



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONK! Band Roster Finalized / Kickstarter Campaign / Call for Volunteers

Street Music Festival (variety of styles / 25+ activist street bands / unplugged DIY music; free & open to all)
September 13, 2019

HONK! Festival Media Contact:

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[high res digital images, from HONK! Festivals past, available for download at honkfest.org/2019-festival/press-2019/; other images/videos at www.honkfest.org/media/ and www.facebook.com/honkfestival/; video overviews for HONK! can be found at www.youtube.com/user/honkfestival/videos; 2019 Kickstarter campaign video at honkfest.org/kickstarter; high res images of many of this year's bands, available upon request.]

Complete HONK! Festival performance and activities schedules will be made available after October 4, 2019, with ongoing updates found at honkfest.org.

HONK! FESTIVAL

14TH ANNUAL

FESTIVAL OF
ACTIVIST STREET BANDS
THIS YEAR TOTALING 25+



Clamor & Lace Noise Brigade (from Chicago)



Bolschewistische Kurkapelle Schwarz-Rot (from Berlin)



Fanfarra Feminina Sagrada Profana (from Brazil)

New to this year's HONK! are
three out of towners, plus
a newly formed local youth band.



Summer Street Brass Band (from Boston)

October 11 through 13, 2019

**a wide variety of musical /
activist events planned in
Somerville, Cambridge, Boston**

FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

(Somerville, MA) The very first **HONK! Festival**, Somerville-based and fourteen years strong, has always been clear on its most basic premise, to literally blast out, musically loud and rhythmically clear, a call to come together. To gather outside in celebrating the many positive aspects of life – while also delivering a heads up if those positives take a negative turn.

HONK! is dedicated to keeping tabs on these transitions, be it locally or globally, with the shifts now coming at a rapid rate. In HONK!'s mind, the best way to stay grounded is to take a stand, get out there with musical instruments in hand, or just clap those hands, and carry on in peace with a beat and a dance step or two. That activist philosophy has certainly caught on, with HONK!s now popping up throughout the world. At last count, twenty-one HONK! Festivals.

In that spirit of solidarity, this year HONK! has invited, among all the bands participating, four new bands to join in the festivities, three of which are coming from afar, and one from right in our own backyard:

Bolschewistische Kurkapelle Schwarz-Rot: formed in East Berlin in 1986, the band sees themselves as “the vanguard of a revolutionary orchestral movement,” spreading their political statement in “the form of music to educate the mind as well as to shake the booty.” bolschewistischekurkapelle.org

Clamor & Lace Noise Brigade: based in Chicago, the band strives to bring music, written and/or performed by people identifying as women or non-binary, to the forefront of their city's music scene. Established in 2018, Clamor & Lace is open to musicians and performers of all skill levels, and all members are encouraged to bring their own arrangements and/or original songs to the band. The band is committed to its progressive values and frequently performs in support of them. clamorandlace.com

Fanfarra Feminina Sagrada Profana: making their debut in 2017 in the streets of Belo Horizonte (Minas Gerais, Brazil), the band is focused on performing music created by women composers and performers, or performing compositions that honor and exalt women, while also combining that with rhythms derived from their own popular culture. The band's aim is to give voice to women by way of music and art, and to raise awareness of women's continuous struggles for gender equality and emancipation. facebook.com/fanfarrasagradaprofana

Summer Street Brass Band: formed last year and comprised of local youth, the band performs popular jazz, funk, and latin tunes in a variety of Boston-area settings, from ceremonial gatherings to community and other social events. The band enjoys a joke and a laugh, but when it comes down to playing "we take it seriously." summerstreetbrassband.org

This year's HONK! includes all the features that have compelled many to return year after year:

- on HONK! Friday early evening, **Lantern Parades** throughout Davis Square neighborhoods;
- on HONK! Saturday afternoon to evening, **continuous HONK! band performances** held in Davis Square;
- on HONK! Sunday early afternoon, the venerable **HONK! Parade** down Massachusetts Avenue from Davis Square to Harvard Square, in order to "Reclaim the Streets for Horns, Bikes, and Feet." The Parade will include this year's participating bands plus many activist community groups. Interested community groups are welcome to contact parade@honkfest.org if they'd like to participate in the parade;
- on HONK! Sunday afternoon, the Parade will be followed by a **HONK! mainstage** featuring quick sets performed by many of the participating bands. The Parade will also be followed by an opportunity to participate in several new "sharing" workshops, a departure from what has been part of the regular Sunday schedule;
- on HONK! Sunday early evening, a collective **HONK! call-to-action**, by visiting musicians and bands, that will take place outside the immigration detention center in Boston, to raise awareness about those who are being detained there, and to remind the detainees with music, that they have not been forgotten by many in the outside world.

There are also several new or newly re-visited HONK! initiatives, such as:

- an **All HONK! Band Revue** to be held on HONK! Friday evening in Union Square's Bow Market;
- a **HONK! Pick-up Band**, back by popular demand, this year called **HOOT**, for those music makers who are not affiliated with any bands performing at this year's HONK! Or are, and can also somehow manage to dive into this as well. The "interest form" can be found at: <https://tinyurl.com/HOOPickUpBand2019>;
- **new workshops** to be held on HONK! Sunday afternoon, soon after the Parade arrives in Harvard Square: a series of "**Skill Sharing**" workshops and a massive "**Song Sharing**" workshop. These gatherings will be led by members of participating bands, and the public is welcome to join in as well.

This year the HONK! bands total 25 at current count, featuring many returning bands who have participated pretty regularly in HONK! since it was formed in 2006 by the Somerville-based Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band, who this year will be joined by: aNova Brazil (Boston, MA), Band Land Brass Band (Cambridge, MA), Bolschewistische Kurkapelle Schwarz-Rot (Berlin, Germany), The Brass Balagan (Burlington, VT), Brass Queens (NYC, NY), Bread and Puppet Circus Band (Glover, VT), Clamor & Lace Noise Brigade (Chicago, IL), Dirty Water Brass Band (Boston, MA), Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band (Somerville, MA), Environmental Encroachment (Chicago, IL), Expandable Brass Band (Northampton, MA), Extraordinary Rendition Band (Providence, RI), Fanfarra Feminina Sagrada Profana (Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais, Brazil), Forward! Marching Band (Madison, WI), Hungry March Band (Brooklyn, NY), Leftist Marching Band (Portsmouth, NH), The Party Band (Lowell, MA), Plezi Rara (Brooklyn, NY), Rara Bel Poze (Boston, MA), Rude Mechanical Orchestra (NYC, NY), School of HONK (Somerville, MA), Summer Street Brass Band (Boston, MA), What Cheer? Brigade (Providence, RI), and Young Fellaz Brass Band (New Orleans, LA).

Further background information on each band can be found at honkfest.org/2019-festival/bands-2019/.

HONK! is a non-profit, with a very limited budget. The annual **Kickstarter** fundraiser is now in full swing: www.honkfest.org/kickstarter, with a **deadline of September 27th** to reach its goal of \$17,000. No donation is too small, or too large! Visit honkfest.org/help for more information on tax-deductible donations.

HONK! is also an all-volunteer organization, where many hands lighten the impressive list of festival to-dos. All who are interested in experiencing **the strong sense of camaraderie** that HONK! generates, can email volunteer@honkfest.org plus housing@honkfest.org. Visit honkfest.org/help for more information on volunteer opportunities.

For complete information and continuous updates on the HONK! Festival, visit www.honkfest.org, www.facebook.com/honkfestival, and www.twitter.com/honkfest.

Basic listings information:

HONK! Festival

Festival of activist street bands.

October 11-13, 2019

Various neighborhoods throughout Somerville, Cambridge, and Boston.

Rain or shine; free and open to all.

For further information: www.honkfest.org, info@honkfest.org, 617-383-HONK (4665).

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--submitted by marycurtinproductions [on behalf of the HONK! Festival]

c/o Mary Curtin

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"dedicated to staging insightful entertainment, particularly in non-traditional venues"

www.marycurtinproductions.com

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