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The contorted music of Moscow's Zvuki Mu sounds like David Byrne's dream lunch with Captain Beefheart.

Thanks to the efforts of Brian Eno, a month long tour by the quirky Soviet combo will give Americans a chance to experience the band's gregarious stage show. Eno, who went to Moscow to produce the band's self titled debut, released the record on his own Opal label, a subsidiary of Warner Brothers.

Zvuki Mu fell together out of the Moscow underground in the early '80s. Though the Eno record has garnered attention, the band is not interested in recording for Melodiya, the Soviet state label. "I got a lot of calls from them, but I don't want to make a deal," says front man Peter Mamanov, who is also a respected rock critic back home. "The situation is hard. We only have one state and one recording company."

Recently, however, it has become possible for Soviet citizens to try their hands at privately owned ventures, and Mamanov is planning to start his own label. "A small one, a good one," he says through a thick Russian accent. "Then I will start making records."

Mamanov has, like most people in the USSR, has thought a great deal about the effects of Mikhail Gorbachev's new policies. "I am very optimistic about our future," he says, quickly adding that there is a new generation of Soviets who have much to learn. "If, for example, you suddenly give freedom to a dog, the dog doesn't know what he can do with it. He is just running. He must learn how to use his freedom." Soviets who must cope with a new way of thinking and the implications of democracy have "a storm in their minds."

Mamanov believes the exchanges enabled by glasnost will teach us that our countries are more alike than we think, and that the world is evolving into one common society. Thoughtfully, he never gives in to idealism. "We have to take it easy, look deeper into ourselves and listen with more attention to each other," he cautions. If not, there will be old problems in new settings. "The same old story," chuckling, "maybe this time between Earth and Mars."