



PRESS RELEASE

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MUSIC THAT MAKES DICTATORS TREMBLE

***Listen to the banned** is a unique collection of contemporary songs by artists who have been censored, persecuted, taken to court, imprisoned and even tortured for a very simple reason – their music.*

***Music** brings joy and gives a voice to the “voiceless” – a power that earns the condemnation of intolerant religious leaders and dictators alike. The artists of this CD are united in one single, important issue – the protection of the freedom of musical expression.*

***The stories** of the artists are told in the accompanying booklet. They include the story of Lapiro de Mbanga, who is currently imprisoned in Cameroon for a song critical of his country’s President, and the story of Mahsa Vahdat, prevented from performing solo shows in her native country Iran.*

***Freemuse** is the only international organisation dedicated to protecting musicians and composers’ right to freedom of expression. The CD has been compiled by **Deeyah**, an artist who has stopped performing having endured constant intimidation and physical threats throughout her career.*

***Listen to the banned** will be released by **Grappa Musikkforlag** on Music Freedom Day 3 March – a day celebrated in several cities around the world promoting the freedom of musical expression.*

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