



JOIN **THE VILLAGE TRIP** FOR A MUSICAL ODYSSEY THROUGH A GLOBAL VILLAGE OF COMPOSERS AND PERFORMERS

**ERROLLYN WALLEN, SCOTT JOHNSON, JEFF BEAL, MEL POWELL, DAVID
DEL TREDICI, JOSEPH KECKLER, ALEKSANDRA VREBALOV, AND MORE**
SEPTEMBER 8 – 24, 2023

WHAT: The Village Trip Classical Team, guitarist William Anderson and pianist Joan Forsyth, join forces with several powerful co-presenters, all with distinct musical passions, assembling over 100 groundbreaking composers and performers covering an incredible range from Missy Mazzoli to Elliott Carter, with Pulitzer Prize-winners Tania Leon and Mel Powell, presented at fun and colorful venues throughout Greenwich Village.

WHO: “This is an exciting time to present music in Greenwich Village. The question needs attention every year: What is new and what is classical? The Mel Powell centenary puts this question into relief. Powell’s career covered so many facets of post-war American music from bobby-soxer fare for the Benny Goodman Orchestra, to psychedelia at the Electric Circus, to his later modernist works. We honor one of America’s most daring and original composers, Scott Johnson, who died earlier this year, with a performance of his “Bowery Haunt” for two electric guitars, written for me and Oren Fader. In his own brilliant, unique way, Johnson was the bridge between the “uptown” and “downtown” factions of New York composers” -- William Anderson, Classical/New Music Director for **The Village Trip**.

- September 8, 2023: **Erik Satie’s “Vexations” 60 Years After the John Cage Production**
 - Erik Satie’s “Vexations” is an early example of conceptual art—a short enigmatic piece that Satie specified to be looped 840 times. The world premiere of Vexations, with all the repetitions was produced by John Cage in 1963. A 26-year-old wunderkind participated—David Del Tredici. The Village Trip production was organized by pianist Joan Forsyth in partnership with NYU and Marilyn Nonken and will conclude with the return of David Del Tredici.
- September 9, 2023: **Diana Wege - Earth Requiem and Rebirth**
 - Artist/activist Diana Wege’s brilliant call to action features a world premiere by celebrated British composer **Errollyn Wallen**. Mark Shapiro, one of New York’s most daring choral conductors, leads a moving choral distress signal from planet earth; with segments by Wallen and Emmy award winner Jeff Beal (House of Cards). Wege’s artwork was selected for inclusion in the 2023 Jerusalem Biennale.

- September 14 – 16, 2023: **The Village Trip GuitarFest:**
 - Celebrated classical guitarist David Leisner (“Among the finest guitarists of all time,” *American Record Guide*) joins guitarists from the US, China, and Chile for a dazzling cross-section of classical and contemporary music. For his centenary, Mel Powell’s guitar solo ‘Setting,’ written for David Starobin in 1986, will be performed by Xingxing Yao, from Hangzhou, 17 years of age, a student of David Starobin and Jason Vieaux at the Curtis Institute.
- September 17, 2023: **Seeking Refuge: Sounding loss and displacement**
 - Poet Mascha Kaléko explores the themes of loss, isolation, and displacement common to so many refugees. Soprano Sharon Harms is joined by pianist Joan Forsyth and guitarist William Anderson to perform Kaléko settings by Anderson, Dawe, Hailstork, Brazelton, and more.
- September 19, 2023: **Baritone Jack Keckler with soprano Sharon Harms – premières by Vrebalov, Carman Moore, and Gene Pritsker**
 - Baritone Joseph Keckler and soprano Sharon Harms perform new settings of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Charles Simic by Aleksandra Vrebalov and Gene Pritsker; Carman Moore’s “A Village Triptych” treatment of a group of Greenwich Village poets, including his dear friend Lennox Raphael. The program features a segment that showcases Joseph Keckler’s original work, hailed by the NY Times as a “major vocal talent with a trickster’s dark humor and a range that shatters the conventional boundaries.”

"I was very pleased to compose a new work for The Village Trip '23, made possible by an award from the ASCAP Foundation Charles Kingsford Fund," states Carmen Moore. "A Village Triptych" comprises settings of texts by three important Village poets -- Djuna Barnes, Gamel Woolsey, and my old great friend and colleague Lennox Raphael."

The *New York Times* described Carman Moore as a composer who not only defies categories but “treats them with disdain” and goes on to say that he is a composer with "a lot of music in his head, the product of his upbringing in black culture, his classical training and his voracious curiosity..."

WHEN: September 8 – September 24, 2023

WHERE: From Joe’s Pub – Hall H, with St Mark’s, Salmagundi Club, and many more. [For full schedule.](#)
For more information on the full event, please visit [The Village Trip Full Program](#).

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