

PHIL KLINE

BIOGRAPHY

*"Kline has graduated from 'experimental' to 'original'—he's one of America's most important compositional voices."
— David Patrick Stearns, Philadelphia Inquirer, June 13, 2006*

PHIL KLINE is a unique artist whose work employs music in many mediums and contexts, ranging from experimental electronics, performance art and sound installations to songs, choral, theater and chamber music.

Raised in Akron, Ohio, he came to New York to study English Literature and Music History at Columbia College. After graduating, he became part of the vital downtown New York arts scene: he founded the rock band The Del-Byzanteens with Jim Jarmusch and James Nares, collaborated with Nan Goldin on the ever-evolving soundtrack to *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, and for many years played guitar in the notorious Glenn Branca Ensemble.

His earliest compositions grew out of his work as a solo performance artist and often used boombox tape players as a medium. *Bachmans's Warbler* for harmonicas and 12 tape loops was performed at the 1992 Bang on a Can Marathon, and the walking sound sculpture *Unsilent Night* debuted in Greenwich Village later that year. *Unsilent Night* is now performed annually in cities around the world.

The widely acclaimed *Zippo Songs*, a quasi-theatrical song cycle based on poems Vietnam vets inscribed on their Zippo lighters, had its first run at HERE in NYC in 2003. *Locus Solus*, a suite of songs and chamber works based on the proto-surrealist novel of Raymond Roussel, was first presented at the bizarre Ryerss Mansion Museum in Philadelphia in 2006.

Among his chamber works, *Exquisite Corpses* was commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars and premiered by them in 1997; *The Blue Room and Other Stories* was premiered by the string quartet Ethel at the Kitchen in 2002; and *The Last Buffalo* was commissioned by the trio Real Quiet and premiered at the Music3 Festival in San Diego in 2004.

Recent works include the full-length choral Mass *John the Revelator*, written for the vocal group Lionheart, commissioned by WNYC and premiered at the World Financial Center Winter Garden in 2006; and scores for two evening-length dances by Wally Cardona: *Everywhere* and *Site*. The large sound installation *World on a String* opened the season at the Krannert Center in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in September 2007. The 2009 season will see the world premieres of *SPACE* for String Quartet, written for Ethel as part of the Alice Tully Hall reopening festivities, *The Long Winter*, a sonata commissioned by pianist Sarah Cahill, and *Really Real*, a collaboration with choreographer Wally Cardona, featuring the Brooklyn Youth Chorus.

Kline's music has been heard in every imaginable type of venue, from the streets of Greenwich Village, CBGBs and the Knitting Factory, to the Kitchen and BAM, Alice Tully Hall, London's Barbican Centre and the Amsterdam Concertgebouw. Major awards include grants from the Rockefeller New York State Music Fund, Meet the Composer, NYSCA, American Composers Forum and the Mary Flagler Cary Trust. Recordings of *Unsilent Night*, *Exquisite Corpses*, *The Blue Room and Other Stories*, and *Zippo Songs* are available on the Cantaloupe label, with *John the Revelator* due in 2009.