



We, members of the European Festivals Association founded in 1952 by two great visionaries, humanists, peace makers aimed at rebuilding European culture, values and relations among people after the bloodiest IIWW- Swiss philosopher Denis de Rougemont and true EUROPEAN in his heart and soul - Ukrainian (!!!) composer and conductor Igor Markevitch (born in Kiev in 1912 – died in 1983 in Antibes, had Polish, Ukrainian, Serbian family roots, Italian and French citizenship, worked with Diaghilev’s Ballet Russe, his last concert was in native Kiev (!!!),

Urgently demand that all members of the Russian festivals, arts institutions and individual artists openly condemn the aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine. If members of Russian festivals, arts institutions and individual artists refuse to openly condemn the aggression, their membership in association should be suspended immediately.

On 24 February 2022 the army of your country instructed and led by Mr. Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, undermining the core people’s value – FREEDOM.

Do not be misled. It is not just a so-called a special operation for the “liberation” of Donbass and Lugansk. It is a massive war against a sovereign country and legally and democratically elected government. The airstrikes, bombardments, missile attacks and gun fire take place all over the country, including Kiev and other cities and targeting civilian objects. Not only Ukrainian soldiers who undertook to defend their homeland, but also peaceful civil people, including women and children are dying or being wounded. They suffer and are being displaced. Today, when you are drinking your coffee, having dinner at home or a fancy restaurant, watching a movie, playing tennis or just enjoying your comfortable life, they live in incomprehensible fear, danger and

distress. We are sure, both for us and for you this seemed to be a surreal picture, never supposed to happen even in the worst dreams. No one believed this could happen in the 21st century.

On 25 February 2022 the entire UN Security Council voted for, but (only) Russia vetoed (China, India and UAE abstaining) the resolution condemning Russia's invasion of Ukraine <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1112802>. Protesting to the Russia's abuse of its veto power 51 states^[1] signed joint declaration (<https://usun.usmission.gov/joint-statement-following-a-vote-on-a-un-security-council-resolution-on-russias-aggression-toward-ukraine/>) to the same effect. Among other things it says [quote]:

“President Putin chose to violate Ukraine's sovereignty. President Putin chose to violate international law. President Putin chose to violate the UN Charter. President Putin chose to drop bombs on Kyiv, to force families to stuff their lives into backpacks and shelter in subway stations. President Putin is the aggressor here. There is no middle ground.”

Not only Ukraine, Europe or US, but also and especially Russia will be suffering because of this. Not only Ukrainian people, but young Russian soldiers, who have been forcefully taken to the army, will die. Needless to say, the whole world is condemning Russia. Every human being in the civilised World is doing whatever he can to stop this war, to stop this aggression, to stop Russia. We feel it is our obligation to contribute to this worldwide effort. You must know the truth and take all best efforts to stop your government, to stop the war.

We stand united in this time of crisis. We and all the other people in the free World are doing all we can do to stop the war initiated by President Putin, acting as nations and through international organisations. But YOU can stop the war from inside. Now this obligation lies solely upon Russian people – upon YOU. Ask yourself what have you done to stop this madness, to save peoples' lives, to reinforce the moral dignity of the Russian nation. If there was a chance in your life to do something good for the world's civilisation, this moment has come. You should do everything you can to stop your government. Stop the war in Ukraine, stand up for peace now.

Rūta Prusevičienė, Danas Skramtai Vilnius Festival, Lithuania, member of EFA since 1999

Remigijus Merkelys	GAIDA contemporary music festival, Lithuania EFFE label
Jurgita Murauskienė	St.Christopher Summer music festival, Lithuania EFFE label
Gediminas Gelgotas	Kintai Music Festival , Lithuania EFFE label