

# HONK!

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Music Festival (free & open to all) / variety of styles/activist street bands/unplugged DIY music  
September 2011

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[high res digital images from HONK! 2010, available for download at [www.honkfest.org/pr/](http://www.honkfest.org/pr/) and  
[www.honkfest.org/pre-honk/](http://www.honkfest.org/pre-honk/); videos at [www.honkfest.org/pictures-videos/](http://www.honkfest.org/pictures-videos/); sounds at  
[www.myspace.com/honkbands/](http://www.myspace.com/honkbands/)

Ongoing schedule and sponsorship updates at [www.honkfest.org](http://www.honkfest.org) and 617-383-HONK (4665).

## HONK! FESTIVAL 2011



[HONK! photo by Ben Greenberg  
as part of the current photo exhibition now up in Davis Square]

## SIXTH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ACTIVIST STREET BANDS

**September 30 – October 3**

this year featuring  
[subject to revision]

- ~ **Young Fellaz** (New Orleans, LA) ~
- ~ **What Cheer? Brigade** (Providence, RI) ~
- ~ **Titanium Sporkestra** (Seattle, WA) ~
- ~ **Springville All Star Marching Band** (Springville, NY) ~
- ~ **Seed and Feed Marching Abominable** (Atlanta, GA) ~
- ~ **Rude Mechanical Orchestra** (Brooklyn, NY) ~
- ~ **Open Hand Orchestra** (Portland, ME) ~
- ~ **Minor Mishap Marching Band** (Austin, TX) ~
- ~ **Leftist Marching Band** (Portsmouth, NH) ~
- ~ **Hungry March Band** (New York, NY) ~
- ~ **Forward! and The Milwaukee Molotov Marchers** (Madison & Milwaukee, WI) ~
- ~ **Extraordinary Rendition Band** (Providence, RI) ~
- ~ **Expandable Brass Band** (Northampton, MA) ~
- ~ **Environmental Encroachment** (Chicago, IL) ~
- ~ **DJA-Rara** (Brooklyn, NY) ~
- ~ **Detroit Party Marching Band** (Detroit, MI) ~
- ~ **Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble** (Montreal, QC) ~
- ~ **Carnival Band** (Vancouver, BC) ~
- ~ **Caka!ak Thunder** (Greensboro, NC) ~
- ~ **Bread and Puppet Theater Circus Band** (Glover, VT) ~
- ~ **Brass Messengers** (Minneapolis, MN) ~
- ~ **Brass Balagan** (Burlington, VT) ~

with locals  
[subject to revision]

- ~ **AfroBrazil** (Boston) ~
- ~ **Dirty Water Brass Band** (Somerville) ~
- ~ **Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band** (Somerville) ~
- ~ **Factory Seconds** (Boston) ~
- ~ **Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band** (Somerville) ~

events based  
in  
**Davis Square, Somerville**  
**Harvard Square, Cambridge**  
&  
**Boston Harbor**

**ALMOST ALL EVENTS FREE AND OPEN TO EVERYONE**  
**[THE FRIDAY NIGHT KICKOFF & SUNDAY NIGHT BOAT CRUISE**  
**ARE VERY AFFORDABLE!]**

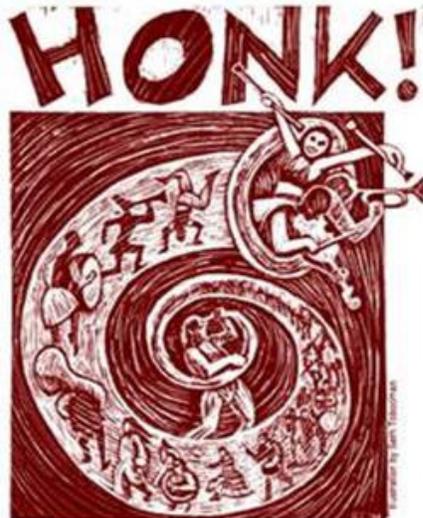
(Somerville, Cambridge, & Boston, MA) **HONK!**: the worthy craze sweeping the nation – from Boston to Providence to Brooklyn to Austin to Seattle -- and every Fall back to Boston, with HONK! bands migrating from far and near, descending upon the HONK! epicenter, where festival participants (including the audience) can gaggle, gander, and generate the gregarious racket that signifies the HONK! experience.

The **HONK!** phenomenon was born 6 years ago in Davis Square spurred on by a need of a certain species of street band to congregate and celebrate their social activist side. HONK! lets the good times roll while being ever mindful that some bad times need fixing. HONK! believes that street-wise music can be the agent of change for the better. HONK! is the universal tongue for hey-wake-up-and-pay-attention!

This year there will be honk-like opportunities galore with outdoor band concerts in Davis, spilling over into Harvard Square and surrounding neighborhoods, and for the first time ever, splashing out into the Boston Harbor. Rain or shine from **September 30 through October 3**, HONK! will release its clarion call throughout the Boston-area – a call to wage peace, harmony, and just plain fun.

The confirmed **HONK!** band count is currently almost 30, with one to two new ones being added weekly. But when the final count is in, there'll still be plenty of chances for folks to jump in at the last minute and join the merry fray. For example, individual musicians not connected to any particular HONK! band are invited to participate on Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>, in the impromptu “community band” which will be part of the gigantic **HONK! Parade to Reclaim the Streets for Horns, Bikes and Feet**.

Take note that in previous years HONK! has been held on Columbus Day weekend, but due to the 2011 dates conflicting with Yom Kippur, the festival has been scheduled a week earlier. Festival updates can be found at [www.honkfest.org](http://www.honkfest.org), <http://twitter.com/honkfest>, and [www.facebook.com/honkfestival](http://www.facebook.com/honkfestival), or by calling 617-383-HONK (4665). Listed below is the festival schedule as it now stands:



### **2011 WEEKEND SCHEDULE:**

Friday, September 30, 10 pm-midnight:

#### **HONK! Kickoff!**

A spectacular kickoff to the weekend, featuring Boston's own urban tribal brass band **Revolutionary Snake Ensemble**, joined by an impressive guest roster of HONK! band members!

Johnny D's Uptown

17 Holland St., Davis Square, Somerville

[Conveniently located near the Davis Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]

Ticket: \$10 general admission, available at the door.

For information: 617-776-2004, [www.johnnyds.com](http://www.johnnyds.com)

Saturday, October 1, noon-9 pm:

### **HONK! Davis Square**

Up to thirty (or more!) activist street bands, from near and far, will perform outdoors for free. An Opening Ceremony to be held at noon in 7 Hills Park, Davis Square, Somerville, with music following, performed throughout Davis Square, from 1-9 pm. At this writing the following bands will be participating during the day on Saturday, listed in alphabetical order: **AfroBrazil, Brass Balagan, Brass Messengers, Bread and Puppet Theater Circus Band, Caka!ak Thunder, Carnival Band, Chaotic Insurrection Ensemble, Detroit Party Marching Band, Dirty Water Brass Band, DJA-Rara, Emperor Norton's Stationary Marching Band, Environmental Encroachment, Expandable Brass Band, Extraordinary Rendition Band, Factory Seconds, Forward! and The Milwaukee Molotov Marchers, Hungry March Band, Leftist Marching Band, Minor Mishap Marching Band, Open Hand Orchestra, Rude Mechanical Orchestra, Second Line Social Aid & Pleasure Society Brass Band, Seed and Feed Marching Abominable, Springville All Star Marching Band, Titanium Sporkestra, What Cheer? Brigade, and Young Fellaz.**

Davis Square, Somerville

[Conveniently located near the Davis Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]

Free and open to all; rain or shine.

For information: 617-383-HONK (4665), [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org)

Sunday, October 2, noon-2 pm:

### **HONK! Parade to Reclaim the Streets for Horns, Bikes and Feet**

The theme for this year's Parade is SHARE – sharing the road, sharing our skills, our resources, our upbeat HONK! spirit. Led by the Mayors of Somerville and Cambridge, the parade will feature all the **HONK! bands**, plus the **Bread & Puppet Theater**, the impromptu “**community band**,” and many local arts and community organizations, such as **Green Streets Initiative, Bikes Not Bombs, 350.org, Open Air Circus, Puppeteers Cooperative, Livable Streets, and Sprout**. The parade assembles at 11 am, and the route starts in Davis Square, Somerville, at noon, making its way to **Harvard Square's Oktoberfest** celebration in Cambridge. To participate in the parade or to volunteer as a parade facilitator, contact [parade@honkfest.org](mailto:parade@honkfest.org).

[Conveniently located near the Davis, Porter, and Harvard Square stops on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]

Free and open to all; rain or shine.

For information: 617-383-HONK (4665), [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org)

Sunday, October 2, 2-6 pm:

### **HONK! Oktoberfest**

Several HONK! bands will be featured in **Harvard Square's Oktoberfest**.

[Conveniently located near the Harvard Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]

Free and open to all; rain or shine.

For information, visit [www.harvardsquare.com](http://www.harvardsquare.com), 617-491-3434, [hsba@harvardsquare.com](mailto:hsba@harvardsquare.com)

Sunday, October 2, 8-11:30 pm:

### **HONK! On The Water**

Boston Harbor boat cruise, featuring many of the HONK! bands, each performing a short set.

Bay State Cruise Company

200 Seaport Blvd., Boston

[Conveniently located near the World Trade Center stop on the Silver Line.]

Ticket: \$10 general admission, available at the dock; rain or shine.

For information: 617-383-HONK (4665), [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org)

Monday, October 3, 10 am-2 pm:

### **HONK! Music Education Conference**

Includes a panel discussion on “Learning HONK!-Style: An Alternative Model for Music Education?” and presentations on “The Roots and Routes of HONK!: A History of HONK! Through Music” and “HONK! Activism: Experiential Education in Action.”

Gutman Library Harvard University, Graduate School of Education/Arts in Education Program  
Appian Way, Cambridge

[Conveniently located near the Harvard Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]  
Free and open to all.  
For information: 617-383-HONK (4665), [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org)

Monday, October 3, 3-5 pm:

**HONK! In The Neighborhoods**

Visiting HONK! bands will team up with their local counterparts to perform and interact at 5 Boston-area Boys and Girls Clubs. At this writing the following clubs participating are:  
Blue Hill Club (15 Talbot Ave., Dorchester, 617-474-1050); Charlestown Club (15 Green Street, Charlestown, 617-242-1775); Jordan Club (30 Willow St., Chelsea, 617-884-9435); South Boston Club (230 West Sixth Street, South Boston, 617-268-4301); and Yawkey Club of Roxbury (115 Warren St., Roxbury, 617-427-6050).  
Free and open to club members and their families.  
For information: 617-383-HONK (4665), [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org)

Leading up to this year's HONK! weekend events, there are several preliminary events worth noting:

Friday, September 2 through Sunday, October 2, 24 hrs./day:

**HONK! Photo Exhibit**

Features 5 photographers: **Greg Cook, Mark Dannenhauer, Jesse Edsell-Vetter, Ben Greenberg & Chris Yeager**. Their photos are inspired by HONK! Festival 2010.  
The **Inside-Outside Gallery** (aka the CVS windows)  
CVS Pharmacy  
1 Davis Square, Somerville  
[Conveniently located near the Davis Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]  
Free and open to all.  
For more information, contact [photoshow@honkfest.org](mailto:photoshow@honkfest.org).

Monday, September 12, 6:30-8:45 pm:

**HONK! Volunteers and Parade Meeting**

Sign-up gathering to help in all the ways that make HONK! possible. Individuals and groups interested in participating in the **HONK! Parade to Reclaim the Streets for Horns, Bikes and Feet**, to be held from noon-2 pm on October 2<sup>nd</sup>, are also encouraged to attend. The theme for this year's parade is SHARE. The bands and community groups in the parade will investigate the dynamics of SHARE by creating actions, images, slogans, concepts, choreographies and other elements that explore how we can share our lives, communities, resources, and spirited energy.  
Somerville Public Library (West Branch)  
40 College Ave., Somerville  
[Conveniently located near the Davis Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]  
For more information, contact [volunteers@honkfest.org](mailto:volunteers@honkfest.org).

Tuesday, September 20, 10 am-11 pm:

**HONK! Flatbread Pizza Benefit**

Flatbread in Davis Sq. is donating a portion of the cost of every pizza pie purchased during the day to the **HONK! Festival**. Diners can also look forward to hearing some subtle HONK! sounds between 6:00 pm and 7:15 pm.  
Flatbread Company  
45 Day Street, Somerville.  
[Conveniently located near the Davis Square stop on the Red Line and several MBTA bus connections.]  
For more information, contact [contact@honkfest.org](mailto:contact@honkfest.org).

The HONK! Festival is a great idea come to fruition. HONK! festivals are cropping up everywhere since a need has been identified, not only on the part of musicians everywhere — of a particular persuasion — who have a penchant for gathering to raise awareness about issues that need attention. But also a need is there on the part of audiences everywhere — not necessarily of any persuasion — to bask in the glow of this unusual phenomenon.



[HONK! photo by Jesse Edsell-Vetter  
as part of the current photo exhibition now up in Davis Square]

As often as bands congregate to HONK! in protest, they also perform to celebrate the causes and institutions they support in their own communities: multicultural festivals, peace conferences, social forums, artists' collectives, community gardens, block parties, neighborhood fundraisers, relief benefits and homeless shelters. In every case, the HONK!ers' ultimate goal is to have fun, to relish the art of making fun as a form of individual and collective transcendence, and to encourage others to see and do the same.

The HONK! Festival Committee would like to give special thanks to the following for their support of this year's HONK! Festival [sponsorship updates at [www.honkfest.org](http://www.honkfest.org)]: **City of Somerville**, the **Somerville Arts Council**, **Harvard Square Business Association**, **MySecretBoston**, **Davis Square businesses**, and last but not least, the local **Davis Square community**, whose support in terms of in-kind donations of food and public services, housing for upwards of 300 musicians, and cash contributions, is vital to keeping the HONK! effort going.

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