

# THE VILLAGE TRIP™

## WHERE THE BEAT LIVES ON

MUSIC LEGEND DAVID AMRAM TO KICK OFF THE VILLAGE TRIP, 9-DAY ARTS FESTIVAL, WITH FREE CONCERT IN GREENWICH VILLAGE ON SATURDAY, SEPT. 18

The Village Trip and The Village Alliance to Host Musical Tribute to Eighth Street

New York, N.Y., August 23: Ninety-year-old David Amram, who worked with Jack Kerouac, Thelonious Monk, Dizzy Gillespie, Joseph Papp, Leonard Bernstein, Pete Seeger, Bob Dylan, Tito Puente, and Willie Nelson, will headline an outdoor concert, 1 PM to 6 PM, on Saturday, Sept. 18, launching this year's Village Trip arts festival. He will be joined by a lineup that spans eras and genres. The concert, at the intersection of Eighth and MacDougal streets, will also inaugurate The Eighth Street Experience, a new take on the iconic Greenwich Village thoroughfare.

Liz Thomson, who founded the Village Trip in 2018, explains: "Eighth Street has a fabled heritage for music, fashion, theatre, and fine art. On this very block in 1959, Barbra Streisand made her debut at the Bon Soir. In 1968, Jimi Hendrix opened his famous Electric Lady Studios where scores of recording artists from Steve Earle and Patti Smith to the Rolling Stones, Stevie Wonder, David Bowie and Amy Winehouse recorded their latest albums." Thomson continues: "At the old Eighth Street Bookshop, Bob Dylan met Allen Ginsberg. And, not far away, the ANTA Theatre premiered Arthur Miller's play *After the Fall* in 1964 with music composed by David Amram."

Amram, who serves as The Village Trip's Artist Emeritus, brought jazz/poetry to New York with his close friend Kerouac in the late 1950s. Amram's current band will headline the concert on September 18th. Special guests will include singer Rene Manning and horn player Earl McIntyre. Other Village Trip artists including Bodies Electric, a guitar quartet, will honor the legacy of Jimi Hendrix, whose celebrated debut album *Are You Experienced* inspired the rebranding of Eighth Street.

Also on Sept. 18 The Village Trip will present a Land of the Blacks tour led by Kamau Ware, readings by children's authors in Washington Square Park, a folk music tour of the Village by Jesse Rifkin, food tours, and the chance to visit the studios of leading architecture firms.

The Village Trip 2021 is a big-tent, nine-day festival, featuring jazz, folk, rock and classical music, as well as walks, talks and tours. Latin jazz great Bobby Sanabria will headline a free concert in Washington Square Park on Saturday, Sept. 25, and will be joined by multi-Grammy-winner Janis Siegel from The Manhattan Transfer. A concert at The Bitter End hosted by David Amram will close the festival on Sept. 26. For more information, visit: [www.TheVillageTrip.com](http://www.TheVillageTrip.com)

“We are thrilled to welcome back The Village Trip after a year’s hiatus,” said William Kelley, Executive Director of the Village Alliance. “The music and cultural festival is the perfect opportunity to welcome back neighbors and visitors to our historic corridor and showcase the Eighth Street Experience.”

Eighth Street is one of New York City's most historic and iconic thoroughfares. First developed in the 1820s, it was New York's cultural main street in the 1840s and 50s; during the late Victorian era, it was part of the Ladies Mile high-class shopping district. In the early 20th century, it was bohemia's main street; and from the 1930's to the 1960's it was New York's downtown nightclub district and the place where American painters gained world fame as the leaders in art. It remains a magnet for sightseers and flourishes as a commercial and residential district. The historic commercial corridor that is Eighth Street is maintained by the [Village Alliance](#), a Business Improvement District covering 44 blocks in Central Greenwich Village. The [Village Alliance](#) has proved itself to be a leading advocate for the Village community for nearly thirty years. As a 501(c)3 community-based non-profit, the BID works with businesses, residents, and cultural and academic institutions to drive economic growth.

For more information, visit <https://greenwichvillage.nyc/about-us/what-we-do/>

The mission of [The Village Trip](#), which debuted in 2018 with Suzanne Vega singing in Washington Square Park and returned in 2019 with Steve Earle headlining, is to uplift, to entertain, and to celebrate the arts for all New Yorkers, their families, and all people from around the world who come to visit New York City’s special oasis, Greenwich Village.

The Village Trip is a nonprofit organization and donations to it are tax-deductible. If you want to support the festival, you can [donate](#) here.

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