

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 22, 2014

Russia aims to distract with LGBT Discrimination

New piece of music premieres in London, just around the corner from Russian Embassy, showcasing the struggles of the Russian LGBT community and the root causes

Steps away from the Russian Embassy in London, Canadian composer, Frank Horvat, will premiere his piece, *diskriminatsiya*, on Tuesday August 26 at 7:30pm. The concert takes place at the Kensington Unitarian Essex Church in Notting Hill, 112 Palace Gardens Terrace. Admission is €10.

Horvat has a long history of encapsulating the issues of our time through his music. As a Canadian, some issues take on a more historical perspective. While interviewing two Russian gay men, now living in Canada, it hit home that hard fought battles over rights have a long way to go in all hearts, minds and countries. *diskriminatsiya* is a modern music documentary composed for two flutes and pre-recorded electronics including gripping audio from those two interviews.

Respected Toronto-based flutists, Samantha Chang and Christopher Lee, will perform the work. Russian Canadian actor, Yury Ruzhyev, voices the ending of the composition with a horrific story that has friends turning against each other rather than working together against oppression.

“There is so much hate and lack of understanding that is fostered in the world all for the betterment of a few,” said Horvat. “Until we all choose to personally live in peace and harmony within ourselves, we will continue to hurt other lives senselessly and lead worthless lives.”

FRANK HORVAT is a critically acclaimed composer and pianist who believes that making an emotional connection with the audience is paramount. Recent works include a solo piano sound documentary, “Lac-Mégantic”, and an electric chamber work, “08/14/13 – Cairo”, about that shockingly violent day in Egypt. As a modern-day Gershwin, his music can be found in recital halls, at clubs and festivals, on the radio and in TV and film. It is always intense, passionate and engaging.

YURY RUZHYEV is an actor, performer, dancer, writer, and director. Originally from Moscow, now living in Toronto. He studied theatre, and acting in Moscow at Boris Shukin Theatre School. Ruzhyev does TV and Film work both in Toronto and New York. His one-man impersonations show - Viva Cabaret has been entertaining audiences on three continents for ten years. In 2014 Yury's theatre company, Hooligans Theatre, is producing “Komunka” - a play about gay rights in Russia.

For further information or for interview requests

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Notes to the editor

- Frank Horvat is available for interviews. He will be in London pre- and post-premiere.
- Yury Ruzhyev is available for phone interviews.
- Photos & info available at <http://frankhorvat.com/media> and <http://www.rushow.ru>
- Other social justice-based music by Horvat at <http://frankhorvat.com/social>
- Frank Horvat is supported by the Canada Council for the Arts