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David Amram played a jazzy number before Vega hit the stage, and urged the crowd to always retain that spark of Greenwich Village creativity within themselves.



PHOTOS BY TEQUILA MINSKY

Suzanne Vega headlined The Village Trip concert in Washington Square Park this past Saturday evening.

Whoa, what a Trip first fest was!

BY LINCOLN ANDERSON

The inaugural Village Trip festival brought a mix of classic folk music, literature, storytelling and photography back to town for four days last week, from Thursday to Sunday.

A highlight was the festival's free concert in Washington Square Park Saturday evening, featuring headliner Suzanne Vega. The singer-songwriter played a variety of new and vintage tunes, including her 1980s smash hits, "Tom's Restaurant" and "Luka."

Vega said she hoped the festival — and the concert in the park — would be back for a second install-

ment next year.

The festival also included a talk on the writings of Jack Kerouac and Edna St. Vincent Millay at the Jefferson Market Library, which included the world premiere of David Amram's work "Greenwich Village Portraits." Amram, 87, who was buddies with Kerouac and the Village Beats, was the festival's artist-in-residence.

Sunday night saw another concert at The Bitter End, featuring Happy Traum, Tom Chapin, the Chapin Sisters, David Massengill and others.

The event was the brainchild of Liz Thompson, a British woman with a love affair with the Village and its culture and history. Thompson, who

formerly worked in publishing, frequently visited the Village over the years for work, and always stayed at the Washington Square Hotel, which was like the headquarters for the festival.

"To see the dream become reality was truly thrilling," Thompson reflected of The Village Trip's first edition. "And to have so many people remark that such a festival was long overdue made it all feel worthwhile."

"Thank you to all our wonderful musicians, actors and speakers; to our sponsors and partners; and to all those who supported The Village Trip in this its first year and helped make it happen."

"Here's to The Village Trip 2019."



The crowd dug the tunes at the free concert.