



Press Release

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GET READY FOR HONK! FEST

Celebrate Columbus Day weekend at the 4th annual HONK! Festival

Somerville, MA –Thirty bands from around the world are coming to Boston, Somerville, and Cambridge to beat their drums, blow their trumpets, and have an outrageous good time. The amazing three-day event happens Columbus Day weekend, starting Friday, October 9 and lasting through Sunday, October 11.

“This is our best year yet,” said Kevin Leppmann, a festival organizer, “We’ve got great bands mixing music and activism in a way that is completely one-of-a-kind. People say it’s the best event they’ve seen in the Boston area in ten years!”

The festival begins Friday afternoon and evening with “HONK! on Boston.” All around the city HONK! bands will get together with local musicians in different neighborhoods—including East Somerville, East Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, Chinatown and the Boston Common.

“HONK! celebrates community,” said Ken Field, from the 15-piece street band, Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band. “People are excited about HONK! because they’re not just watching a show, they are part of it - they instinctively want to join in,” said Field.

HONK! continues Saturday in Davis Square. Hailing all the way from New Orleans, the Pinettes, the world’s only all female brass band, will join over twenty-five street bands to create a free, giant, musical spectacle right in the middle of Somerville. What Cheer, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, and Orkestar Zirconium are just three of the thirty bands that plan to get things honking.

HONK! bands are influenced by many traditions, ranging from New Orleans second line brass bands to Romani music, Brazilian Afro Bloc, and Frevo traditions. This year's bands represent almost every region of the United States, with some bands even coming from Canada and Europe.

"It's a long flight from Rome to Boston, but it's worth it," said sax player Erika Raffaelli from Italy's funky punk, jazz band, the Pink Puffers, "This is the original HONK! fest! This is one of the best festivals out there. We're so excited to be coming."

HONK! bands are street bands. Every band has a special personality and style, but Honkers all have fun while doing something meaningful with their music. They want passersby to join in the revelry, celebrate their great communities and make their streets their own!

On Sunday afternoon, all thirty HONK! bands will march down Mass Ave from Davis Square to Harvard Square, along with a wide variety of community groups, for the big HONK! parade. After the two mile long march, honkers will perform at Harvard Square's 30th annual Oktoberfest.

Sunday night will feature a first-time blow-out concert at Davis Square's Somerville Theater.

HONK! is a grass-roots, non-profit festival made possible by the generous support of local residents and businesses. During the festival, over 350 musicians will be housed by generous neighbors and friends. Many community restaurants will also provide food for the performers and volunteers.

"HONK! is a great local event dedicated to social change and promoting the reclamation of public spaces," said local Somerville official Rebekah Gewirtz, "I'm proud to support the festival and welcome musicians from all over the world to Davis Square again for the 4th annual HONK! festival."

For more information on HONK! Festival, visit the website, honkfest.org.

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