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ABOUT RICHARD GROSSMAN'S *CAR-ILLON SYSTEM*™

Car-illon System™ is a musical instrument invented by poet and novelist Richard Grossman that transforms a fleet of 13 cars into an “automotive marching band” for presenting concerts in parades and other large-scale public events.

The instrument comprises the “harpicar,” a car housing a 61-note keyboard in its back seat, flanked by 12 “chromatic cars,” each with a sleekly designed, roof-mounted device capable of playing all the octaves of a particular note. Additional electronic equipment necessary to operate the *Carillon System* is installed out of sight in each car’s trunk.

Car-illon performances feature the fleet of 13 “well-tempered” cars traveling down a city street in formation, the precise arrangement determined in response to the particulars of the site and event, as well as the style of the compositions to be performed.

A pianist—“the Car-illonist”—seated in the back seat of the harpicar performs at the keyboard as the cars are in motion. Each note played transmits to the appropriate chromatic car and then issues from one of the 12 roof-mounted modules. The resulting music has a uniquely spatial and temporal quality. Dispersed across the length and width of the fleet, the individual notes create a musical breeze of shifting, evanescent harmonies that fill the street and then dissipate as the cars drive past the crowd.

The *Car-illon System*, which debuted in 2006 at the opening ceremony of the Spoleto Festival in Charleston, South Carolina with a piece commissioned especially for the instrument by internationally renowned composer Philip Glass, is among several ambitious, genre-breaking projects in art, architecture, music, performance, poetry and prose that Grossman is creating as part of *Breeze Avenue*, his forthcoming 3,000,000-page book conceived as a literary analog of heaven. Approximately 5,000 images from *Car-illon* performances presented in Las Vegas and San Diego in Fall 2011, recorded by video cameras mounted on and in the cars, will appear in the book along with extensive musical notation.

For inquiries about scheduling a *Car-illon* event, contact info@americanletterspress.com.

For additional information about Richard Grossman and his work, please visit www.richardgrossman.com.

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