

## Two hearts, one drum solo: Phil Collins Day returns to Greenpoint

By [Olivia Seaman](#)

Posted on February 16, 2026



The well-known Phil Collins Day took place at Greenpoint's Berry Park on Valentine's Day.

Photo by Erica Price

Love was "In the Air Tonight" on Valentine's Day — just not the candlelit, chocolate-box kind.

More than 100 people packed Greenpoint's Berry Park on Feb. 14 for the 2026 edition of [Phil Collins Day](#), a February tradition that blends irony, fandom and fundraising.

This year's event raised funds for Education Through Music, a nonprofit organization that provides curriculum-based music education to under-resourced New York City public schools.



Phil Collins Day has become a longstanding Brooklyn institution.

Photo by Erica Price

### **A growing Brooklyn tradition**

The annual celebration, now in its 15th year, honors the catalog of [Phil Collins](#) and traces its roots to a tongue-in-cheek “anti-Valentine’s Day” gathering in Greenpoint. Organizers told Brooklyn Paper the event has grown steadily since its revival in 2019.

“The whole idea of Phil Collins day started as an anti-Valentine’s Day event where folks were just fed up with the sharing of heart-shaped boxes of chocolates, stuffed animals, bouquets and cards,” organizer Dave Landesberg said. “And in that moment [organizers] thought, ‘who embodies that spirit?’ They then came upon [Collins] because he covers both heartbreak and love in his music.”

Landsberg said that when he took over in 2019 with his partner, Megan Scanlon, only 80 people attended. This year's event drew nearly 130 attendees from across the country — including Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Florida and Nevada — as well as international visitors from Brussels and Christchurch, New Zealand. One fan told Landsberg she traveled to Brooklyn specifically for Phil Collins Day.

“I was floored,” he said.



Landsberg shows attendees Phil Collins' records at Berry Park.

Photo by Erica Price

Programming included a vinyl-only DJ set featuring Collins' solo work and songs from Genesis by Sheila Burgel, themed art displayed in a gallery dubbed “Philustrations” and an air-drumming contest timed to the drum solo from “In the Air Tonight.”

The event has also become increasingly multigenerational, Landsberg said.

“I’m a little older than the average age of the folks who attend,” he added. “It’s really great to see so many different people.”

For the first time in event history, organizers charged a \$20 admission fee, contributing to what Landsberg said was the most successful fundraising year to date.

“We raised more money this year than any other year, no doubt,” he said, through presale and walkup ticket sales, raffle proceeds and art sales.



DJ Sheila Burgel, a lifelong Collins fan, told Brooklyn Paper that playing for Phil Collins Day was a “dream gig.”

Photo by Erica Price

Despite its growth, Landesberg said he remains mindful of the event’s grassroots origins.

“I can’t say it’s taken on a life of its own. It wouldn’t be that bold,” he said. “But I know these folks look forward to it.”

### **Supporting music in public schools**

Education Through Music, this year’s beneficiary, partners with Title I schools across the five boroughs to build sustainable music programs by placing certified teachers directly into schools.

“We’ve been in New York City for 34 years,” Tara DeWorsop, the organization’s senior director of development, said. “We work with 51 schools across the city, teaching over 18,000 students every year.”

Unlike short-term arts residencies, the nonprofit helps schools establish permanent music departments, funding a majority of a teacher’s salary for the first two to three years while schools build their own budgets.

“We actually work with schools that otherwise couldn’t afford music education, and we work with our principals. We help source the actual music teachers,” DeWorsop added.

DeWorsop cited Education Through Music CEO Dr. Janice Weinman’s words: “Talent is distributed evenly across all of the boroughs of New York City, but opportunity isn’t.”

She said the statement guides the organization’s mission and expressed enthusiasm that Phil Collins Day could help support its efforts.



Landesberg said Phil Collins Day has become sort of an “anti-Valentine’s Day,” and Phil Collins was the perfect spokesperson for that.

Photo by Erica Price

### **Hosted by a ‘Mom and Mom shop’**

Berry Park in Greenpoint hosted the event for the second consecutive year.

Jessie Marlee, who took over ownership of the bar in 2024 with her business partner after serving as general manager for more than a decade, said the event reflects their approach to community programming.

“Anything that really brings people together in this space to have fun and whatever that falls under, that kind of umbrella is something that we’re jazzed to do,” she said.



Greenpoint's Berry Park hosted Phil Collins Day for the second year.

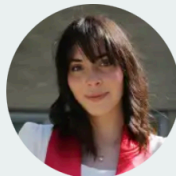
Photo by Erica Price

Marlee described Berry Park as a “mom and mom shop,” run by two Brooklyn mothers.

As for her own connection to Collins, she recalled a teenage memory.

“My dad used to pick me up when my friends and blast the ‘Tarzan’ soundtrack to embarrass me when I was in high school,” she said. “Which was successful.”

Phil Collins Day organizers plan to continue the February tradition while exploring the possibility of smaller gatherings throughout the year, as fans increasingly request more opportunities to connect outside Valentine’s Day.



**Olivia Seaman**

Olivia Seaman is a reporter for Brooklyn Paper, where she covers all things Brooklyn — from neighborhood news and local politics to culture, community voices and the everyday stories that help shape the borough.



# Brooklyn Paper

## Against All Odds, Phil Collins fans keep annual Greenpoint tradition thriving

Paul Frangipane & Adam Daly February 18, 2025

Brooklynites showed their groovy kind of love for Phil Collins on Saturday by packing a Greenpoint bar to celebrate the annual tribute to the legendary British drummer and singer.

Screens at Berry Park displayed a compilation of Collins' performances, appearances, and career highlights as a DJ spun vinyl records of his solo hits and classic Genesis tracks as fans danced with cutouts of the pint-sized crooner.

The tradition began in 2011 when local artist Heather Kramer organized a parade down Greenpoint's Franklin Street as an alternative to Valentine's Day celebrations on Feb. 15, with Collins' melancholic music serving as the perfect antidote to the sentimental holiday's excess mush.

The concept was later revived in 2020 by Phil Collins enthusiast Dave Landesberg and a group of friends.

"There used to be a guy who would drive around Greenpoint blasting 'In the Air Tonight' out the windows," Landesberg recalled. "At a similar time in 2011, a local artist wanted to create an anti-Valentine's Day event, and who better to represent that spirit of independence and heartbreak than Phil Collins? She and her friends created a parade."



Easy lovers of Collins (L-R) Dave Landesberg, Jessie Marlee and Megan Scanlon. Photo by Paul Frangipane

Landesberg, who describes the event as a day of goof and reverence, first connected with Saturday's co-host, Megan Scanlon, in 2023. The pair now have three Phil Collins Day celebrations under their belt and thanks to their efforts, Feb. 15 has become "Another Day in Paradise" for fans in Brooklyn.

“For my 40th birthday, a friend of mine who’s here tonight told me there was such a thing as Phil Collins Day and I was like, what, so I was trying to track down the organizers to see if I could get involved and I finally got in touch with Dave,” Scanlon said, who loves that Collins’ music is “heavy but he is so funny and light as well.”

“When I saw him live for the first time in 2019 at Madison Square Garden, I wept but also danced like I was at a rave,” she added. “I realized I’d listened to Phil Collins after every breakup. I grew up with him; his music connected me to my older sisters and my family.”

This year, the event featured “Phillustrations,” a collection of art created by volunteers, adorning the venue’s walls. Proceeds from a raffle also benefited the Brooklyn Music School, with students performing on drums in honor of Collins’ legacy.



Feeling it coming in the air tonight: Students from Brooklyn Music School perform during the annual Phil Collins Day celebration. Photo by Paul Frangipane

“All of our ideas come from the two of us and we’re really interested in broadening our volunteers and participation,” said Landesberg. “People are inspired by Phil Collins, they really are and the fandom is real. This year we had people reaching out to us being like, ‘Can we be involved?’”

Among the fandom in attendance on Saturday night were Bushwick couple Jonathan Bardo and Yauny Wheaton, who named their dog after the singer and had Collins’ “Take Me Home” play as the last dance at their wedding.

“My first concert ever was 1986 at MSG, or ’88, Genesis Invisible Touch tour, and I was 8 years old,” Bardo said. “We were coming up with names for our dog even before we had her and we were like, ‘We should give her a tough rock and roll name like Stevie Nicks or Jimi Hendrix,’ and we were like, ‘What about Phil Collins?’”

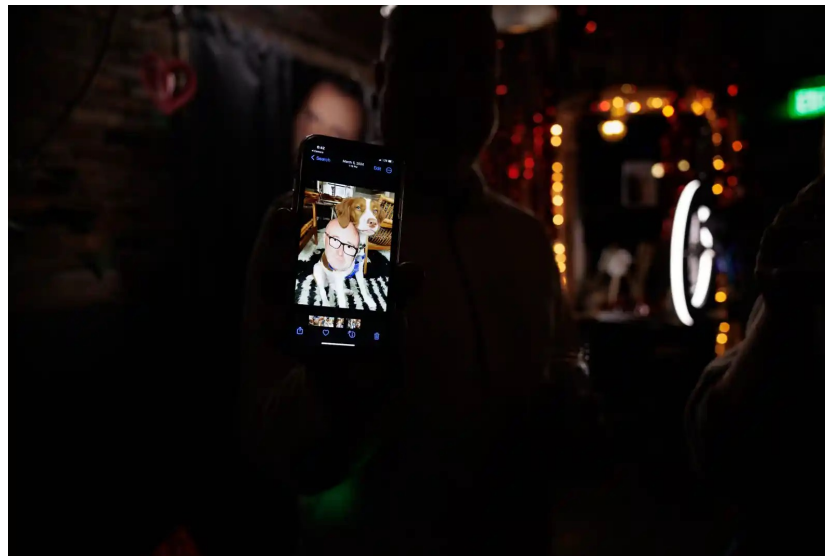


Jonathan Bardo and Yauny Wheaton pose at the photo booth during the annual Phil Collins Day celebration. Photo by Paul Frangipane

For others, the celebration was a happy accident. Sue Ritzman, visiting from Dallas, Texas, said she and her husband stumbled upon the event.

“We didn’t even know about it. We just came to the bar and were like, ‘Oh my god, Phil Collins!’ We love him. It was a pleasant surprise,” Ritzman said. “We should be doing this in Dallas.”

As the night wrapped up, Bardo summed up the sentiment of many attendees: “Put Phil in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame next year.”



Will the real Phil Collins please stand on your hind legs: Jonathan Bardo shows a photo of his dog, Phil Collins. Photo by Paul Frangipane

# GREENPOINTERS

## PHIL COLLINS DAY IS BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER AT GREENPOINT BEER AND ALE CO.

by Emma Davey February 12, 2024

What's coming, you might ask? Just one of the many niche traditions that make Greenpoint great — Phil Collins Day, happening on February 18 at Greenpoint Beer and Ale (1150 Manhattan Ave). One of Greenpoint's favorite traditions is back for another year!

Greenpoint Beer and Ale Co. (1150 Manhattan Ave.) is hosting Phil Collins Day, its second iteration since a pause for the pandemic. The event will take place on Saturday, February 17 from 2-6 p.m.

Collins aficionados can enjoy DJ sets, an air drumming contest, an art gallery fundraiser, and a set from drumming students at Brooklyn Music School, who will be the recipient of the event's fundraising efforts. This year's event also promises to be particularly special with the release of the first ever Phil Collins Day beer, with a percentage of its sales going towards the school. Greenpoint denizens have sporadically celebrated the perpetually middle-aged former Genesis frontman for well over a decade, though the event has yet to morph into a reliable yearly event.

According to Greenpoint Beer and Ale, Brooklyn Music School's mission is "[t]o make it possible for everyone, regardless of their background and resources, to be able to experience the joy of music and the artistic and intellectual benefits of musical performance."

Phil Collins Day will feature a raffle for BMS, with prizes from several local businesses, including For the Record, Greenpoint Fish and Lobster, Saint Vitus Bar, and Brouwerij Lane.

Greenpoint Beer and Ale shared a preview of the Phil Collins-inspired art available for the fundraiser, which will stay up until March 18.

So swing by and partake in one of the things that makes Greenpoint a special place to live (and do it all for a good cause, too!)



Instagram: greenpointbeerco

# GREENPOINTERS

## CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF PHIL COLLINS DAY AT GREENPOINT BEER AND ALE

by Emma Davey February 7, 2023

We can feel it coming in the air tonight, oh lord.

What's coming, you might ask? Just one of the many niche traditions that make Greenpoint great — Phil Collins Day, happening on February 18 at Greenpoint Beer and Ale (1150 Manhattan Ave).

Greenpoint denizens have sporadically celebrated the perpetually middle-aged former Genesis frontman for well over a decade, though the event has yet to morph into a reliable yearly event.



Photo courtesy of Ben Weiss

If you're a local, the day's origins probably need no explaining, but for those not in the know, a local driver often cruises around the neighborhood blasting the Collins classic "In the Air Tonight." Though he has slowed down a bit in recent years, those with a carefully attuned ear can hear that crescendo of drums if they listen hard enough.

While it makes sense that our neighborhood would celebrate Phil Collins, why the Valentine's Day association? According to an interview with us from 2014, founder Heather Louise Kramer started the celebration as a rebuttal to the uber-saccharine Valentine's Day when she was in high school, and somehow along the way, it morphed into the Greenpoint specific holiday that it is.

# GREENPOINTERS

## The History of Phil Collins Day: the Man, the Legend, & the Sweet Sweet Beat

by Gina February 15, 2014

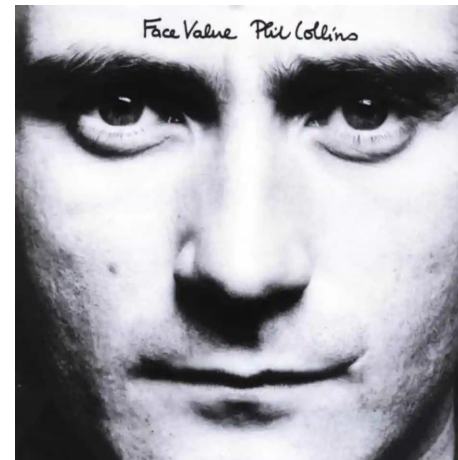
In anticipation of our Phil Collins Day Dance Party TONIGHT at Matchless, I chatted with founder of the holiday, Heather Louise Kramer, whose passion for Mr. Collins is unwavering and frankly, inspirational.

Prepare yourself for the tale of deep love, true admiration, and police intervention that is the history of Phil Collins Day. Just look into those soulful eyes...

*GP: How did Phil Collins Day become a thing?*

**Heather: Phil Collins Day started in High School with some friends and myself. We had grown tired of the production surrounding Valentines Day, especially since it seemed to only celebrate one kind of love, so it was decided that we make a holiday that was more inclusive and could celebrate the multifarious nature of love—heartbreak, crushes, unrequited, longing, etc....for everyone or anyone who has ever felt anything or everything—Balloons, t-shirts, cards, the whole deal.**

**When I moved to New York, it grew with each celebration, slowly becoming what it is today. My ultimate goal is that people will make this holiday their own.**



*GP: If I recall, didn't you and some friends almost get arrested for posting Phil Collins signs around Greenpoint a few years ago? Can you regale us with the story?*

**H: Yes, actually, there was an arrest that happened in 2012 because of Phil Collins Day. It was the year of the confessional booth (my favorite Phil C. Day installation).**

People arrived to a dark gallery, made a Phil Collins mask, and walked the long corridor to an illuminated confessional booth at the back. It was set up like a photo booth, where the person could hit a button, and a camera would record them through a two-way mirror. It was there that people were asked to confess their love trials and tribulations, with the understanding that the **ONLY** person who would be seeing it, would be Phil Collins Himself (I'm still trying to get in touch with him so I can hand over the DVD).

After the event we were so excited about the amazing masks everyone created, that we decided to post them up at the Greenpoint G stop where people usually hang flyers. We took some wheat paste. It was probably 7:30pm, and we decorated the already poster-covered wall. Five cop cars later, and after a pat down and getting shoved against the wall, we were in a police van on the way to the precinct.

One cop actually sang "In the Air Tonight" and commented on how silly it was that they handcuffed us. We went straight to central booking where we ended up spending 3 days, and during our court session were accused of vandalism and threatened with a felony charge. We were sentenced with 5 days of community service, which ended up being one of the most remarkable experiences I have ever had. Shout out to my RedHook Parks Department Crew; Reggie and Dayne!!!!

*GP: That is the most amazing arrest story I've ever heard. So, what do you love most about Phil Collins? Is it his seductive stare? His soothing voice? Or his love of Tarzan? (or is there MORE?)*

**H: My favorite thing about Phil Collins is his ability to communicate his sincerity through his music. He genuinely cares about the well being of people and is concerned with poverty and homelessness. Not only does he sing amazing love songs, but he also seems to reach out through his music to also encourage, particularly the song "I'm Not Moving."**

*GP: What's your #1 favorite Phil C. song?*

**H: My favorite Phil Collins Day song changes with each Phil Collins Day. Having this holiday has allowed me to explore his archive in a really personal way. Right now I'm listening to "Dance into the light." He's so good.**

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*GP: If you could meet Phil C. in person, what would you say to him??*

**H: I have gotten nervous about the prospect of meeting him. I'm not sure if it's something that needs to happen. I enjoy celebrating him from afar. That being said, if he's reading this, I hope his back is feeling better and I want him to know that at no point was this holiday irreverent.**

*GP: What are you most looking forward to on Saturday? Do you have particular dance in mind for the evening?*

**H: There will be three celebrations this year (that I know of), and that is the most exciting aspect of the holiday this time. But of course, everyone should dance to "Dance into the Light," and let all their darkness go, and just have those 4 minutes and 23 seconds to really truly enjoy the day, the man, and the sweet sweet beat.**

# Gothamist

## Against All Odds, Phil Collins fans keep annual Greenpoint tradition thriving

Jen Carlson - February 13, 2013

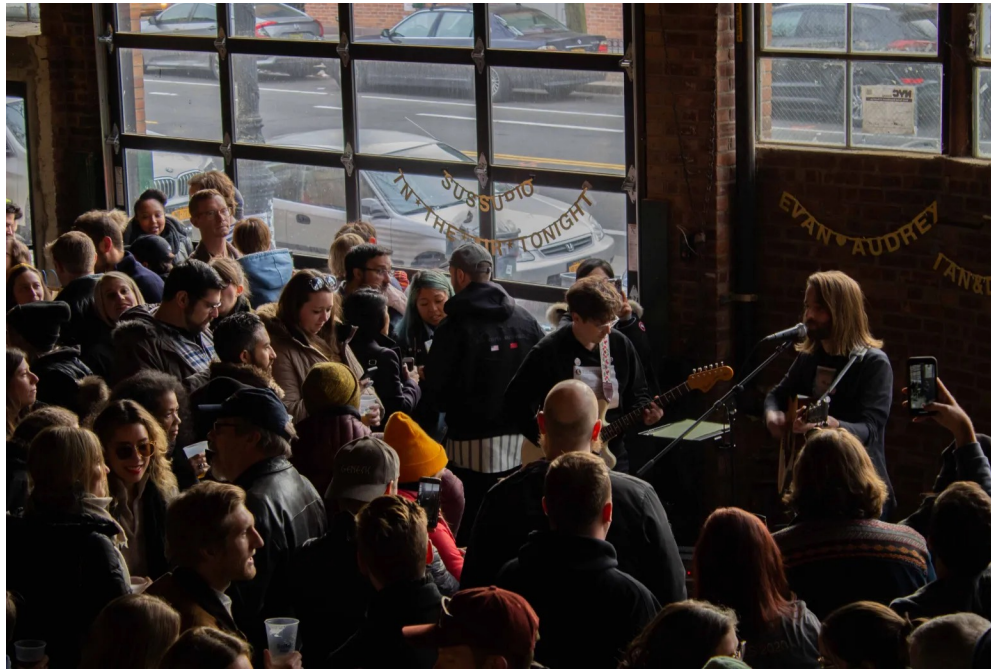
In just a couple of days, the patron saint of drums and vox, Phil Collins, will be celebrated universally. Locally, the annual Phil Collins Day celebration (observed on February 15th) will take place in Rockaway. (In previous years there have been confessional booths and parades in Greenpoint.) According to the Phil Collins Day website, this year there's a "Take Me Home" theme serving as a nod to those hit hardest by Hurricane Sandy, and in an email this week organizer Heather Feather told us:

"As it turns out I moved to Rockaway shortly after Phil Collins Day last year. Found a big wonderful place to live by the sea. Moved here with some creative partners in hopes of being part of a close knit community. We were, like the majority of the peninsula, hit pretty badly by the storm; house destroyed, lost all of my tools, garden, etc. And the past three months have been one of recovery and rebuilding. Rockaway is strong. And it is the resilience of this community that keeps us all together.

This year, at the end of my block on 112th, we will be celebrating Phil Collins Day in full form. We will be serving hot chocolate and hot cider and hot catharsis in the form of a drum circle. People are encouraged to dress warm, and bring their own percussive instrument.



Photo by Katie Sokoler/Gothamist



The festivities at 2020's celebration. Photo courtesy of Ben Weiss

“The event seemed to have reached its apex in 2011 when a full-fledged parade processioned through the streets of Greenpoint featuring a marching band playing instrumental versions of Collins’ hits,” we reported in 2015. No word on whether the parade will make a triumphant return (or if either the man himself or his mega-fan will make an appearance) but regardless, it should be a fun day for all Greenpointers.

The day went virtual last year, so we’re excited to see the return of an in-person event. Stop by Greenpoint Beer and Ale from 2 – 6 PM on February 18 to check out all the action.

## **Today is Phil Collins Day, But That's Not the Oddest Festival in the World**

Marisa Lascalea February 15, 2012

Today, Greenpoint, Brooklyn, holds its annual Phil Collins Day celebration. Though the former Genesis drummer has no direct connection to the neighborhood, Collins fans will still feel it in the air tonight, donning homemade masks and spilling their secrets in a confessional booth created for the occasion (video of the confessions will be sent to Collins).

The singer-songwriter may not seem like a natural peg to plan a festival around, but he's certainly not the only unusual thing to be fêted. Check out these other weird celebrations around the world...



## Phil Collins Day is Weds! How can you just let it walk away?

Andrew Linderman February 14, 2012

If there's one thing Phil Collins knows, it's heartbreak. The man who brought you hi-fi hits like "I Can't Dance," "Easy Lover," and "Sussudio", recently sustained a series of injuries that forced him to retire from music in 2011. But hope is still alive, Phil-istines: Phil Collins Day is almost here! Tomorrow (Feb. 15) marks the sixth annual Phil Collins Day, an entire day dedicated to the former Genesis drummer turned megastar. Last year, people paraded through the streets of Greenpoint to his music.

This year, the tone is more reflective: Organizer Heather Feather has set up a confessional booth at 60 Freeman St. in Greenpoint for people to record their anonymous "confessions of love, loss, hurt, obsession, and degradation." At the end of the day, all recorded footage will be mailed to the man himself, with hopes that he can start working on songs to comfort us through our own relationship pain.

The booth is open from noon – 10pm, but be sure to stick around for the after parties at TBD, Shayz Lounge, and Veronica People's Club. Come celebrate a man who, according to Feather, "truly understands the trials, tribulations and trueness of love, and puts them to a good beat." And remember that when you're drunk at 3am and "In the Air Tonight" comes on, send a few good vibes Phil's way. Amen.



From last year's Phil Collins parade. Via Flickr's Your Secret Admiral.

# Dmitry Gudkov - Photography

FEBRUARY 15, 2011



Yesterday I got a text from a friend asking me if I'm going to the Phil Collins Day parade later that evening. I wasn't quite sure how to react to that one. One part of me screamed "Hipster nonsense! Don't do it!" But another part whispered in my ear seductively "It's a Phil Collins Day parade. How can you say no?"



So I said yes. It was actually a proper (little) parade, and very well done. The creepy masks, the giant papier mache head, the oversized drumsticks... but my favorite part was the marching band. It turns out that the chorus of "I Can't Dance" lends itself beautifully to blaring trumpets.