

To whom it may concern,

We write to you today to inform you that it has come to our attention that the pianist John Stetch, who may be listed as an upcoming performer on your events calendar, has been publishing troubling and often bigoted content on his various social media channels. In light of recent developments with these videos becoming more known by the jazz community, Stetch's performance dates at Tyrant Studios and Frankie's Jazz Club have been canceled. As community leaders, we feel it's imperative you be informed about this activity. His past and current statements regarding dangerous misinformation surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change are well-documented. However, we have a greater and more immediate concern about his lesser-known derogatory demonstrations in reference to queer, Indigenous, and Black people. **For these reasons, we implore you to reconsider hosting him at your venue or event in the future.**

Below, we have compiled a list of videos posted within the last year from his YouTube channel that display acts of significant racism and bigotry. Trigger Warning: *Racism against POC (black face) & Indigenous people. Homophobia & Transphobia*

1. ["Trudeau's Jamaican Vacation"](#), ["Trudeau Slams Critics of Gun Control"](#)
 - Stetch features himself wearing blackface in these videos. Though they are intended as a "parody" of Justin Trudeau's past appearances in blackface, it is unacceptable to call out racist behavior with racist behavior.
2. ["Trudeau Sings O Canada"](#)
 - Stetch's altered lyrics of the Canadian national anthem are anti-Indigenous and anti-LGBTQ+. He also makes derogatory reference to the Black Lives Matter and the Black community in his introductory section.
3. ["Dr Tedros is Urgently Hiring"](#)
 - In this video, Stetch puts on an "Ethiopian" accent mocking the name and culture of Dr Tedros of the World Health Organization. Though this isn't visual blackface, it is a minstrel-show take on digital blackface, and is certainly racist in tone and content.
4. [From a live speaking performance in February, 2023:](#)
 - At an event in Toronto supporting anti-Islam German politician Christine Andersen, Stetch includes comments in his act that are anti-LGBTQ+ and in mockery of Black Lives Matter.
5. ["Membership Perks"](#)
 - Stetch explains the three levels of paid membership on his Youtube channel. Included in the perks are custom emoji depictions of Justin Trudeau in blackface. Stetch is thus not only receiving direct financial benefit from the dispersal of blackface material, but is also actively promoting this as an aspect of his personal brand. The most expensive level of membership is the "Maestro" level, which is the one that deals with music. This is structured intentionally so that exclusive music content can only be accessed by additionally paying for access to his "members-only" comedy.

6. Mr. Stetch was barred from the premises of the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra in 2021 after hosting a party that not only flaunted Covid 19 regulations, but also included guests with alleged ties to neo-Nazi organizations. Comments in support of Adolf Hitler and Holocaust denial can be heard on recorded video from the event. [Source: [CityNews](#)]

It's safe to assume that none of the recipients of this email have seen this material as he has adopted an online pseudonym (John Julian), but we feel it's important that you be informed about this because his actions may have a negative impact on the reputation of your venue or organization if you allow him to perform. Furthermore, we believe it's crucial to foster a welcoming, inclusive and non-hostile environment for our local scene, and giving Mr. Stetch another platform would be antithetical to this goal.

Although his status as a celebrated musician is likely the reason why you may decide to book him in the future, we ask that you consider the fact that he has been using this same status to amplify hurtful and dangerous rhetoric. Those of us who are included in this email agree that the buck must stop here. We simply cannot allow somebody who spreads hatred like this to be lauded as a member of the scene. We hope you agree with us and that you will make the right decision.

Signed,

Feven Kidane	Chris Fraser	Isabel Leong	Trent Otter
Gordy Li	Kevin Romain	Thomas Houlden	Sydney Tough
Raphael Agustin	Chad Galpin	Noah Gotfrit	Matt Franceschini
Todd Stewart	Michelle Escudero	Teresa Chang	Jonny Tobin
Chris Gestrin	Alvin Brendan Agatep	Thad Bailey-Mai	Dean Thiessen
Cindy Dai	Benjamin Millman	Jodi Proznick	Shruti Ramani
Jason Winikoff	Thomas Hoeller	Adam Kyle	Seb Chamney
Cole Woodland	John Nicholson	Colin Sankey	Kria Wall
Tess Meckling	Brad Shigeta	Karl DeJong	Rick Son
Quincy Mayes	Julian Borkowski	Rory Hislop	Parker Woods
Julian Ferrer	Francis Naluz	Chris Blaber	Julian Paulo Jayme