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Village Trip Festival

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By Roger Paradiso

It was the most humid day of the summer. It was September 18th and still late summer.

The Village Trip Festival had taken over 8th Street in the heart of Greenwich Village. David Amram was playing there, just blocks from many of the clubs and theaters, he had played many years ago when the Village was the epicenter of arts and culture in the 1960s.

The festival had set up some turf on 8th Street and there were members of the audience sitting there enjoying the concert. Standing around the end of MacDougal and 8th Street were about two hundred fans who braved the weather for this afternoon delight.

I called David the next night. He said he was dehydrating during the show and some nice people came up with water and ice for him. The band took a brief break and completed the four-hour set. I asked David why he played some of the songs in his set.

“I got word that Doris Diether had passed away a few days ago and I wanted to memorialize her with Amazing Grace. I went up to Renee Manning and asked her if she would sing the song. And the rest of the band jumped right in. It all came together ya dig, The Village always stressed collaboration and community and it all worked.

“It was so nice to play a piece by Sonny Rollins called Saint Thomas. Jerome Harrison had played guitar with Sonny.” Rollins played numerous clubs in the Village and is recognized as one of America’s great composers and [jazz](#) tenor saxophonists.

“There was a chance to do my own Waltz from the Fall which I composed for Arthur Miller’s play called After the Fall. In the first three years of Lincoln Center Repertory theater we were in residence at a Theater just around the corner here

on West Fourth. The reason we were in the Village was because the Lincoln Center complex was still being finished.”

“After the Fall” opened at the [ANTA Washington Square Theatre](#) in 1964.

I felt that that day’s concert here at the Village Trip reminded me of those days in the Village where people used to come together and create some music.

