hailed their late-night basement bar gig as "the best performance of JUNO weekend" - Toronto's "Balkan-Klezmer-Gypsy-Party-Punk Super Band" Lemon Bucket Orkestra are now taking their revolutionary attitudes towards public space and traditional culture to the heart of the crisis in Ukraine. In this new side project dubbed "Lemonchiki Project" - specially conceived for the unique political situation - four members of the band including ring-leader Mark Marczyk will fly to Kiev on April 10th, 2014. There they will meet four local musicians to collaborate on an international repertoire of songs about revolution, war, and peace.

Lemonchiki Project was conceived by Mark Marczyk and Ukrainian ethnomusicologist and singer Maria Kudriavtseva during their time together in Kiev in January-February, where they witnessed firsthand the extraordinary situation in the protest camps on the Maidan (Independence Square). When riot police started throwing tear gas, the two musicians carried milk and surgical masks smeared with lemon to the front-line protestors - hence the name "Lemonchiki", which means "little lemons" in Ukrainian and Russian.

After the tragic events of February 18-20 when snipers opened fire on unarmed protestors, Marczyk went home to Canada to put together a team of international musicians, artists, web designers, social media specialists, and photo journalists that would be interested in going back to Ukraine to collaborate with Ukrainian counterparts. The project will include folk musicians from Canada, Ukraine, Russia, Romania, Mexico, and France and will feature songs from each of those countries as well as Ireland, Argentina, Jamaica, and the United States. It will be based in Kiev and tour to a dozen cities across Ukraine, including western stronghold Lviv, and Eastern-most Luhansk. The four LBO members are planning to return after the Ukrainian elections on May 25th.

"We want to explore the untold stories of the extraordinary people and personalities on the ground floor of the revolution, who risked their lives to take action and stand up for what they believe in," says Marczyk, who collected and shared the stories and opinions of all types of protestors in a blog last month. "We're not pro-Ukrainian extremists or pro-Putin provocateurs; we're pro-people and we want to show our support."

"It's not only about singing songs of war and revolution," explains Kudriavtseva, "but about engaging ordinary citizens on the streets and in concerts and encouraging them to share and explore their own perspectives on this topic in peaceful and creative ways." The project will have an online blog component in which Marczyk and other band members will share their experiences and the experiences of Ukrainians via photos, videos and journal entries (<http://www.lemonchikiproject.com>)

Lemonchiki Project will also have a Canadian sister group headed by Toronto artist and Kosa Kolektiv creator Oksana Hawrylak. Similarly, it will facilitate engagement with the topic of revolution and war through art and music.

"We're interested to see the contrast," says Hawrylak, "and the similarities."

Lemon Bucket Orkestra will remain active in Toronto during the absence of its four members and, upon their return in early June, will launch a coast-to-coast Canadian summer tour, details to be announced shortly.

Media contact: media@lemonbucket.com

Lemonchiki Project website: <http://www.lemonchikiproject.com>

Lemon Bucket Orkestra website: <http://www.lemonbucket.com>

Previous coverage of Mark Marczyk's experiences on the Maidan:

<https://www.nowtoronto.com/news/story.cfm?content=196955>

<http://globalnews.ca/news/1198887/united-maidan-story-told-through-the-eyes-of-an-inspired-ukrainian-canadian/>

<http://knlive.ctvnews.ca/video?playlistId=1.1674653>

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