

THE VILLAGE TRIP™

WHERE THE BEAT LIVES ON

**THE VILLAGE TRIP ANNOUNCES ITS FIFTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL,
SEPTEMBER 8 - SEPTEMBER 24, 2023**

A 17-day celebration of the cultural legacy of Greenwich Village and the East Village, two of New York's most celebrated neighborhoods

The festival will honor the 60th anniversary of the March on Washington and the ongoing struggle for freedom, equality, and social justice for all

September 10 will celebrate Ukrainian culture with a day-long series of fundraising and musical events, closing with the US debut of Odesa band KOMMUNA LUX

Free concert in Washington Square Park with People of Earth, The Peace Poets and BETTY

New York, NY, August 14, 2023 - Get ready for an unforgettable experience as [The Village Trip](#) returns for its fifth annual festival celebrating arts and activism across Greenwich Village and the East Village. From September 8 through September 24, more than sixty events will energize Downtown Manhattan in a diverse family-friendly program that reflects and honors the free-spirited creativity that for more than a century has made the neighborhood a truly global village and the birthplace of so many shape-shifting movements in both the arts and civil society.

Music is at the heart of The Village Trip and the festival once again showcases a rich roster of performers who together symbolize what Maestro Leonard Bernstein called "the infinite variety of music." In addition to the folk, rock, hip-hop and jazz so readily associated with the Village, an eclectic and wide-ranging classical and new music program will feature world-class performances by established and up-and-coming talent, and world premieres of compositions by Victoria Bond, Carman Moore, Aleksandra Vrebalov and Errollyn Wallen, all rooted in the Village. Two contrasting concerts mark Rosh Hashanah: At the first, Grammy-garlanded Janis Siegel and friends will present a unique evening of Yiddish classics with a backbeat. At the second, Avram Pengas and David Amram will lead an exuberant celebration of

Jewish roots music and its wide-ranging influence. All of this honors the Lower East Side's legacy of immigrants enriching our culture.

New at this year's festival: Film and photography, stand-up comedy, and a children's program, "Songwriting to Save the World" with David Roth.

Celebrate Ukraine! on September 10, will honor Ukraine, with a day-long series of Village Trip events benefiting the [Ukraine Children's Action Project](#). Classical music stars will be at St Mark's in the Bowery for 'Killing the Silence', a concert of Ukrainian music featuring Ukrainian Chorus Dumka, the renowned choir born amid the Soviet repression of the 1940s. The Portico of St Mark's will be a platform for performers of all ages and abilities, student to professional: They will take a bow at a [Play-a-Thon for Ukraine](#), sponsored by Steinway, and the New York State Music Teachers Association.

The Stateside debut of Ukrainian sensation KOMMUNA LUX will bring [The Village Trip Ukraine Day](#) to a close. The seven-piece band has been raising money and spirits across Ukraine with its unique and exhilarating blend of "Odesa gangsta folk." At DROM, they will be joined by Julie Gold, Frank London, Willie Nile, and others, including festival Artist Emeritus David Amram, "the renaissance man of American music." All of them are standing with Ukraine and giving KOMMUNA LUX a true New York City welcome.... Assuming USCIS grants them visas.

On September 21 at the Great Hall of Cooper Union – where Abraham Lincoln spoke, and the NAACP was born – [Let Freedom Ring! Music and Voices of the March for Civil Rights, Then and Now](#) will honor the sixtieth anniversary of the great March on Washington. Conceived and created by award-winning poet, playwright, and storyteller Daniel Carlton (*March On*) and directed by David Deblinger, with musical direction by Fred Johnson and the cooperation of the National Jazz Museum in Harlem, this unique evening of song, dance, and oratory will entertain, elevate, and inspire.

The Village Trip's signature **free concert in Washington Square Park** will take place as usual on the festival's final Saturday, September 23, and it brings together Latin jazz, hip-hop and indie rock. Dance in the late summer sun to People of Earth, The Peace Poets, and Gloria Steinem's favorite band BETTY, who commented: "Washington Square Park continues to be the heart of NYC's progressive movements and an epicenter for change. There's an electricity that runs from this power point that can and has ignited the world. We're thrilled to plug in, tune up and rock out there with the legendary gathering, **The Village Trip!**"

AMONG THE VILLAGE TRIP HIGHLIGHTS

A Drag Salute to Martha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera: A celebration of the dynamic and riotous transgender activists whose fight against discrimination galvanized the gay rights movement. Glam Award-nominated DJ Chauncey Dandridge and some of New York's most festive drag queens will pay homage to Johnson and Rivera's ferocity and flair at the Stonewall Inn.

Jazz for Justice: An all-star benefit concert at the Nuyorican Poets Café for Keith LaMar, who has spent almost 34 years on death row for a crime he didn't commit. With Albert Marquès, Victor Pablo, and Keith LaMar (from prison); David Amram; Bobby Sanabria with Los Pleneros de la Calle; and poets La Bruja and Marcos de la Fuente... and many more.

Public/Private: Gail Merrifield Papp in conversation with award-winning playwright and director George C Wolfe. As Director of New Works Development for the Public Theater, Gail was responsible for such ground-breaking productions as *Hair*, *A Chorus Line*, and *The Normal Heart*.

Neighbors, Lovers, and Friends: Michael Kelly and pianist Bradley Moore with an evening of American art song celebrating the music and words of Village composers and poets. World premieres and old favorites amid the historic and elegant surroundings of the Salmagundi Club.

Loisaida, My Love: At Third Street Music school, a celebration of the LatinX culture of the Lower East Side and the musical talents the area has nurtured, from the classical virtuoso pianist Teresa Carreño to the tango master Astor Piazzola and salsa superstar Celia Cruz.

Wonderful Town: A seventieth-anniversary cabaret performance of Leonard Bernstein's great downtown musical, with Jamie Bernstein, Janis Siegel, and friends. A sell-out last year, it now transfers to Joe's Pub.

Julie Gold: Closing the Distance: An intimate evening of songs and stories with the Grammy-winning singer-songwriter known the world over for "From a Distance," a song which woke up the Mir Space Station astronauts and has been read into the Congressional Record.

Terri Thal and Friends – Greenwich Village and Me: Tom Paxton and Happy Traum join Terri – Bob Dylan's first manager – at the Bitter End for an evening of stories and songs honoring the heyday of the Village folk scene.

The Village Trip Annual Lecture: Historian Eric K Washington – "Greenwich Village as Harlem's Preamble and Echo."

Painting the Village: An exhibition of paintings, photographs, and drawings of Village people past and present. Curated by artist and historian Marc Kehoe and on display at the Moshava Gallery throughout the festival.

For more information on the full event, please visit [The Village Trip Full Program](#).

Don't miss this unique opportunity to experience **The Village Trip**, where history, culture, and compassion converge. This festival promises something for everyone, from music, art, and poetry, to architecture, history, the spoken word, and literature. Much of it is free, and all of it is accessible.

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About The Village Trip:

The Village Trip was founded in 2018 by Liz Thomson, a London-based journalist and author whose books include the award-winning biography *Joan Baez: The Last Leaf*. She was also the revising editor of *Bob Dylan: No Direction Home* by Robert Shelton, the *New York Times* journalist whose review is credited with launching Dylan's career. She is Joint Artistic Direct of The Village Trip with Cliff Pearson, a West Village-based architectural journalist, author, and **contributing** editor to *Architectural Record*.