

Weird and wonderful

festival

By Sergey Chernov
STAFF WRITER

A host of international, experimental, avant-garde and simply weird artists will land in St. Petersburg to take part in the APosition Music Forum this weekend, but there will be also a room for a political statement.

In its second year, the music event is promoted by APosition, also known as APositsia, a local association founded by musician Alexei Plyusnin that deals with all kinds of experimental and improvised music.

Originally held at the staid state-owned Cappella to stress the academic value of the artists taking part — and to mark its difference from SKIF, the city's biggest and notoriously chaotic left-field music festival held in the spring — the event has now moved to the Students' Theater on Mokhovaya Ulitsa.

This year, the most-talked-about participant is Bill Drummond, the former pop star and the co-founder of British pop act KLF, who later grew infamous for provocative public actions, including burning a million pounds in 1994.

Drummond is bringing his current performance art project, The17, to the city. It features 17 locally-selected participants who act as both performers and (the only) audience of the event.

This year's Forum also features trumpet player Markus Stockhausen, the son and collaborator of German avant-garde composer Karlheinz Stockhausen, and modern electronic music pioneer J.G. Thirlwell, better known as Foetus, who has worked with a wide range of



J.G. Thirlwell (Foetus) will perform with his latest project Manorexia.



Markus Stockhausen (r) will perform with Tara Bouman.

acts, from Lydia Lunch to Marc Almond.

Dedicated to artistic freedom, the event will also make a statement which is as much political as it is artistic.

Nikolai Galen, which is the stage name of Istanbul-based British music promoter Nick Hobbs, will perform a song called "Timur Kacharava" that he wrote in response to the murder of the 20-year-old anti-fascist activist, student and musician of that name who was stabbed to death by a gang of neo-Nazis in the center of St. Petersburg last November.

"I loathe racism, I loathe nationalism, especially ultra-nationalism, and I loathe the wanton violence that can kill a bright, life-loving 20-year-old for no other reason than he dared to be different," wrote Hobbs in an email this week.

"Timur was a musician and perhaps — I never met Timur — something a bit like I was when I was 20 — so of course I identify with him, and I have enormous respect for the courage he showed to be the way he was in a town — St. Petersburg —

where such behavior is *much* more dangerous than it ever was in any British city," wrote Hobbs who also criticized the Russian authorities for disguising political murders as manifestations of "hooliganism."

"It's people like Timur who speak out and it's people like Timur who deserve our strongest support — they are our conscience, if we forget them we kill something in ourselves."

www.aposition.org

CONCERTS

Fri., Sept. 29

Bill Drummond & The 17
Nikolai Galen
Kelomat
Pamela Z
Yelena Antonenko Project

Sat., Sept. 30

Heroic Project, Part I
Zoom
Masahiko Satoh
J.G. Thirlwell & Manorexia
Heroic Project, Part II
Sun., Oct. 1
Heroic Project, Part III
Real Quiet
Markus Stockhausen/Tara Bouman
Peter Broetzmann Trio
Heroic Project, Part IV

MASTERCLASSES

Sat., Sept. 30

Pamela Z
Teruto Soejima "The History of Japanese Free Jazz Since 1965 Till Nowadays"
Sun., Oct. 1
Annette Giesriegl and Mia Zabelka
Real Quiet

All concerts and masterclasses at Student's Theater on Mokhovaya, 34 Mokhovaya Ul. Metro Chernyshevskaya Tel.: 273 0432. Concerts start at 7 p.m. Masterclasses start at 2 p.m.