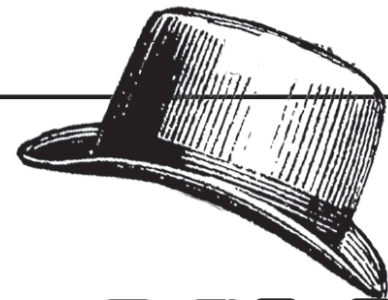


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KOMMUNA LUX

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ОФІЦІЙНЕ ДРУКОВАНЕ ВИДАННЯ МУЗИЧНОГО КООПЕРАТИВУ



30.6.2022 – Turiec (SK), Dr. Festival
01.7.2022 – Bischofswerda (G), East Club Open Air
02.7.2022 – Runding (G), Burgruine
03.7.2022 – Ulm (G), Internationales Donaufest
04.7.2022 – München (G), Tollwood Festival
05.7.2022 – Übersee (G), Freiraum
06.7.2022 – Mannheim (G), Kulturbrücken Jungbusch
07.7.2022 – Donaueschingen (G), Kulturbahnhof
08.7.2022 – Ingolstadt (G), Stadtfest
09.7.2022 – Altenkirchen (G), KulturSalon Wiedhalle Neitersen
10.7.2022 – Offenbach (G), Hafen 2

14.7.2022 – Dresden (G), Dreikönigskirche • Schaubudensommer
16.7.2022 – Burghausen (G), Burg
21.7.2022 – Leipzig (G), Sommer im Grassi
23.7.2022 – Koblenz (G), Horizonte Festival
24.7.2022 – Wetzlar (G), Franzis • Sommerfest
30.7.2022 – Wrocław (PL), The White Stork Synagogue • 24. Festival of Jewish Culture – SIMCHA
31.7.2022 – Opava (CZ), KUPE
04.08.2022 – Kutná Hora (CZ), Letní parket Pod Schodama
05.8.2022 – Innsbruck (A), Treibhaus
06.8.2022 – Bad Windsheim (G), Weinturm Open Air
07.8.2022 – Môtiers (CH), Hors Tribu Festival
09.-13.8.2022 – Neuchâtel (CH), Buskers Festival

01.09.2022 – Nyíregyháza (HU), Vidor Festival
02.9.2022 – Barcice (PL), Pannonica Folk Festival
03.9.2022 – Warszawa (PL), Plac defilad • Jewish Culture Festival «Singer's Warsaw»
04.9.2022 – Trutnov (CZ), Krakonošově náměstí • Trutnovský jarmark
18.11.2022 – Templin (G), Multikulturelles Centrum
22.11.2022 – Hamburg (G), Frau Hedi
23.11.2022 – Bad Doberan (G), Kornhaus
24.11.2022 – Amsterdam (NL), Mezrab
25.11.2022 – Salzwedel (G), Club Hanseat
26.11.2022 – Teplice (CZ), Teplický CIMES – Dny idovské kultury



We would like to say a special thanks to the Cultural Foundation of the Free State of Saxony, with whose support we can record our next album in Germany this summer.

Kulturstiftung
des
Freistaates
Sachsen



<https://igg.me/at/kommunalux>

Our planned album needs your support, we collect contributions to be able to complete its production. Please visit our crowdfunding campaign and get your album exemplar, as well as other groovy surprises. Many thanks for your favour!



KOMMUNA LUX:



FROM ODESA WITH LOVE!

Odesa is called a pearl by the sea and has long been and is a port city, which determines its unique character. On the Ukrainian coast of the Black Sea lies the third-largest city in Ukraine, whose history goes back hundreds of years and is full of bright events and the inimitable atmosphere. The golden sand of the coastal beaches, the bustling port life, the southern climate, and the multinational population — all this has given rise to a unique culture, which is called Odesa originality.

The musical culture of this southern city is replete with diversity, in which the cultural heritage, customs, and beliefs of many peoples are mixed in an ideal ratio. Among them are Jews, Ukrainians, Greeks, Kazakhs, Bulgarians, Moldavians, Gagauz, and Russians. Odesa has always been a multinational city. It has been the center of maritime trade, industry, science, education, and, of course, tourism. The city is famous for its friendly people with witty and good-natured humor.

The musical band, which humorously calls itself «a musical cooperative», could not appear anywhere else, except in Odesa. Kommuna Lux repertoire is based on the traditional Odesa folklore, culture, and traditions. It combines compositions that bear the imprint of the rich Southern Ukrainian history and are full of sea freshness and great humor peculiar to the optimistic townspeople of Odesa.

As the true patriots of their native country, the musicians, among other things, perform songs in Ukrainian, which reflect the special character of different regions of Ukraine. But Kommuna Lux, of course, does not forget about its historical and cultural roots, which grow on the rich soil of the seaside city. And the whole point of Odesa is in its multiculturalism and multinationalism. And all this is reflected in the musical repertoire that Kommuna Lux will bring to Europe.

«We are sure that the European audience for which we are going to perform will meet us with warmth and cordiality! We are proud to be able to share the spirit and character of Ukrainian Odesa with the European public through our music. We believe that our concerts and performances at various festivals will give people positive emotions and help them understand our culture and our nation even better. And this gives us hope that Europe will continue to support Ukraine, and will do it even more actively.»

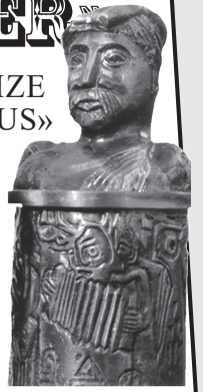
says Volodymyr Gitin, clarinetist and music band leader.

«I have been a member of the «Kommuna Lux» crew for two years now. During this time, we have overcome many obstacles. Despite all these difficulties and a hard times for our country, when our territory is being shelled, we try to keep dreaming, creating, giving a good mood, and moving forward. I believe in our victory! I believe that we will be able to acquaint the world with the Ukrainian culture! Creativity has no limits, and this is its main strength.»

adds Bagrat Tsurkan, lead singer.

IN 2018 THE BAND RECEIVED THE «IRON EVERSTEINER»

THE MOST FAMOUS EUROPEAN FOLK MUSIC PRIZE BY THE «FOLK AUTUMN IN PLAUENER MALZHAUS» COMPETITION FESTIVAL IN GERMANY. ENJOY THE LAUDATORY SPEECH WHICH WAS HELD SECONDS BEFORE THE BAND GOT THE THE HEAVYWEIGHT TROPHY INTO THEIR HANDS.



«The concert was brilliant. After the first notes, people danced, laughed and sang, both on and in front of the stage. The clothes were changed every minute and an atmosphere spread around like in a circus arena. It was sung in Ukrainian, Russian and Yiddish language about the underworld, the decadent and love; always in a very charming and cheerful manner. The musicians spread great joie de vivre and a bit of anarchy. They showed all the musical varieties of their homeland. Although a large part of the concert was sweaty and powerful, the presented performance is also extremely virtuoso and stylish. There are the breathtakingly fast clarinet runs by Vladimir Gitin, paired with a wild accordion and a powerful brass section, rhythmically supported by bass and drums. Sometimes ingratiating and sometimes at breakneck speed, the singer leads us through his city. There is drinking and partying, and all the time you can hear the waves of the Black Sea crashing against the ship's side; and a fine nostalgia creeps up on you. A large part of the repertoire are crook songs that were written in the last 100 years and which are skillfully transported into the present day by the band, which is why they call their music «Odesa Gangsta Folk». In this sense, they enchanted the audience and took them on a trip to their Ukrainian homeland in a highly exhilarating way. So the 2018 audience award quiet rightly goesto this band. Congratulations!»

Kommuna Lux gra muzykę klezmerską i Odesa Gangsta Folk!



«W Odessie ludzie potrafią być razem. W Odessie wszyscy będą się śmiać i śpiewać». Kommuna Lux potwierdza te słowa pochodzące ze starego dwuwiersza. Zespół ma swój niepowtarzalny styl «Odesa Gangsta Folk», na który składają się: porywająca muzyka klezmerska oraz znane gangsterskie pieśni ludowe z ich rodzinnego miasta. Mieszkańców Odessy charakteryzuje: wielka tolerancja, swobodny styl życia i bardzo specyficzne poczucie humoru. To wielokulturowe miasto portowe, słynne na całym świecie z kwitnącej żydowskiej społeczności, a także jest kolebką «miejskich pieśni» jako niezależnego gatunku. Nostalgiczny temperament prosto z ukraińskiego wybrzeża Morza Czarnego jest teraz

podkreślany dzięki żywiołowym występom charyzmatycznego wokalisty: Bagrata Tsurkana i jego zdolnych muzyków, którzy wykonują te pełne radości pieśni i melodie z Odessy i całej Europy Wschodniej – w świetnie dopracowanych aranżacjach. Koncerty zespołu Kommuna Lux to wyjątkowa atmosfera – w powietrzu unosi się nuta historii oraz morska aura, a także typowe ponadczasowe ukraińskie poczucie humoru. Każde show to zdecydowane wibrujące rytmy, orzeźwiająca dźwięki i mnóstwo rządzy życia i zabawy!

Wszyscy muzycy to synowie Odessy, słynnej perły Morza Czarnego, odnaleźli się około 2014 roku, kiedy uliczny gang, uzbrojony w instrumenty muzyczne zamiast w noże, rozpoczął wiele ekscytujących przygód. Podczas ich szalonych występów na podwórkach w żydowskiej dzielnicy Moldawanki, publiczność była magnetycznie przyciągana niekończącymi się wesołymi muzycznymi harcami. W tamtych czasach dziwił się świadkowie donoszą o hałaśliwych flash mobach gangsterów grających muzykę na słynnym miejskim targu Privoz, w starej drewnianej linii tramwajowej numer 5, na promenadzie Primorsky Boulevard i na zardzewiałych kołyszących się łodziach na popularnej plaży Lustdorf, powodując zakłopotanie mieszkańców Odessy.

Po tych szalonych początkach, nastąpiły wielkie koncerty na renomowanych scenach w całym kraju, wciąż pod oryginalną nazwą zespołu «Felix Shinder & Dengi Vpered». Powstający zespół odbył znakomite trasy koncertowe do: USA, Izraela, Brazylii, Niemiec, Polski, Hiszpanii, Holandii i Belgii. Zespół nawet regularnie drukuje własny magazyn, który właśnie trzymasz w dłoniach – dzięki czemu swobodnie opowiada o tych wszystkich odważnych doświadczeniach i zabawnych historiach, o tym całym zgiełku. Po tym, jak spółdzielnia muzyczna przetrwała zawirowania wokół zmiany nazwy zespołu i osoby wokalisty w 2020 roku, gang nadal utrzymuje się na międzynarodowych scenach, zawsze wyruszając ze starego i mieniającego się portu w Odessie. Nowa nazwa «Kommuna Lux» nawiązuje do osławionej Kommunalki, jednej z najbardziej rozpowszechnionych form życia komunalnego w całym Związku Radzieckim. Gromadzi się tu dużo ludzi, tak jak niegdyś na rozległych podwórkach Odessy, gdzie toczyło się wspólne podwórkowe życie. «Lux» podkreśla duże znaczenie i pozytywny aspekt tych spotkań, a także oznacza najwyższy poziom wspólnego muzykowania. Od początku rosyjskiej agresji Kommuna Lux na wszystkich swoich koncertach zbierała datki na wsparcie akcji humanitarnych na Ukrainie. Bardzo niewiele koncertów odbywa się obecnie na Ukrainie, jeśli już to w bardzo trudnych warunkach. Jednak mimo tej nadzwyczaj trudnej sytuacji, muzycy są bardzo szczęśliwi z każdego zaplanowanego koncertu na arenie międzynarodowej – a jest ich sporo.

«Dla mnie Odesa jest moją matką, po prostu przynależymy do siebie. A jeśli pragniesz piosenki – w Odessie jest ich wiele; i noszę je wszystkie w sobie, tak jak miłość do mojej matki». Ten cytat z lokalnego przeboju potwierdza symboliczne wyrażenie «Odesa Mama», jak czule nazywają swoje miasto mieszkańcy. Kommuna Lux szczególnie honoruje swoje rodzinne miasto i jego niezmiernie skarby - piosenki – o genialnym brzmieniu i charakterystycznej barwie!

Kommuna Lux play Klezmer and Odessa Gangsta Folk!

«In Odessa, people find together. In Odessa they all will laugh and sing.» Kommuna Lux validate these words from an old couplet, using their own style called «Odessa Gangsta Folk», which stands for thrilling klezmer music and common gangster folk songs from their hometown. About the Odessites, their great tolerance, an easy-going lifestyle and a very special sense of humor have always been mentioned. The multicultural port city is world-famous for its significant Jewish life and for being the birthplace of Urban chanson as an independent genre. The bohemian and nostalgic temper from the Ukrainian Black Sea coast is now set to a timeless level by the vibrant performances of the lovely singer Bagrat Tsurkan and his charming musicians. They play these joyful songs and melodies from Odessa and all Eastern Europe in spiced up arrangements. The atmosphere at the concerts of Kommuna Lux is absolutely unique - there is a touch of history and a maritime aura in the air, as well as the typical timeless humor of the Ukrainian Black Sea coast. The Jewish saying «There is always an alive fish» in Odessa manner characterizes the vitalising show of the band which is definitely full of shaking rhythms, refreshing anarchy and plenty of lust for life!

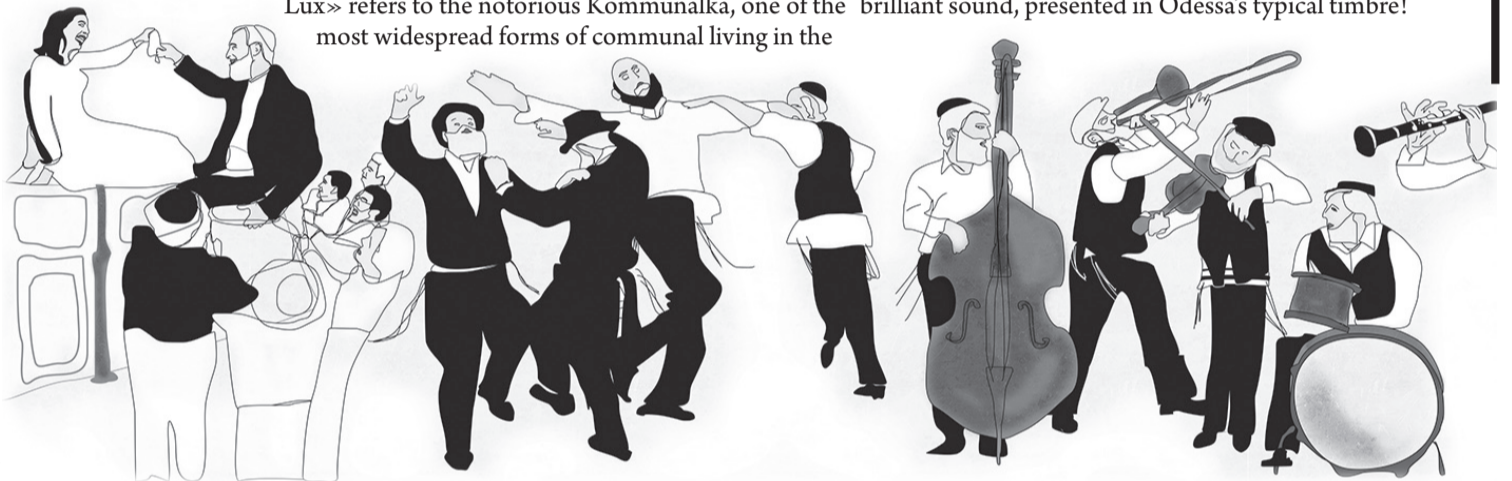
All the musicians are sons of Odessa, the famous pearl on the Black Sea, and found together around 2014, as many exciting adventures kicked off for the street gang equipped with musical instruments instead of knives. At their wild performances in the backyards in the Jewish quarter of Moldavanka, the neighbourhood was magnetically attracted for never-ending

cheerful evenings. In those days, surprised witnesses report noisy flash mobs of the gangsters making music at the famous city market called Privoz, in the old wooden tram line number 5, on the Primorsky Boulevard promenade and on rusty rocking boats on the popular Lustdorf beach, causing perplexed masses of Odessites.

This pioneering time was followed by major concerts on renowned stages of the city and throughout all the country, still under the original band name «Felix Shinder & Dengi Vpered». The emerging band carried out brilliant concert tours to the USA, Israel, Brazil, Germany, Poland, Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium. The band even regularly prints their own magazine which you hold in your hands, telling all these venturous experiences and amusing stories about their whole hustle and bustle. After the musical cooperative had survived the turbulences around replacing the band name and the person of the singer in 2020, the gang continues to enter international stages, setting off from the old and shiny Odessa port. The new name «Kommuna Lux» refers to the notorious Kommunalka, one of the most widespread forms of communal living in the

whole Soviet Union. A lot of people gather here, just like in the spacious backyards of Odessa, where the lives of all the people from the neighboring houses happen. «Lux» emphasizes the high significance and goodness of this steady get-together, and stands for the highest quality level of collective music-making as well. Since the beginning of the Russian aggression, Kommuna Lux have been collecting donations at all their concerts to support humanitarian actions in Ukraine. Very few concerts are still held in Ukraine, and under difficult conditions. But the musicians are very happy about the numerous scheduled international performances in this year.

«For me, Odessa is my mother, we just belong together. And if you want songs - there are many of them in Odessa; and I carry them all in me, just like the love for my mother.» This quote from a local hit confirms the symbolic expression «Odessa Mama», as the Odessites affectionately call their city. And Kommuna Lux also honor their hometown and its immeasurable treasure of songs - with a brilliant sound, presented in Odessa's typical timbre!



KOMMUNA LUX SPIELEN KLEZMER UND ODESSA GANGSTA FOLK!

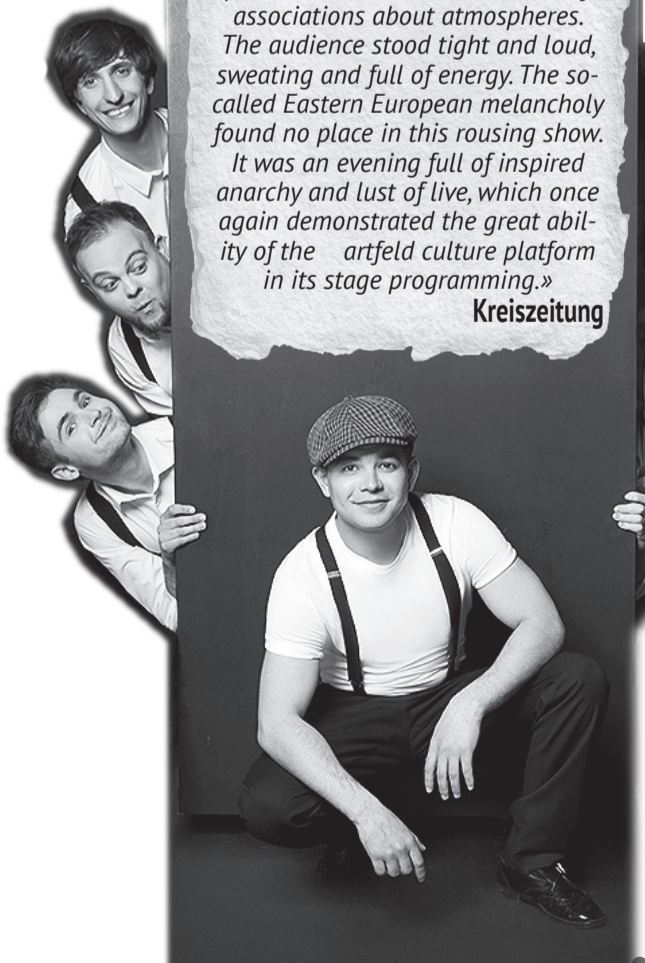
«A rowdy but sympathetic group, which - regarding their optics and behavior - seemed to be made up of jugglers, highwaymen, worn-out sailors and impoverished nobility. From the first chord on, full steam was driven until the last encore. The permanent insane speed level required the instrumentalists to be in excellent physical condition. A bit of a circus, a bit of a harbor pub - the concert allowed a lot of associations about atmospheres. The audience stood tight and loud, sweating and full of energy. The so-called Eastern European melancholy found no place in this rousing show. It was an evening full of inspired anarchy and lust of live, which once again demonstrated the great ability of the artfeld culture platform in its stage programming.»

Kreiszeitung

«In Odessa kommen die Menschen zusammen. In Odessa werden sie lachen und singen.» heißt es in einem alten Couplet, und daß dies stimmt beweisen Kommuna Lux! Denn ihr «Odessa Gangsta Folk» steht für packende Klezmermusik und mitreißende Ganoven-Lieder aus ihrer Heimat. Mit diesen Melodien aus Odessa und dem ganzen europäischen Osten steigern sich der charmante Sänger Bagrat Tsurkan und seine temperamentvollen Musiker auf der Bühne in eine schmissige Performance. Die Stimmung bei ihren Konzerten ist einzigartig - in der Luft liegt neben einem Hauch von Nostalgie und einem maritimen Lebensgefühl auch der typische zeitlose Humor der ukrainischen Schwarzmeerküste. Der jüdische Spruch «Es findet sich immer ein lebendiger Fisch» macht die Philosophie der Band klar: eine Show mit Kommuna Lux steckt voller Anarchie und ansteckender Lebenslust! Die umtriebigen Abenteuer der musizierenden Straßengang begannen mit kühnen Flashmobs in den Hinterhöfen im jüdischen Viertel Moldavanka, auf dem städtischen Fischmarkt

«Privoz», in der alten hölzernen Straßenbahn der Linie 5, an der Flaniermeile Primorsky-Boulevard und auf schaukelnden Schaluppen am beliebten Arkadia-Strand - und sorgten dabei immer für viel Aufsehen und ein perplexes Publikum. Es folgten größere Konzerte auf den renommierten Bühnen der Stadt und im ganzen Land, sowie Auftritte im Radio und Fernsehen, damals noch unter dem ursprünglichen Bandnamen «Felix Shinder & Dengi Vpered». Über all diese Erlebnisse und die Geschichten um ihr ganzes Treiben drückt die Band sogar regelmäßig ihre eigene Zeitung, die Sie gerade in Ihren Händen halten. Neben Auftritten auf den größten Festivals der Ukraine spielen die Musiker jedes Jahr ausverkaufte Konzerte im Philharmonischen Theater Odessa, einem der schönsten historischen Gebäude der Stadt. Berausenden Jubel im Publikum entfesselte die Band auch bei weltweiten Auftritten wie zum Internationalen Klezmerfestival Fürth, beim Sommerfest der Kulturen in Stuttgart oder der transVOCALE in Frankfurt/Oder; sowie im Master Theater in New York oder dem Rodeo Club in Haifa. 2018 dann ein weiterer Triumph: das Musikkollektiv gewann den «Eisernen Eversteiner», Deutschlands einzigen europäischen Folkmusikpreis der jährlich zum Folkherbst-Festival im Plauer Malzhaus vergeben wird. Seit dem

Beginn des russischen Angriffskrieges sammeln Kommuna Lux auf all ihren Konzerten Geldspenden, mit denen sie humanitäre Aktionen in der Ukraine unterstützen. Momentan finden nur sehr wenige Konzerte in der Ukraine statt, und unter schwierigen Bedingungen. Umso mehr freuen sich die Musiker über die zahlreichen geplanten Auslandsauftritte in diesem Jahr. Mit ihrem neuen Namen «Kommuna Lux» verweist die Band auf die berühmte Kommunalka, eine in der ganzen Sowjetunion weitverbreitete Form von gemeinschaftlichem Wohnen. Hier kommen Menschen zusammen, genau wie in den großräumigen Hinterhöfen Odessas, in denen sich das Leben der Leute aus den anliegenden Häusern vereint. «Lux» betont die Kostbarkeit und Qualität dieses Beisammenseins, und steht für höchstes Niveau beim kollektiven Musizieren. «Für mich ist Odessa meine Mutter, wir gehören einfach zusammen. Und wer Lieder will - es gibt unendlich viele davon in Odessa; und die trage ich alle in mir, genau wie die Liebe zu meiner Mutter». Dieses Zitat aus einem populären Gassenhauer steht sinnbildlich für den Ausdruck «Odessa Mama», wie die Odessiten ihre Stadt liebevoll nennen. Und auch Kommuna Lux ehren die Stadt und ihren unerlässlichen Liederschatz; mit einem kraftvollen Sound, brillant dargeboten in Odessas typischen Timbre!



«Kommuna Lux: Odessa is always in fashion!

The project with the pure Odessa name «Kommuna Lux» is gaining momentum! The premiere concert has already taken place and was sold out, and as a first video clip, the musicians presented the fans their favorite Odessa song «Babushka is healthy». The efforts of all the musicians were not in vain – a modern single with a taste of old Odessa «entered» the audience. «We are a kind of commune on wheels» – where we were burning with a common idea, breathing in the road dust of four continents, discussing the intricacies of our craft, getting drunk to unconsciousness, inspired and truly blissed out – the task is not simple. Despite the diversity of the team, the common idea to develop Odessa culture and give a second life to the dusty time of folklore – the very essence and heart of our beloved city – has always held us together. We have gone through so much and traveled together that we became relatives to each other.» says Viktor Lykhodko, part of the team. And the new singer Bagrat Tsurkan adds: «Here I stayed forever, in this sunny city-hero Odessa. I can tell you that for a long time already I have been trading in creative robbery, praising its beauty, history and the incomparable temperament of its inhabitants. In 2016, I even won the Grand Prix at the fifth vocal city competition 'I sing about you, my Odessa.' I always think how lucky I was to live in this cosmopolitan and multifaceted city – the capital of humor. Thank you, 'Odessa Mama!' ... We want to see the burning eyes of people listening to us, and in general, to continue to bring joy, humor and everything that fills people and makes them happier with our creativity. And yes, we have big plans. So let's set full sails ... and turn on full speed! The engine of our schooner is already whipping up the foam and roaring more and more – and our fans have played an important role.»

Weekly News Ukraine



You perform at Jewish holidays and weddings, you just played in the largest European synagogue in Budapest. Do you continue the tradition of Klezmer and Jewish music that accompanied various celebrations?

Zhenya: We call our cooperative genre as 'Odessa Gangsta Folk'. It is a bit of everything: Klezmer, Blues, Balkan, and even a bit of the New York Bronx styles. We even wanted to create our own funeral band to cover all aspects of the celebrations. Most of the songs you perform were written 70-100 years ago. Why are they still relevant?

Vitya: The 'Odessa song' is a separate kind of a musical genre. I don't know if there are other cities in the world about which so much is sung. At the same time, in most of the songs there is a humorous background, and Odessa humor is already a separate art form. Its about images, on the one hand, very bright, and on the other hand, very long-lived, almost eternal. No matter what year or century it is, walk the streets of the city and you will meet Sonya on the balcony and that grandmother singing many of the old songs with a smile. Bagrat: These songs reflect the spirit of the city in a best way – with its sea, sun, its cuisine and many cultures that coexist with each other here. No wonder they say that Odessa is a separate nationality. And this image of a warm, almost fabulous city with all its qualities has aroused and will continue to arouse interest.

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CONCERT ACTIVITY DURING THE WAR: goals and features

«Although we all had a bad feeling about it, no one expected Russia to start such a full-scale war against Ukraine. Russian aggression shocked the Ukrainians and disrupted their usual rhythm of life and plans for the future. For the first few weeks after February 24, 2022, we were confused. What's going on? When will it end? How will we live on?» says Volodymyr Gitin, clarinetist, music band leader.

In one of the first posts on social media after the start of full-scale Russian aggression, Kommuna Lux musicians promised that the first thing they would do after the victory of Ukraine in this war would be to announce the date of their new concert. But life took a different course.

«In the second month of the war, we, as citizens of Ukraine, realized that life still goes on. Members of our band began to help our fellow citizens. We were engaged in volunteer activities; we were helping people affected by the war. We realized that it is necessary to support those who defend the borders of our country by all available means and to do our job, making every possible effort. And as a musical band, we decided to help in any way we can and do what we can. And what we can do best is to give good mood and positive emotions. Therefore, we joined the so-called «Cultural Front of the war,» points out Viktor Kyrylov, guitar player.

During these first months of the war, Kommuna Lux held 7 charity concerts of various formats in different locations.

«We performed our songs on the streets of our home city, in the old unique building of the Odesa main post office, and played for soldiers-defenders of Ukraine. At charity concerts, we collected money to help people affected by the war. Part of the money raised from paid concerts went to humanitarian aid. We gave free concerts for the military,» adds Yaroslav Besh, trombonist.

According to the director of Kommuna Lux Viktor Lykhodko, concerts during the war are organized mainly for charitable purposes or with free admission, or with a system of donations. Most of the money goes to charitable purposes — to help those who suffered from the war. Many people who are involved in the organization and holding of concerts, namely advertising agencies, technical contractors, owners of concert halls, and the media covering the events, are more than willing to support musicians. They provide their services either for free — if they have such an opportunity — or at cost price, i.e., at a minimum, for example, they ask to pay for consumables.

«Many Ukrainian artists and singers went abroad. There they hold concerts in support of Ukraine. We realized that we could also help our country in this way, and decided to organize a tour of Europe. It took us a while to organize this tour. And we hope that it will be successful and will help us raise funds to help Ukrainians who have suffered as a result of Russian aggression,» says Oleksandr Larkin, bass guitarist.

Kommuna Lux is looking forward to victory and hopes that soon our life will become peaceful, quiet, and safe.

From Dengi Vpered to Kommuna Lux: the story of the musical cooperative from Odesa

In 2014, Odesa musicians organized a band that performed compositions with Jewish motifs, and Balkan rhythms, and whose repertoire was lavishly decorated with the unique southern seaside street folklore. The musicians called all this blossoming musical diversity «Odesa Gangsta Folk». And with subtle humor, the band called itself Dengi vpered, which means «money up front». This was a manifestation of a special mentality and unique humor of the port and commercial city of Odesa.

The band managed not only to revive the unique spirit of the city song but also to give a new sound to tunes beloved by Odesans and all Ukrainians. Years of joint artistic creativity brought the team together and turned it into something like a commune traveling through many countries, performing in hundreds of cities around the world. They burned with a common idea, inspired themselves and others, and experienced many adventures together. But in 2020, the worldwide coronavirus pandemic broke out and hit hard the entire music industry.

«There were no concerts, we could not meet and perform the music in front of our audience. What could be worse for a musician?» tells Andrii Okhramovych, trumpet player.

The pandemic and lockdowns have been a test for all artists, and not many have passed it. The musicians really did not want to give up everything and abandon the brilliant plans for the future, which all members of the team

made together. These were challenging times.

«We have been through too much together to end up like other disbanded groups. The fact that we became a family and also the love for our native city of Odesa became the figurative glue that bound us and did not allow us to go our separate ways,» says Volodymyr Gitin, clarinetist and music band leader.

In 2021, a team of like-minded musicians warmly welcomed the new lead singer Bagrat Tsurkan. Bagrat

knew some members of the team before. He repeatedly crossed paths

with Volodymyr Gitin,

Oleg Vasianovych, and Andrii Okhramovych

in the creative get-togethers of Odesa. Now the musicians feel like they've

known each other for 100 years. It can be called the

kinship of souls or the magic of

the ancient city of Odesa,

which you fall in love with at first sight.

Simultaneously with the arrival of a new lead singer, the band acquired a new name — Kommuna Lux.

«We had a great desire to continue to play together and re-energized by meeting our audience. We wanted to keep seeing the shining eyes of people at our concerts, give them joy, and share humor and positivity through our creativity,» adds Serhii Poltorak, drummer.

Now Kommuna Lux has its own course, in tune with its name. This course has evolved naturally and organically and is very different from the one of Dengi Vpered.

«We owe a lot to our fans, their support, and feedback. During these difficult times, our devoted and faithful audience has helped us to keep our faith. Now we are doing everything possible to help our country and the Ukrainians who have suffered from the war. As a team, we have maintained ties with foreign partners in Europe. And this summer we decided to hold a tour in support of Ukraine through the cities of Europe. We hope that this musical tour will please European connoisseurs of Ukrainian culture, and once again we will demonstrate to the world through our music the magnetism and uniqueness of our native city of Odesa,» sums up Oleg Vasianovych, accordion player.

