

SOLSTICE MANIA

Forget that “extended lunch break” you were planning: You won’t have to play hooky this year to indulge in a bonanza of free classical and new music. Make Music Chicago, the Loop’s behemoth solstice celebration, falls on a Saturday (June 21) for the first time since its launch in 2011. The fest’s organizers (Rush Hour Concerts, a Chicago-based non-profit) promise a mind-boggling 200 performances—some of them intriguingly wacky—across 80 locations in 12 hours. While the full schedule won’t be posted until the 11th hour (at makemusicchicago.com), here are 10 events to put on your shortlist.

LINCOLN PARK ZOO

2001 N. Clark St.

10:30 a.m.

Quintet Attaca plays a wind-quintet version of Prokofiev’s *Peter and the Wolf*—in costume.

HUMBOLDT PARK BOATHOUSE

1301 N. Sacramento Ave.

5 p.m.

The experimental-music group Aperiodic revisits James Tenney’s *Swell Piece*, in which each of an unspecified number of instrumentalists plays long, crescendoing tones at the same time.

ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

65 E. Huron St.

5 to 7 p.m.

The day’s grand finale packs a grab-baggy congeries of performers, including the up-and-coming Euclid Quartet, singers from the Lyric’s Ryan Opera Center, and Project Inclusion’s preprofessional string quartet, into a classical variety show.

7 p.m.

Stick around for a post-finale piece, Harmonica Mass Appeal, where you can join in.

FRENCH MARKET

131 N. Clinton St.

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

If you ever wanted to hear a hodgepodge of Renaissance and modern music played on recorder, this is your chance.

RADISSON BLU HOTEL

221 N. Columbus Dr.

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The choir of Providence St. Mel School, in Garfield Park, sings a variety of songs outside the hotel lobby.

DALEY PLAZA

50 W. Washington St.

10 a.m. Rise and Shine Orchestra 11 a.m. Solstice Sing-Along Noon Sousapaloosa 2 p.m. Suzuki Play-Along

Massive ensemble pieces in which amateur musicians can join in with the pros. (Download parts at makemusicchicago.com.)

1130 MIDWAY PLAISANCE

4 to 4:30 p.m.

The violinist David Yonan plays solo pieces by the likes of Paganini and Ysaye.

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Five Greeses (i.e., the Greene family from Highland Park) play a selection of chamber works.

ORGAN CRAWL

You’ll hear some of the largest and most impressive organs in the city—not that size matters.

1. ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL

65 E. Huron St.

11 a.m. The seat of Chicago’s Episcopal diocese boasts an organ with more than 5,800 pipes. Not bad for an octogenarian.

2. ST. CHRYSOSTOM’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1424 N. Dearborn St.

Noon. A toddler by organ standards, this 10-year-old Fisk operates with tracker action, an old-school technique where keys connect to the pipes mechanically rather than electronically.

3. FOURTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

126 E. Chestnut St.

1 p.m. If pipes could party, this Aeolian-Skinner with 6,600-plus would throw a blowout to celebrate its centennial year.