From: Lisa Bielawa News - To: greg@gregsandow.com - Date: 5/24/13

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My Dear Friends,

One of my most joyful missives ever: My Final Report from the tarmac of Tempelhof Airfield! Yes, we did it - the fearless Berlin production team, led by the indispensible Jule Kauert, oversaw the take-over of the runways by 5,000 people and hundreds of musicians - including:

- 10 alpenhorns!
- the San Francisco Girls Chorus!
- a traditional german music group from Wandlitz that was born the same year I was!
- wind and brass groups from Schöneberg to Saxony to Leipzig!
- singers of all ages from the JFK American-German school choruses!
- our bi-continental, spirited team of professional musicians from Work in Progress Berlin, the big band Das Große Alte Problem, and of course The Knights!



Those three days - May 10, 11, and 12 - were a joyful celebration of music-making in urban public space. My job was over once this mongrel symphony orchestra stepped out onto the field - I simply watched (and grinned like a kid) as these performances unfolded, each one with unexpected and lovely sounds and adventures. The musicians brought such playfulness, energy, and dynamism to their roles, as they moved from the center of the runway - where all groups played together for the first six minutes, each group bringing its own sound and personality to the mix - gradually outwards over an hour, calling out to one another across increasing distances. People biked, took photos and videos with their phones, followed their favorite groups around the park, and everyone was smiling - so so many people smiling.



Photo by Daniel Clark

The last ten minutes brought the groups back together again in two groups - over a kilometer away from each other - with groups melding and others playfully chasing them out of two of the park exits and out into the city. Saturday I joined in with the Girls Chorus and the JFK singers. Sunday it rained and people put their instruments safely away in their cases, but finishing the performance using their voices (and, in the case of some of the drummers, the park's own garbage cans!).

There was a lot of press too - here are some really fun selections: a feature on a Danish news channel





Germany: Musicians pull out all the stops on Berlin's former airport runway

...some absolutely beautiful photos on Getty Images, by Sean Gallup (whose daughter was out on the runway with her tenor saxophone!), which you can see by <u>clicking here</u>

...one of my favorite articles about Tempelhof, due to the all of the unique pictures, can be  $\underline{\text{read}}$   $\underline{\text{here}}$ 

...and the best way to feel the pulse of those last magical days, through rehearsals and all three performances, check out the in-the-moment documentation on our <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AirfieldBroadcasts">www.facebook.com/AirfieldBroadcasts</a>



Photo by Daniel Clark

So so many of you helped make this thing happen, and I hope to have an opportunity to thank each and every one of you, individually, for your support of all kinds. I could not have brought this outsized idea to life without the vibrant community of creative and generous people around this work. THANK YOU, and enjoy these virtual postcards from a truly magical weekend!!

Warmest wishes from NYC, Lisa



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