

NOXIOUS CADENCES

Composer's Note

In 2022, I became a dissident. I opposed the war initiated by my country's government and was persecuted by the authorities. They sentenced me to 5 years in prison, which I managed to escape by paying the high price of leaving my home and my previous life. This was not enough for some people. I have been receiving threats since. Some of them were less serious, and the others were saying that they would kill me.

One particular person, whom I had not seen since my childhood, has taken it upon himself to erase me from this world. He might have thought that I was a disgrace to our common city of birth, given that I was also the author of the city's official anthem. Fortunately, he has no chance to do anything. But he called me and left numerous threatening voice messages. He told me he would eventually find me. He told me he would hang me.

I had never experienced anything like this before, and I had no experience in dealing with it. So I decided to channel my emotions into music. I took these messages and composed an experimental electronic piece that reflected the dark state of my mind at that time, but also, strangely, through the very act of creating art—hope.

The four movements of the composition exist in four different tempos simultaneously portraying the inner conflict and the feeling of having no escape.

— *Prokhor Protasoff*

Text

1. First Unheard Message

2m 21s

You have one unheard message...

To hear unheard messages, press one-one...

First unheard message...

...Жду тебя, с***, на русской земле. Жду. Жду тебя.

[...I'm waiting for you, b***, on Russian soil. I'm waiting. I'm waiting for you]

End of message...

2. Is...Was

2m 12s

First unheard message...

...Запомни раз и навсегда: Россия есть, была и будет!

[...Remember this once and for all: Russia is, was, and always will be!]

...Тебя жду! Жду! В этой же России жду тебя! Жду тебя!

[...I'm waiting for you! In this very Russia, I'm waiting for you! I'm waiting!]

3. Enemy Number One

2m 16s

...Я все, короче, передавай через всё, короче, ну вот всё, я...(неразборчиво)... ты враг номер один, б****, в городе, который е***** какой-то гимн сочинил, б****.

*[...I will, like, tell everyone, like, yeah, that's it, I...(illegible)... You're the enemy number one, f***, in the city, who composed some f***** anthem, f***!]*

4. I Will Find You

4m 16s

...Я тебя, я тебя найду!

[...I will, I will find you!]

...Есть у меня, у меня (неразборчиво) есть знакомые, которые в Штатах! И тебя найдут, с***! И даже в Штатах, даже в Канаде, б**** на х**, б****, именно на х**, повесят, б****, повесят, с***!

*[...I have, I have (illegible) friends in the States! We will find you, b***! Even in the States, even in Canada, f***** f***, s***, I f***** mean it, we will hang you, f***, we will hang you, b***!]*