

PHIL KLINE

"Magic was happening as you sat there. Here was a real original."
--Paul Griffiths, The New York Times

Biography

Phil Kline makes music in many genres and contexts, from experimental electronics and sound installations to songs, choral, theater and chamber music.

Raised in Akron, Ohio, he came to New York to study English Literature at Columbia. After graduation, he became part of the downtown New York arts scene: founding the rock band The Del-Byzanteens with Jim Jarmusch and James Nares, collaborating with Nan Goldin on the soundtrack to *The Ballad of Sexual Dependency*, and playing guitar in the notorious Glenn Branca Ensemble.

His earliest solo compositions grew out of his work as a solo performance artist and often used boombox tape players as a medium, most notably in the Christmas piece *Unsilent Night*, which debuted in the streets of Greenwich Village in 1992 and is now performed annually in cities around the world.

Other notable works include *Zippo Songs*, a song cycle based on poems Vietnam vets inscribed on their Zippo lighters, *Locus Solus*, a music theater piece based on the proto-surrealist novel of Raymond Roussel, *The Blue Room and Other Stories*, written for string quartet Ethel, and *Exquisite Corpses*, commissioned by the Bang on a Can All-Stars.

More recent works include the choral *Mass John the Revelator*, written for vocal group Lionheart, commissioned by WNYC and premiered at the World Financial Center Winter Garden in 2006; and scores for two evening-length dance pieces by Wally Cardona: *Everywhere and Site*. The sound installation *World on a String* opened the season at the Krannert Center in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, in September 2007.

2009 saw the 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 new collaboration with Wally Cardona, featuring the Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Recent releases include *Around the World in a Daze*, a surround sound audio DVD on the Starkland label, and the CD of *John the Revelator* on Cantaloupe.