

Beacon, New York

March 6th 2019

A LETTER of SUPPORT for THE VILLAGE TRIP FESTIVAL

I was fortunate enough to be chosen as the first Artist-in-Residence for The Village Trip's opening year of what many New Yorkers now hope will become an annual event for years to come.

With practically no budget, Liz Thomson and a group of tireless volunteers created a series of events which provided endless joy, enthusiasm and a true community spirit that filled Greenwich Village in the same way that the first season of Joe Papp's Free Shakespeare in the Park did for all New Yorkers back in the summer of 1957.

I was the New York Shakespeare Festival's first composer and musical director that summer, and have always hoped since then that something like this could happen again in New York some day.

Sixty one years later, in September of 2018 that some day *has* come, thanks to the Village Trip!!

Greenwich Village was transformed into a joyous family-friendly series of events which all magically flowed into one another.

I attended all of them and participated in most of them and still feel thrilled to have been part of something which was so artistic and so much FUN!!!

Every city in the USA could use the Village Trip as a model for how to restore their own neighborhood pride, create family -friendly events and opportunities for artists of all genres to celebrate the glorious days of September and be of help to all remaining local businesses who can be helped by the crowds of people who come to attend!!

Everyone I know who was there last September can hardly wait for this coming September to arrive so that we can all be together and welcome a new group of people to share that spirit of creativity and congeniality that has been the hallmark of Greenwich Village and is now celebrated by the Village Trip!!

Please bring your friends and families for the time of your life!

**David Amram
Artist Emeritus**