

HONK!

FESTIVAL OF ACTIVIST STREET BANDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HONK! Band Roster Finalized / Call for Volunteers

Street Music Festival (variety of styles / 35+ activist street bands 6
unplugged DIY music; mostly outdoors, free & open to all)
16 September 2026

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[visual support materials

available specifically at

[honkfest.org/2026-festival/press-2026/;](https://honkfest.org/2026-festival/press-2026/)

image used in this press release:

Rude Mechanical Orchestra from

NYC@HONK! 2025; credit: Michael Hall.]

21ST ANNUAL HONK! FESTIVAL OF ACTIVIST STREET BANDS



**THIS YEAR'S ON-SITE
U.S. BANDS TOTAL 35**
(at last count)

**plus on-site
video livestream
participation
from several
international bands**
(from Brazil, Chile,
Italy, England,
Germany & Canada)

**plus the opportunity
for HONK! Fest-goers
to join in on these:**
the pick-up band
“Band Together”,
ArtHONK!,
and
Singing Resistance

October 9 thru 11, 2026
(rain or shine)

happening in the
Davis Square-area
Somerville from that
Friday-Saturday
and in
Harvard Square
Cambridge
(starting with a
vast Parade
out of Davis Sq.)
on that Sunday)

**FREE AND
OPEN TO ALL**

(Somerville, MA) ***“Why do we HONK!? How do we HONK!? When do we HONK!?”*** These are the **HONK! Festival**’s opening remarks, seemingly rhetorical questions, performed cantastoria-style, and delivered every year at HONK!’s opening ceremonies. Questions that have kicked off every HONK! since

its local humble beginnings back in 2006. And they actually do have answers, especially when delivered to those who happen to be musicians who inhabit the unplugged mobile brass band world. They are members of bands who are actively motivated to respond in solidarity, knowing that “something is very wrong in their neighborhoods”. And who are inherently compelled to “do something about that.” By hitting the streets, loudly and forcefully.

For that is the seriousness of purpose that the annual HONK! Festival always conveys to its festival participants. Which then proves to be contagious to all those gathered, musicians and audience alike. The seriousness of purpose, combined with having lots of fun together, reinforces this like-minded camaraderie. In order to DO SOMETHING as a response to what is definitely NOT acceptable – whether that be politically, socially, humanely.

The HONK! Festival was catapulted into existence right here in the Somerville-area in 2006, initially with 3 local bands, 8 from across the U.S., and 1 travelling in from Vancouver. And yes, HONK! has grown. There are now over 20 independent HONK!s (plus related activist street band gatherings) operating around the world. With 35 U.S. bands participating on-site specifically in Somerville/Cambridge this October. Let’s just say, there is a reason for that phenomenon! With the local Festival still under the ongoing coordination of HONK!’s founding band, the **Good Trouble Brass Band** (fka Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band).

These links may provide further investigation on how can all this be?: honkfest.org/about/, en.wikipedia.org/wiki/HONK! The schedule details for this year’s HONK! are still being finely tuned, but will include many of the elements that participants and attendees have come to expect for the full HONK! experience. **Outdoor street level band concerts** will be held throughout Somerville’s Davis Square and the nearby neighborhoods on HONK! Friday and Saturday. And the vast **“Reclaim the Streets for Horns, Bikes, and Feet” Parade** will again travel from Davis Square to Harvard Square in Cambridge, on HONK! Sunday, arriving to participate in their 47th annual **Oktoberfest**.

Below follows the current list of HONK! on-site participants for 2026, with further details on each available at honkfest.org/2026-festival/bands-2026/:

- All For One Brass Band (New Orleans, LA);
- aNova Brazil (Boston, MA);
- Band Together (pickup band) (Somerville, MA);
- The Brass Balagan (Burlington, VT);
- Brassica and the Wild Sprouts (Pittsburgh, PA);
- Brass Liberation Orchestra (San Francisco, CA);
- Brass Solidarity (Minneapolis, MN);
- brassterisk (Somerville, MA)
- The Bread and Puppet Circus Band (Glover, VT);
- Conical Cacophony (Boston, MA);
- DC Activist Street Band (Washington, DC);
- Detroit Party Marching Band (Detroit, MI);
- Dirty Water Brass Band (Boston, MA);
- 8-Bit Brass Band (Seattle, WA);
- Emperor Nortons Stationary Marching Band (Somerville, MA);
- Expandable Brass Band (Northampton, MA);
- Extraordinary Rendition Band (Providence, RI);
- Fly By Brass Band (Somerville, MA);
- Forward! Marching Band (Madison, WI);

- Funkrust Brass Band (New York, NY);
- Good Trouble Brass Band (Somerville, MA);
- Ideal Maine Social Aid and Sanctuary Band (Portland, ME);
- The Jamaica Plain Honk Band (JP Honk) (Jamaica Plain, MA);
- Leftist Marching Band (Portsmouth, NH);
- Magnificent Danger (Boston, MA);
- May Day Marching Band (Pittsburgh, PA);
- The Party Band (Lowell, MA);
- Rara Bel Poze (Boston, MA);
- Rude Mechanical Orchestra (New York City, NY);
- Sass-a-Brass (Kansas City MO);
- School of HONK (Somerville, MA);
- Undertow Brass Band (Providence, RI);
- UNiTY Street Band (Syracuse, NY);
- Unlawful Assembly (Minneapolis, MN);
- Yes Ma am Brass Band (Austin, TX)

Basic listings information:

HONK! Festival

21st Annual Festival of Activist Street Bands.

October 9-11, 2026

Held throughout Somerville, Cambridge, and a few Boston neighborhoods.

Rain or shine.

Free and open to all; if interested in volunteering, contact volunteer@honkfest.org.

If interested in hosting visiting musicians in your home, please contact housing@honkfest.org.

For HONK! updates:

honkfest.org, facebook.com/honkfestival, instagram.com/honkfest/.

Contact info: honkfest.org/contact/, info@honkfest.org, (617) 702-2977.

The Somerville-based HONK! Committee would like to give special thanks to the City of Somerville, Somerville Arts Council, Harvard Square Business Association, and the Davis Square and Harvard Square businesses for their continued support. Opportunities to volunteer and contribute to this year's HONK! can be found at: honkfest.org/help/.

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