



Live DMA calls to maintain live music tours and artistic mobility in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States.

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The Russian invasion and atrocities in Ukraine have shaken the world and triggered an outpour of support for the Ukrainian people as well as political and economic measures against the aggressor. Nearby countries are shouldering the burden, being the most active in welcoming refugees and setting up fundraising campaigns, including huge charity concerts such as “The Power of Unity” in Lithuania, “Slava Ukraini” raising over 700,000€ in Estonia and “For the Freedom of Ukraine” held in front of the Russian Embassy in Latvia. These countries were also some of the first to support boycotts against Putin’s regime, even when risking substantial damage to their own economies.

The headlines about Ukraine raise understandable concerns for musicians considering touring in the region. However, countries like Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Poland, Slovakia and Romania have been members of the European Union for many years and the security situation there is very stable. In fact, the nightlife scene is buzzing and now is a great time for the live music industry to show its support by continuing to tour in those countries.

Sadly, since the beginning of the conflict, **concert organisers have noticed an increase in cancellations of artistic performances and international tours in this region.** This is putting the live music scene in jeopardy and causing unnecessary losses for promoters who are trying to recover after the lockdowns.

With this letter, we wish to reaffirm that it is safe to perform in Eastern Europe and the Baltic States, and it is important in solidarity with the people of Ukraine to show that our European culture and creative communities are unstoppable and unafraid.

Touring in Eastern Europe can be an amazing experience for headliners to reach new audiences and new talents to develop their professional careers. Earlier in May, Tallinn Music Week took place in the capital city of Estonia and at the border-city Narva, hosting 192 artists from 28 countries and 974 music and culture industry professionals from all over the world. Live music venues, clubs and festivals are ready to host your gigs and thousands of Eastern Europeans are waiting to hear you, so get on the phone and get on the road.

If you can't make it to Eastern Europe, consider holding a fundraising event for Music Saves UA, a humanitarian fund run by the Ukrainian Association of Music Events.

You can find donation details here: <https://musicsavesua.com/>