PRESS RELEASE

**Pohoda is organising a one-day festival in Kyiv that will bring together big names from Slovakia and Ukraine.**

**The Pohoda loves Ukraine event is scheduled for January 27 at the prestigious Atlas club in Kyiv. Slovakia will be represented by five bands: FVLCRVM, Berlin Manson, Karpatské chrbáty, Fara, and Vydrapená bužírka Punk Systém. Three Ukrainian bands – Stanstiya Mir, Hyphen Dash, and Lucas Bird – will also take the stage. The special guest will be the legendary Michael Kocáb.**

The festival is a joint effort between Pohoda, the initiative Music Saves Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Association of Music Events (UAME). The musical programme will kick off with a discussion featuring Michael Kocáb and Michal Kaščák. The Porichka music community will lead a debate on the functioning of the Ukrainian music scene during the war. Simultaneously, in a different club on the same day, Slovak DJ Matwe will play his set.

***"I believe that after two years of cruel Russian aggression, it is crucial to demonstrate direct support and solidarity with Ukrainians in their own country. I am optimistic that this event will set a precedent for the entire European music scene. Kyiv boasts excellent clubs, amazing conditions for live performances, and, most importantly, incredible people,"*** *states Pohoda's CEO, Michal Kaščák, about the event, adding:* ***“****The people of Ukraine are engaged in an admirable battle for freedom, a struggle in which it's clear to any empathetic person who the aggressor is and who the victim is. Our leaders, from the Prime Minister to the Minister of Culture, are showing how leaders of the free world shouldn't behave, and that is why it's even more crucial how the civil and artistic community behaves. I appreciate the attitude of everyone involved, and I am confident that we will have a powerful time, showing that the majority of people in Slovakia have their hearts in the right place and their minds aligned with the right values.”*

This is the first time that Pohoda has organised such a big event in Ukraine. Typically, the festival brings Ukrainian artists to Slovakia, but this time, it will bring great names from the Slovak and Czech music scenes directly to our neighbours, who currently have limited opportunities to experience concerts by foreign artists.  
  
Admission to the festival is donation-based, and all proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to the Music Saves UA initiative, providing humanitarian aid to those affected by the ongoing war in Ukraine.  
  
In the week leading up to the Pohoda loves Ukraine Festival, another trip will take place, during which nine more ambulances and pick-ups will be taken to Ukraine from a collection organised by the photographers and editors of Denník N. This collection is also supported by Pohoda, and this time, too, people from its team and the participating artists will take care of the transport. In total, more than 30 ambulances, SUVs, and pick-ups have been sent from Slovakia to Ukraine as part of the project. These vehicles play a crucial role in saving lives on the front lines across Ukraine.  
  
Funding for this project was provided by the Open Society Foundation Bratislava and the Pontis Foundation thanks to the generous support of the Taipei Representative Office in Slovakia.  
  
**PressKit – Pohoda loves Ukraine:**  
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