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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 27, 2018

www.unsilentnight.com

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Uncommercial, unclassifiable, unearthly, unforgettable, Unsilent Night

“It felt like being in a movie, or a dream, heavenly music made of bells and chimes and God knows what else underlining your every move, propelling you through our never-more-wondrous town.”

— **IMBY** (In My Back Yard), Hudson NY

“A marvelously fluid, traveling spatial sound sculpture that disintegrates and reforms at nearly every stop light.” — **THE VILLAGE VOICE**

Phil Kline's holiday classic
UNSILENT NIGHT

to take place in dozens of cities throughout December 2018,
from Nacogdoches, Texas to Frankfurt, Germany

And for the first time in many cities including
Boston • New Albany (Indiana) • Sitka (Alaska)
and Porirua & Wellington (both in New Zealand)

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

Kline's 45-minute 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

FREE as always

How to Participate
www.unsilentnight.com/participate

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

2018 LIST OF PARTICIPATING CITIES

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

(click on city name for details)

Granville, OH: November 29

[Cincinnati, OH](#): November 30

[Newnan, GA](#): December 1

[Porirua, New Zealand](#): December 1

[Wellington, New Zealand](#): December 1

[Chicago, IL](#): December 2

[Mount Pleasant, MI](#): December 2

[Norfolk, VA](#): December 5

[Lubbock, TX](#): December 5

[Cambridge, Ontario](#): December 6

[Charlotte, NC](#): December 6

[Nacogdoches, TX](#): December 6

[Athens, GA](#): December 7

[Florence, AL](#): December 7

[Knoxville, TN](#): December 7

[Alpharetta, GA](#): December 8

[Traverse City, MI](#): December 8

[Indianapolis, IN](#): December 8

[Malden, MA](#): December 8

[Winchester, VA](#): December 8

[Houston, TX](#): December 12

[Montréal, QC](#): December 12

[North Adams, MA](#): December 13

[Oberlin, OH](#): December 14

[Colorado Springs, CO](#): December 15

[San Francisco, CA](#): December 15

[Atlanta, GA](#): December 16

[New York, NY](#): December 16

[Sacramento, CA](#): December 16

[Frankfurt, Germany](#): December 19

[Boston, MA](#): December 20

[Denver, CO](#): December 20

[Tacoma, WA](#): December 21

[Philadelphia, PA](#): December 21

[Hudson, NY](#): December 22

Portland, OR: December 22

San Marcos, TX: TBD

Sitka, AK: TBD

Victoria, BC: TBD

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

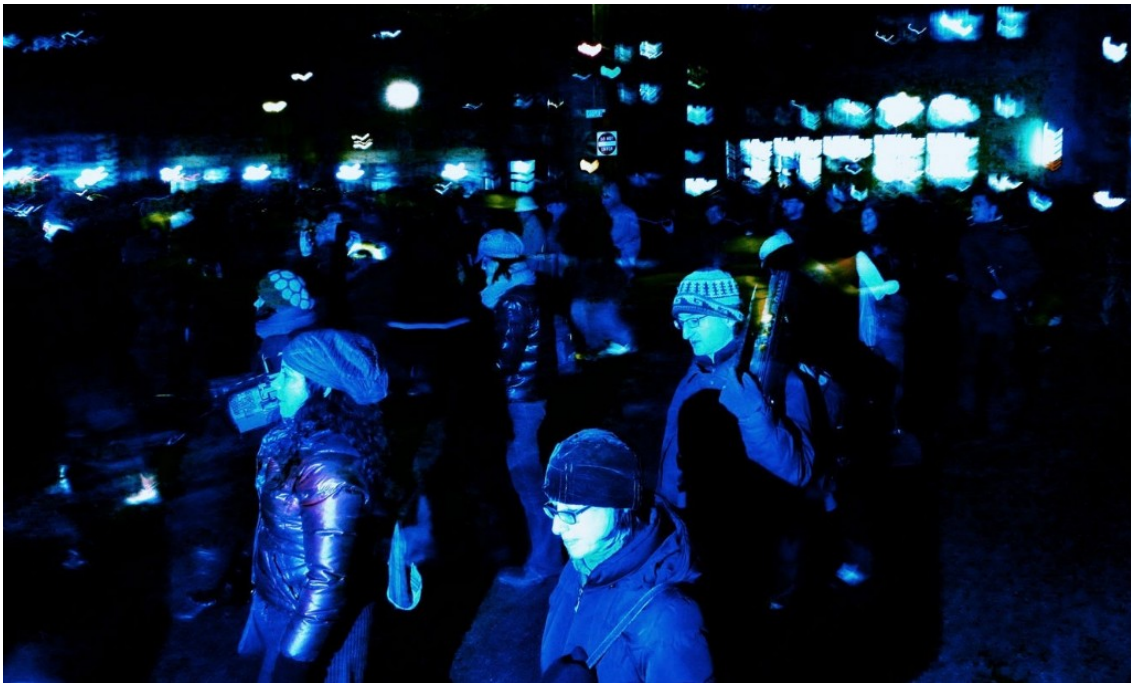
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018, 6:00 PM

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



“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**

This December, composer **Phil Kline**’s mobile sound-sculpture **UNSILENT NIGHT** — a landmark in avant-garde public art — takes place in more than 39 cities across the United States, Canada, Europe and New Zealand. 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*).

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 27th year and takes place **Sunday, December 16, 2018 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 Cambridge Ontario, Wellington New Zealand, and Florence Alabama.

Unsilent Night responds to the qualities of each city and community: the people, the architecture, the lay of the land, the weather, all combining to make every event unique. **Hudson NY** 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 **Newnan GA** and **Traverse City MI**. Music organizations, local presenters, 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 the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in **Boston MA**. The oldest continuous *Unsilent Night* outside of New York City is the **San Francisco** edition, which always ends with a stunning descent into Dolores Park.



[VIDEO: WQXR on Phil Kline's Unsilent Night](#)

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 and a mobile app (Android and Apple) 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. He is currently working on an orchestral song cycle for Theo Bleckmann and 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. Phil can also be heard hosting radio programs on WNYC's New Sounds Radio network.

What they're saying about *Unsilent Night*

"The annual tyranny of cheesy Christmas music is unavoidable. But for the last quarter

of a century, Phil Kline's offered New Yorkers a gorgeous, 45-minute respite from 'Frosty the Snowman' and the like..." — **THE NEW YORK POST**

"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**

"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." — **THE NEW YORK POST**

"My holiday tradition is to participate in Phil Kline's 'Unsilent Night.' This year it was transcendent. I can't tell you how much I love this as composition and sonic action. This piece redefines the streets you live in. Hundreds of people meet in Washington

Square Park. They all hit PLAY on dozens of boomboxes or on the apps on their phones, or mp3 devices at the same time. There are 4 different sound streams. The group then walks to Tompkins Square Park. Sound is all around you, it bounces off the buildings, it shifts as people walk past you or you past them. It floats you through the city."

— composer/musician **SXIP SHIREY**

NPR on *Unsilent Night*: One of the great American symphonies?

For further information, photos, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba & Co. at 212/206-1450 or [alebaco.com](mailto:aleba@alebaco.com).



PR for musical trailblazers



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