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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF “STAR’S END” RADIO PROGRAM WILL BE COMMEMORATED WITH LIVE WXPB BROADCAST OF 8-HOUR *ROBERT RICH SLEEP CONCERT* ON JUNE 4

PHILADELPHIA (MAY 9, 2017): To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the *Star’s End* radio program on Philadelphia public radio station WXPB, the eight-hour [Robert Rich Sleep Concert](#) taking place on Sunday, June 4 in Philadelphia will be broadcast live in its entirety on WXPB, in a special expanded edition of [Star’s End](#) airing from 12 midnight to 8 AM.

As part of [The Gatherings Concert Series](#), the *Robert Rich Sleep Concert* is being presented by the non-profit Corporation for Innovative Music and Arts of PA (CIMA of PA) on Sunday, June 4 in the sanctuary of The Rotunda (4014 Walnut Street) on the University of Pennsylvania campus in Philadelphia. Tickets are \$32 in advance [here](#), and \$40 at the door. Admission will be from 10:30 PM to 11:30 PM on Saturday, June 3, and is limited to 100 attendees who bring their own sleeping items (such as a sleeping bag, pad, blanket, pillow).

Robert Rich, who has performed in caves, cathedrals, planetaria, art galleries and concert halls throughout Europe and North America, says that the idea behind his *Sleep Concert* is to let the music incorporate itself into listeners’ perceptual framework during the night, to create an environment for unique states of consciousness whereby attendees can “ride along the edge of our own awareness.” His all-night *Sleep Concerts* were first performed in 1982, and became legendary in the San Francisco area. In 1996 he revived the all-night concert format, playing *Sleep Concerts* for live and radio audiences across the U.S. during a three month tour that included Philadelphia. Rich returned to playing *Sleep Concerts* once again after 2013 for special performances in Krakow, Tokyo, Copenhagen and elsewhere. Rich has also designed sounds for television and film scores.

Star’s End, recognized as the second longest-running ambient music radio program in the world, airs each Sunday on WXPB from 1 AM to 6 AM. Founded at WXPB in 1976, the show features uninterrupted

mixes of music selections that encompass ambient, electronic, space, chillout, avant-garde, new age, international, classical and spoken word.

Chuck Van Zyl has hosted *Star's End* on WXPN for 37 years, since 1980. "*Star's End* is a unique listening experience, unlike other radio shows," says Van Zyl. "Due to the unique presentation and the subtlety of the music, the program really affects people, often in a profound way." Van Zyl's low-key announcing style complements the music and helps to produce a truly intimate listening environment.



Star's End host Chuck Van Zyl



Musician Robert Rich (photo by Dixie Chan)

Bruce Warren, WXPN Associate General Manager for Programming, said, "*Star's End* has played an important role in XPN's past, present, and future for the ambient music community. Chuck brings an unrivaled passion and enthusiasm to his radio show and the events he's been doing over the years, by preserving, respecting, and presenting this fantastic music."

Van Zyl, a lifelong Delaware County resident, originated The Gatherings Concert Series in 1992, and in 2003 he founded the Corporation for Innovative Music and Arts of PA (CIMA of PA) as an independent, volunteer-run, 501(C)(3) non-profit organization. Focusing on electronic, ambient, space and other innovative music, The Gatherings has presented concerts with dozens of emerging and recognized musicians from all over the world, with 2017 marking the 25th anniversary of its first event. Van Zyl is also a musician who has performed space music solo and in collaborations in various venues since the mid-80s, and produced numerous CDs.

For more information about *Star's End* and Chuck Van Zyl, visit www.StarsEnd.org. More about WXPN can be found at www.xpn.org.

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About WXPN

WXPN, the nationally recognized leader in Triple A radio and the premier guide for discovering new and significant artists in rock, blues, roots and folk, is the non-commercial, member-supported, public radio service of the University of Pennsylvania. WXPN produces *World Cafe*, public radio's most popular program of popular music that is distributed by NPR to more than 200 U.S. radio stations, and the Peabody Award-winning *Kids Corner*. WXPN serves the greater Philadelphia area at 88.5 FM, the Lehigh Valley at 104.9 FM, Worton/Baltimore at 90.5 FM, Lancaster/York at 88.7 FM, Harrisburg at 99.7 FM, Northeastern PA and Northwestern NJ at 91.9 FM, and the world via online streaming at www.XPN.org. The [WXPN app](#) brings all of WXPN to any mobile device. WXPN produces [XPoNential Radio](#) on XPN2 as its secondary radio channel in HD, also available online. www.xpn.org.