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“Kline’s luminous, shimmering wash of bell tones is one of the loveliest communal new-music experiences you’ll ever encounter.”

— *Time Out New York*

Phil Kline’s holiday cult classic UNSILENT NIGHT

to take place in more than 37 cities throughout December 2017

This pioneering work of public sound art debuted in Greenwich Village in 1992 and is today a tradition that has been celebrated in 100+ cities across five continents

Kline's electronic soundscape is played by the audience on boomboxes— and amplified phones—carried through city streets

Each participant simultaneously plays one of 4 composed tracks, together creating a joyous noise on foot (on bicycles in Austin!)

FREE as always

How to Participate

www.unsignednight.com/participate

In NYC, Hudson, and North Adams, Phil Kline will hand out a limited number of vintage boomboxes from his collection— and cassettes for those who bring their own

2017 LIST OF PARTICIPATING CITIES

(Schedule updated daily at www.unsilentsnight.com/schedule)

(click on city name for details)

[Detroit, MI](#): December 1
[Fargo, ND](#): December 1
[Flagstaff, AZ](#): December 1
[Florence, AL](#): December 1
[Knoxville, TN](#): December 1
[Newnan, GA](#): December 1
[Port Jefferson, NY](#): December 1
[Breckenridge, CO](#): December 2
[Seattle, WA](#): December 2
[Winchester, VA](#): December 2
[Norfolk, VA](#): December 6
[Wilmington, DE](#): December 6
[Cambridge, Ontario](#): December 7
[Delaware, OH](#): December 7
[North Adams, MA](#): December 7
[Traverse City, MI](#): December 8
[Malden, MA](#): December 9
[Nacogdoches, TX](#): December 9
[San Francisco, CA](#): December 9
[Atlanta, GA](#): December 10
[Edmonton, AB](#): December 10
[Mount Pleasant, MI](#): December 10
[Philadelphia, PA](#): December 11
[Indianapolis, IN](#): December 16
[Louisville, KY](#): December 16
[Nashville, TN](#): December 16
[Sacramento, CA](#): December 16
[Austin, TX](#): December 17
[New York, NY](#): December 17
[Denver, CO](#): December 21
[Athens, GA](#): December 22
[Hudson, NY](#): December 23
[Colorado Springs, CO](#): TBD
[Columbia, MD](#): TBD
[Joshua Tree, CA](#): TBD
[Montréal, QC](#): TBD
[Oberlin, OH](#): TBD

The original flagship event in [NEW YORK CITY](#)
(every December since 1992)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2017, 6:00 PM

START: Participants meet at 5:45pm at the arch in Washington Square Park

END: Tompkins Square Park by 6:45pm

WHAT TO BRING: Boombox or any other kind of amplified sound rig

If going digital, be sure to **pre-download the tracks** to your device at www.unsilentnight.com/participate



Unsilent Night NYC 2016, Photo by **Sxip Shirey**

“The effect of Kline's music is gorgeous, as bell sounds lap up against buildings and ricochet all around, and the nondenominational spirit of it can warm even the coldest of hearts.”

– **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

This December, composer [Phil Kline](#)'s mobile sound-sculpture **UNSILENT NIGHT** takes place in more than 37 cities across the United States and Canada. Streets, parks and sidewalks will come alive with “a shimmering sound-wall of bells and chimes that is dreamlike to wander through in the December nip” (*The Village Voice*).

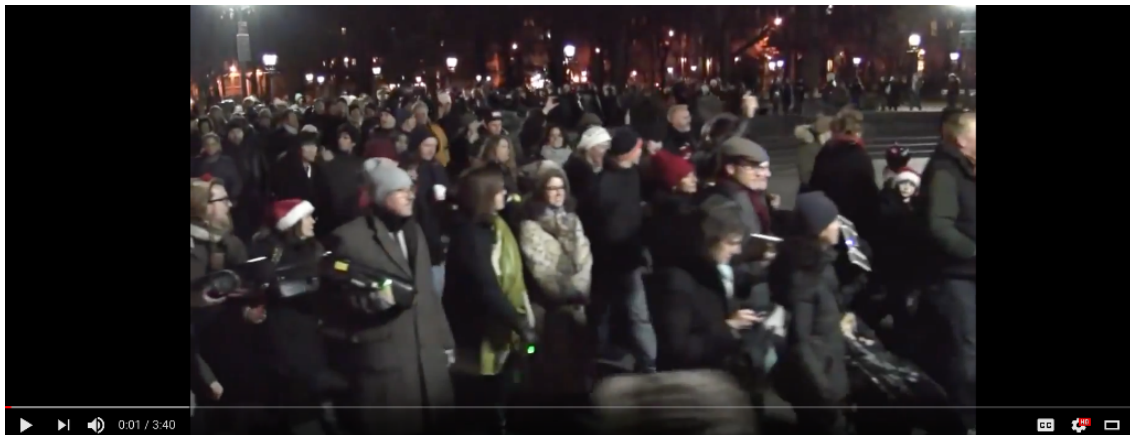
A landmark in avant-garde public art, *Unsilent Night* is one of the more unlikely holiday traditions to spread around the world. It is beautiful not just for what *The New York Times* calls its “phosphorescent sound” but because anyone can present it or participate, using

any kind of sound blaster. Even the onlookers in shops and apartments become listening participants.

This year's flagship **New York City** event celebrates its 26th year and takes place **Sunday, December 17, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.** when Phil will lead a massive chorus of boomboxes from the West Village to the East Village. Hundreds of participants will gather **at the arch in Washington Square Park**, and less than an hour and mile later, end up in **Tompkins Square Park**.

Meanwhile, throughout the month similar parades will play out in [dozens of cities](#) as diverse as Seattle, Nacogdoches, and Florence Alabama.

No two *Unsilent Nights* are the same. **Austin** does theirs on bikes; **Hudson** explores its secret past through lesser traveled alleys and enclaves, with the support of experimental non-profit Wave Farm and WGXC radio; in **Cambridge Ontario**, it's presented by the city itself as part of a big multimedia holiday festival. Some are quite intimate, gathering groups of friends in towns like **North Adams MA** and **Traverse City MI**. Music organizations and arts festivals embrace *Unsilent Night* as a happening to bring together their community, such as the new music collective Nief-Norf in **Knoxville TN**, and this year's biggest newcomer, the **Breckenridge (CO) Music Festival**, which will involve the whole town with talks and workshops, a tree lighting, and what will be the first real High Rockies *Unsilent Night*. The SF Contemporary Music Players continue the **San Francisco** tradition, which always ends with a stunning descent into Dolores Park.



[WATCH: WOXR's video about *Unsilent Night's* 20th Anniversary in NYC](#)

About *Unsilent Night*



Photo by **Tom Jarmusch**

"A brilliant bond of public space and listening public."

— **THE VILLAGE VOICE**

Unsilent Night is an original composition by Phil Kline, written specifically to be heard outdoors in the month of December, always as a free event. It takes the form of a promenade in which the audience becomes the performer (each participant gets one of four tracks of music that they play simultaneously), walking a carefully chosen route through a city's streets.

It started in winter 1992, when Phil had an idea for a public artwork in the form of a holiday caroling party. He composed a four-track electronic piece that was 45 minutes long (the length of one side of a cassette tape), invited some friends who gathered in Greenwich Village, gave each person a boombox with one of four tapes in it, and instructed everyone to hit **PLAY** at the same time. What followed was a sound unlike anything they had ever heard: an evanescence filled the air, reverberating off buildings and streets as the crowd walked a pre-determined route, creating a mobile sound sculpture different from every listener's perspective. "In effect, we became a city-block-long stereo system," says Phil. The piece was so popular that it became an annual tradition, and then an international phenomenon.

While technological advances allow the piece to now be played through a multitude of devices, Phil Kline originally designed the piece to incorporate the unreliability, playback delay, and quavering tones of cassette tapes. "Today most people use digital audio players, so I make the audio available in that format as well—but there's something about the twinkling, hallucinatory effect of a warbling cassette tape that I enjoy," he says.

The studio recording of UNSILENT NIGHT, which layers all the tracks, is available on Bang on a Can's [Cantaloupe Music](#) label.

Phil Kline

www.philkline.com



Phil Kline, Photo by Lovis Ostenrik

A veteran of New York's downtown scene, Phil Kline stands out for his range and unpredictability. From vast boombox symphonies to chamber music and song cycles, his work has been hailed for its originality, beauty, subversive subtext, and wry humor. Early in his career he cofounded the rock band the Del-Byzanteens with Jim Jarmusch and James Nares, collaborated with Nan Goldin on the soundtrack to *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, and played guitar in the notorious Glenn Branca Ensemble. Some of his early work evolved from performance art and used large numbers of boomboxes, such as the outdoor Christmas cult classic *Unsilent Night*. Other notable works include *Exquisite Corpses*, written for the Bang on a Can All-Stars; the politically-infused *Zippo Songs* and *Rumsfeld Songs*; *John the Revelator*, a setting of the Latin Mass written for early music specialists Lionheart; and the Sinatra-inspired song cycle *Out Cold*, written for Theo Bleckmann and premiered at BAM's Next Wave Festival. Phil hosts a daily radio show on WQXR/Q2 in NYC and is currently collaborating with filmmaker Jim Jarmusch on a music theater spectacle about Nikola Tesla. His music is available on the Cantaloupe, Starkland, and CRI record labels.

Unsilent Night in the Press

“The point is that everyone’s together, simultaneously playing Kline’s wintry wonderwork, bringing joy, cheer and light to corners too numbed by despair to know they even need ‘em.” — **PHILADELPHIA WEEKLY**

"A tintinnabulating tribute to the joys of caroling, a here-comes-everybody happening, a brilliant bond of public space and listening public." — **VILLAGE VOICE**

"Perhaps the most striking aspect of *Unsilent Night* was the benign sense of wonder it instilled in observers." — **SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE**

"Unearthly but strangely comforting at the same time." — **NEW YORK DECODER**

"During the procession, the sense of wonder spreads outward as onlookers are enveloped in a nebula of phosphorescent sound." — **NEW YORK TIMES**

“The most eccentrically beguiling experience of the holiday season.” — **TORONTO LIFE**

"A dreamy fruitcake of parts,
tranquil even through its anarchy." — **LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“Caroling has never been so epic.” — **FLAVORPILL**

“It’s a 44-minute exercise in musical democracy and Christmas cheer.
It’s a tradition for our times, a modern twist on strolling
minstrels and caroling parties.” — **BALTIMORE SUN**

“Gorgeously ambient.” — **NEW YORK MAGAZINE**

“Immerses the listener in suspended wonderment, as if time itself
had paused inside a string of jingle bells.” — **NEW YORK TIMES**

“It’s the caroling of the future.” — **SAN FRANCISCO WEEKLY**

“Kline’s score, like toy chimes floating on the cold air,
brings magic to the long, dark winter nights.” — **NEW YORK POST**

[NPR on Unsilent Night](#): One of the great American symphonies?

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PR for musical trailblazers



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