

Ukrainian singer appeals to Australia to help her country

Ukraine singer and former Eurovision winner Jamala is coming to Australia with a special message as her county continues its bloody war with Russia.



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Ukraine’s top songstress Jamala has pleaded for Australian music fans to not forget her besieged country as Russia uses the Israeli crisis to intensify its assault on its neighbour.

The Israel-Gaza war has taken the focus off Russia’s continued aggression on Ukraine with fears it has prompted war fatigue among Kyiv’s Western allies for both aid and armaments.

Jamala is expected to arrive in Australia this week on a personal mission for Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to thank Australia and appeal for donations for children and school programs to continue.



Ukraine’s top songstress, Jamala, has pleaded for Australian music fans to not forget her besieged country. Supplied

The 40-year-old singer won the Eurovision Song Contest in 2016 and became a national hero but since Russia’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine has devoted her energy to campaign for support.

“We will never forget Australia’s help, it has a permanent place in our history,” she said Sunday ahead of a fundraiser on Thursday.

“But the war is going on and we have to stop it as soon as possible, and we can’t do it without you. The longer the war, the harder it is to keep the attention but it is up to us all to create and invent, to use our voices so that the world doesn’t grow to accept violence and cruelty.”

The singer’s charity event participation is in support of President Zelensky’s UNITED24 fundraiser, whose backers include Barbra Streisand, legendary Star Wars actor Mark Hamill and rock stars Imagine Dragons.



Jamala representing Ukraine with the song "1944" celebrates with the trophy after winning the final of the Eurovision Song Contest 2016 Grand Final in Stockholm. Picture: AFP

"As the war's two-year mark looms in February next year, we want to thank Australia for its support but also remind Australia that vital aid is still needed to help protect Ukraine's cities, save lives and work towards the nation's recovery," Ukraine's Ambassador to Australia Vasyl Myroshnychenko said.

Jamala is joined on the tour by renowned Ukrainian combat medic Yuliia 'Taira' Paievska, who helped raise the plight of the city of Mariupol with her bodycam footage beamed around the world before she was captured by Russian forces then released three months later in a prisoner exchange.

Co-Chair of the Australian Federation of Ukrainian Organisations Kateryna Argyrou said the community was delighted to have two Ukraine figures in the country.

"Now we can show President Zelenskyy that Australians remain committed to helping Ukraine," she said.

The fundraiser is on at the Fullerton Hotel in Sydney.